

Satellite bathymetry.

Introduction

At the 56th conference of the NHC, there was a discussion about the expected future value of satellite bathymetry.

The conference recognised the need to establish a permanent Action Point on the NHC agenda to follow up on the developments in the field of bathymetric data collection and to consider preparing an input paper on the issue to this NSHC conference.

Some remarks on the current situation

There is a continuous development in airborne bathymetry techniques, with an increased use of both aircraft and satellite-based measurements. In the long term, hydrographic offices are expected to benefit greatly from this development.

Some Hydrographic offices are following these developments closely; some have already launched projects; still others are participating in various pilot projects.

Since the technology is expected to influence how hydrographic offices conduct surveying in the future, it is important that the offices exchange their experience in this area, in order to coordinate and harmonize their approaches.

Proposals:

In this context, and in order to promote an increased awareness of techniques dealing with airborne bathymetry both within the North Sea region and at the larger European scale, it is proposed that the NSHC add this issue as a new item to its agenda or considers the possibility of establishing a new working group on the topic. Such a working group could follow developments in the area closely and investigate the possibility of using the new technologies in the region. The main aim of the working group could be to prepare a status report to every NSHC conference, including a status of technical developments in the field, orientation to relevant initiatives and projects, best practice, relevant conferences and how to proceed.

Benefits

NSHC can achieve joint learning and a general increase in the awareness of airborne bathymetry especially with a focus on surveying from aircraft and satellite-based measurements. NSHC will ensure a coordinated approach and the possibility of exchange of experience between its members.

Actions required from the NSHC 30th Conference:

The Conference is invited to take note of the information and to take proper action.