

Subject:

Regional Inventory on Limits and Names of the Sea

Proposal of Germany

Noting the recent discussion of the impasse of IHO S-23 at the 18. International Hydrographic Conference in Monaco, April 2012,

Referring to the regional approach to populate limits and names of the seas surrounding the Australian continent as suggested by Australia at the above conference,

Highlighting the compelling need for the Hydrographic community to provide confirmed delimitations of limits of sea areas including their naming for the waters under their scope,

Suggesting that Regional Commissions should be the competent body to agree about these limits and names on a regional basis in the absence of a global solution,

Believing that such regional solution on delimitations should refer to IHO standards in some form,

Assuming that such agreed delimitations should be reached out to the widest public attention of all stakeholders on contemporary communication channels,

Anticipating that other common matters of the Regional Commission could be subject to enhanced external communication as well,

It is proposed that:

NSHC30 is taking appropriate action to develop a regional inventory on limits and names of the seas under its scope, namely:

- Consider the delimitations pertaining to the North Sea region according to the existing S-23 versions,
- Revise those limits and names if necessary by means of a working group,
- Consolidate the results within a local inventory to be agreed unanimously by all members of the Commission before publication,
- Establish a proprietary NSHC-domain as already done by other Regional Hydrographic Commissions for the population of this regional inventory and other NSHC-documents of public interest,
- Discuss steps of the setup of this domain and its further maintenance,
- Discuss possible links of this local inventory to IHO standards, e.g. to S-11.

The Commission is invited to discuss this proposal and, if accepted, to agree about the necessary steps forward.
