

DRAFT paper for NSHC 2016 – Provided by the UK

Title – Proposal to disband the North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group (NSEHWG)

Background

From the NSHC 29 report (2010):

The 29th NSHC Conference recognized the need to study the harmonization of the ENC's within the commission region (INT chart region D) in order to promote increased consistency, common encoding standards and an improved level of ENC quality to better satisfy the needs of the mariner.

The group was established as a correspondence group chaired by UK.

As quoted in the NSEHWG report (Aug 14):

Following a lack of activity with the original correspondence group, and a new Chair and Secretary in 2013 driving the NSEHWG forward, it was recognised that a meeting was necessary in order to progress HSSC Work Plan item B.3.

NSEHWG Meeting – Aug 2014 Copenhagen

Brief summary

- Review of TORs: only one change proposed but original TOR not amended. (see annex A);
- discussions about MAGVAR, CTNARE, and SCAMIN,
- Review of S-11 Part A. This was initially tasked to CSPCWG as HSSC Work Plan item B.3 “Develop guidelines for preparation and maintenance of small and medium scale ENC schemes”. This has since been handed back to HSSC.
- Report from Baltic Sea INT Chart Coordination WG
- Discussion of ENC improvements within North Sea

Summary of main actions arising

- Create questionnaire regarding the use of ENC's in the North Sea. Action - Chair. Status – Not progressed
- Information paper to HSSC6 on MAGVAR data. Action – Chair. Status – Not progressed
- Continuation of revision to S-11 Part B. Action – all. Status –handed back to HSSC/NCWG.

Proposal

Having reviewed the outputs and outstanding tasks, the UK does not consider the group is necessary. ENC's within the North Sea are suitably mature in quality and coverage such that the group is not justified. Any ongoing **harmonisation** issues are best dealt with bi-laterally between the MS concerned, or if requiring wider consideration, to be raised at NSHC.

Any continuing issues regarding the **coordination** of ENC's in the North Sea should be passed to the North Sea INT Chart Coordination WG

**Terms of Reference for the
North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group (NSEHWG)**
(6th September 2011)

With reference to:

- Terms of Reference for the Baltic Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group (BSEHWG) – 14th June 2007
- IHO Work Programme 2008 – 2012: Task 3.3.4 ENC Production, Distribution and Update,
- IHO CL 32/2007: Recommendations for Consistent ENC Data Encoding,
- WEND Report to the XVII IH Conference [CONF.17/WP.3 Page 6] and
- WEND principle 2.8,

The NSHC at its 29th Conference recognised the need to study the harmonisation of the ENCs within the Commission region (INT chart region D) in order to promote increased consistency, common encoding standards and an improved level of ENC quality and display to satisfy the needs of the mariner.

To progress this task the NSHC 29th Conference established the North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group hereafter referred to as NSEHWG.

The Working Group should:

- Analyse ENCs within the Commission region to identify any existing consistency issues due to differences in interpretation of ENC encoding guidance and ENC product specification.
- Propose solutions and measures to avoid inconsistencies, improve ENC encoding and where possible propose changes to improve display.
- Actively gather and analyse feedback from mariners on the use of ENCs in ECDIS in NW European waters to identify any issues related to ENC display.
- Exchange views on and propose solutions and measures that can be implemented by NSHC members that would improve the consistency and display of ENCs.
- Report to IHO HSSC WGs and / or propose amendments to the IHO and RENC recommendations to gain wider acceptance of proposals amongst ENC producers where this is appropriate.
- Present a report to the 30th NSHC Conference outlining the actions taken and the progress made in implementing harmonisation recommendations across the Commission area. This should include an Action plan with specified time schedule for the anticipated completion of the ENC harmonisation task.

Rules of procedures

- All NSHC Members are strongly encouraged to participate in and contribute to the work of the NSEHWG.
- The NSEHWG should be chaired by one of the Member States elected at the NSHC Conference.
- The NSEHWG should work as far as possible in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations issued by the IHO and the RENCs.
- The work of the NSEHWG will be carried out primarily by correspondence (via emails).
- The members are strongly encouraged to reply without unnecessary delay.
- The NSEHWG should consult the WEND Working Group, HSSC and its Working Groups or other relevant bodies, as deemed necessary.
- The results of the NSEHWG should be harmonized with the related issues of the BSICCWG of BSHC where appropriate.
- The NSEHWG should inform adjoining Regional Hydrographic Commissions of its activities and decisions to ensure as far as possible harmonisation across commission boundaries.
- The members of the NSEHWG should have access to ENCs, as necessary, to undertake their task.