

<p style="text-align:center"><b>STATUTES</b> <b>of the</b> <b>NORTH SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION</b></p>
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As amended at the second (Stockholm), third (London), eighth (Härnösand), ninth (London), and thirteenth (Oslo) and twenty first (Stavanger), and **twenty ninth (Brest)** Conferences of the Commission.

## **SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP**

### Article 1

The North Sea Hydrographic Commission (hereinafter called the Commission) shall be composed of the Hydrographers of the countries belonging to the zone D of INT charting (hereinafter called the member), who have given notice of their willingness to participate in or co-operate with programmes or joint actions, studies and exchange of information etc., pertaining to the field of hydrography, in accordance with the procedure laid down in these Statutes.

### Article 2

Membership of the Commission shall be open to all Hydrographers who belong to the countries described in Article 1 and who accept these Statutes and is accorded to the Hydrographers signatories to these Statutes, i.e. the Hydrographers of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, **Ireland**, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom, who shall also decide on the acceptance of any new members.

## **SECTION 2 - PURPOSE**

### Article 3

1. The Commission shall promote and stimulate the furtherance of hydrographic and related knowledge and science, particularly regarding the North Sea and its entrances.
2. It shall foster and encourage the concept of close co-operation amongst its members with the object to obtain, with the available resources, maximum results beneficial to international shipping.

### Article 4

The members shall co-operate whenever possible, and without influencing the internal affairs of their respective hydrographic officers or diminishing their national responsibilities, to exchange information regarding surveys, research, new developments and technical details, as well as organizational questions related to hydrography in its widest sense.

### Article 5

The members shall participate of their own free will, either actively or in an advisory or assisting capacity, in hydrographic programmes which require concerted action, whenever practicable and

possible without appreciably disturbing the fulfillment of their national hydrographic requirements.

### **SECTION 3 - CONFERENCES**

#### Article 6

1. Conferences of the Commission shall be held regularly, with the proviso that the interval between consecutive conferences is not to exceed three years.
2. Time and place shall be decided upon by the members.

#### Article 7

1. Conferences of the Commission shall be held in the countries to which the members belong.
2. Members shall preferably attend the conferences in person or otherwise send a representative. At the conferences, officers of the hydrographic department of the host country may be present.
3. The Commission may create, for the examination and execution of specific projects, committees composed of members interested in such projects.

### **SECTION 4 - CHAIRMAN**

#### Article 8

1. The conferences of the Commission are conducted by the Chairman. The members in whose country the conference takes place shall act as Vice-Chairman.
2. The Chairman is responsible for the preparation of the agenda for the conference. The Vice-Chairman is responsible for the organization of the conference.
3. Any expense necessary to organize and conduct the conference shall be met by the office of the Vice-Chairman.

#### Article 9

1. The Chairman shall hold office during the interval between consecutive conferences and shall act as the Bureau of the Commission during this interval.
2. He shall open the next conference by giving a report of the activities and results during the interval since the last conference.
3. The Vice-Chairman shall assume office as Chairman in the beginning of the last session of the conference.

#### Article 10

1. If the Chairman is incapacitated during the interval between conferences, his successor or the deputy hydrographer shall take the chair for the rest of the period.

2. If the Chairman is unable to act at the conference or any part thereof, he shall be prepared by his successor or the deputy hydrographer.

#### Article 11

1. The Chairman, as the Bureau of the Commission, shall prepare the protocol of the conference. This protocol shall contain a very general outline of the discussions that took place as well as the conclusions that were approved of.
2. The protocol shall be signed by the members who attended the conference.

### **SECTION 5 - AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE**

#### Article 12

1. Proposals for putting items on the agenda for the next conference should be sent to the chairman at least two months prior to the date of the conference.
2. The Bureau of the Commission, in consultation with the members in whose country the next conference take place, shall prepare the final agenda.

#### Article 13

1. The final agenda should reach the members at least two weeks prior to the date of the conference.
2. At the beginning of each conference the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that conference.
3. The Commission may, during a conference, modify the order of items on the agenda.

### **SECTION 6 - VOTING**

#### Article 14

1. Conclusions can only be arrived at by unanimous agreement.
2. Unanimously agreed conclusions shall be part of the protocol of the conference.
3. Only the members or their representatives shall be allowed to vote.
4. Every member has one vote.

### **SECTION 7 - MISCELLANEOUS**

#### Article 15

1. If urgent questions arise, which cannot be solved by correspondence, and the discussion of which cannot be postponed till the next conference, the Chairman shall convene a special conference at the most appropriate place.

2. A special conference shall be organized and conducted by the Chairman, who shall not resign. The pertinent parts of articles 8 and 9 do not apply in case of special conference.
3. To special conferences, experts others than the members can be invited.

#### Article 16

1. In case unanimously agreed, common projects, such as publications etc., require the expenditure of money, expenses shall be divided equally between members.
2. Such expenses shall, however, be kept as low as possible.
3. Apart from that and the expenses mentioned in Article 8, sub-para. 3, subject to the provision in Article 15, sub-para. 2, every member shall meet his own expenses.

#### Article 17

1. The Commission may propose to amend these Statutes. Such amendments shall be discussed during a conference and shall be considered conclusions in the sense of Article 14, sub-paras. 1 and 2.
2. The Commission may determine - when circumstances call for such action - rules of procedure that shall be an Annex to these Statutes.

#### Article 18

English shall be the working language of the Commission, as well as during the conferences.

#### Article 19

1. The Commission shall not endeavour to become a separate group within the International Hydrographic Organization and shall guard against any duplication of efforts regarding the International Hydrographic Bureau.
2. Any conclusion in which Member States of the International Hydrographic Organization might have an interest shall be brought to the attention of the International Hydrographic Bureau. The decision to do so shall be part of the conclusion.
3. **The Commission shall lay down its decisions in the form of conclusions, to be annexed to the summary ; reports to be numbered consecutively and to consist of a preamble containing the main considerations, followed by one or more operative paragraphs containing the actions decided upon and taking into account the provision in paragraph 2 of article 19, of the Statutes of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission.**

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	London, 29 <sup>th</sup> January 1965
	Härnösand, 13 <sup>th</sup> September 1973
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	Oslo, 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 1981
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	<b>Brest, 29th September 2010</b>