



United Kingdom
Hydrographic Office

1st TWCWG Meeting

DHN, Niteroi, Brazil, 25 – 29 April 2016

***IHO North Sea Hydrographic Commission
Tidal Working Group (NSHC TWG)***

Status & Update



United Kingdom
Hydrographic Office

IHO Structure

Website

<http://www.iho.int>

- Committees and Working Groups
- Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC)

International Hydrographic Organization
Organisation Hydrographique Internationale

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- » Mediterranean and Black Seas HC (MBSHC)
- » Baltic Sea HC (BSHC)
- » US/Canada HC (USCHC)
- » East Asia HC (EAHC)
- » Eastern Atlantic HC (EAHC)
- » South-East Pacific HC (SEPHC)
- » South-West Pacific HC (SWPHC)
- » MESO American & Caribbean Sea HC (MACHC)
- » Southern Africa and Islands HC (SAIHC)
- » North Indian Ocean HC (NIOHC)
- » ROPME Sea Area HC (RSAHC)
- » South West Atlantic HC (SWAHHC)
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North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC)

Commission hydrographique de la mer du Nord (CHMN)

Members Associate Members Observers

Chair: Marc van der DONCK (Netherlands)
Vice-Chair: Michael PURCELL (Ireland)

Members: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK.

IHB Representatives:
Director Gilles BESSERO
Assistant Director David WYATT

Brief History

The North Sea Hydrographic Commission was established in The Hague, The Netherlands on 10 January 1962, at the initiative of Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The first meeting was chaired by The Netherlands. Later France, Belgium, Iceland and, more recently, Ireland joined the Commission. The Commission's first activities included agreeing on the publication of fisheries charts and the need for surveys outside territorial waters.

Statutes
Original: The Hague, 10 January 1963
Amended: (1) Stockholm, 7 September 1963; (2) London, 29 January 1965; (3) Hårnösand, 13 September 1973; (4) London, 25 April 1975; (5) Oslo, 2 June 1981; (6) Stavanger, September 1994; and (7) Brest, September 2010.

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Structure for National Reports

Président: Marc van der DONCK (Pays-Bas)
Vice-Président: Michael PURCELL (Irlande)

Membres: Allemagne, Belgique, Danemark, France, Irlande, Islande, Norvège, Pays-Bas, RU, Suède.

Représentants du BHI:
Directeur Gilles BESSERO
Adjoint au Directeur David WYATT

Brève histoire

La commission hydrographique de la mer du Nord fut créée à La Haye, Pays-Bas, le 10 janvier 1962, à l'initiative du Danemark, de la République fédérale allemande, des Pays-Bas, de la Norvège, de la Suède et du Royaume-Uni. La première réunion fut présidée par les Pays-Bas. La France, la Belgique, l'Islande et plus récemment l'Irlande ont, par la suite, rejoint la commission. Les premières activités de la commission ont inclus des décisions sur la publication de cartes de pêche et sur la nécessité d'exécuter des levés à l'extérieur des eaux territoriales.

Statuts
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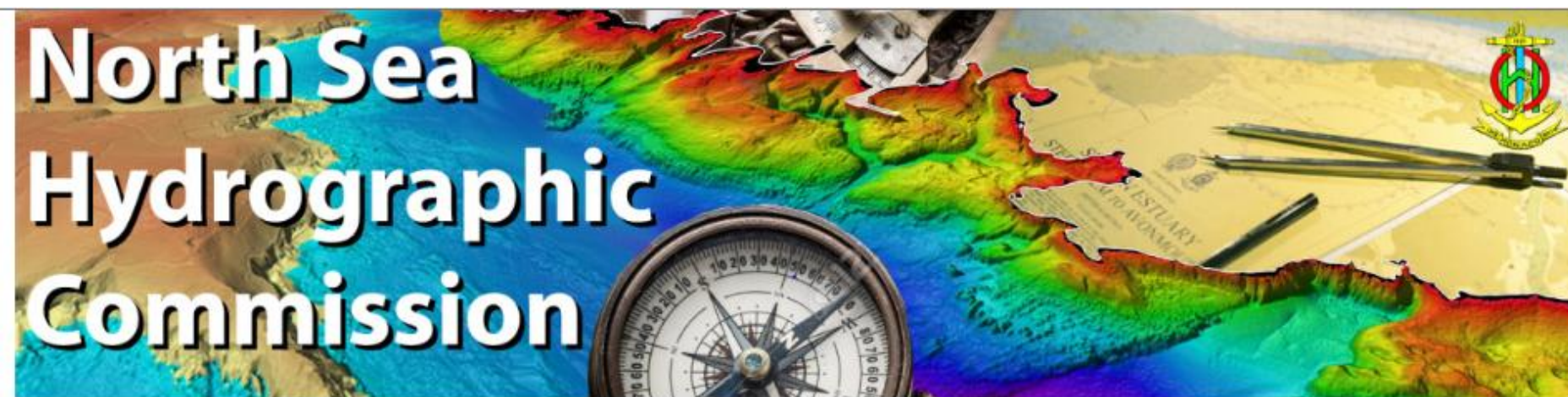
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Website for NSHC TWG:

<http://nshc.pro/>



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The NSHC is an integrant part of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), promotes the technical co-operation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography and nautical information among the neighboring countries of the North Sea region.

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Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC)

Objectives:

- *To promote and coordinate those activities that might benefit from a regional approach*
 - *Capacity Building (IHO Capacity Building Strategy and Initiatives)*
 - *Training & Education*
 - *Establish, coordinate and enhance cooperation amongst States on a regional basis, and between regions*
 - *Establish co-operation to enhance the delivery of Capacity Building programs*



Tidal Working Group (TWG)

Terms of Reference (TOR's):

- **Objective:**
 - To provide technical advice and promote co-ordination on tidal issues especially within the North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC).
- **Authority:**
 - A subsidiary of NSHC – work plan is subject to NSHC approval.
 - NSHC TWG is especially involved with the regional interpretation and implementation of tidal issues as identified by TWCWG.
- **Procedures**
 - Work according to the agreed NSHC work plan
 - Liaise with HSSC WG such as TWCWG, exchanging views and experiences regarding tidal issues (such as unifying vertical datums)



Agenda Items:-

- **Operational methodologies for GNSS-based surveys** – exchange of experiences from each MS
- **Developments in modern tide gauges and current meters**
- **apps for Tides**
- **Tidal reduction methods**
- **Main topic** of the NSHC TWG relates to the **comparison of vertical datum (i.e. Chart Datum) differences** at the international boundaries within the North Sea region.



Comparison of Vertical Datum at the International Boundaries

- In 2010, Netherlands Hydrographic Office (NLHO) coordinated a task of comparing vertical datums at the boundaries between MS
- Surface used in the comparison is the separation between LAT and Ellipsoid (WGS84 [ETRF89 in European Waters])
- Work is linked to some European Union related projects and frameworks such as:-
 - BLAST (Bringing Land and Sea Together) <http://www.blast-project.eu/>
 - INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community) <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>
 - EMODnet (The European Marine Observation and Data Network <http://www.emodnet.eu/>)
 - DGMARE - Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/index_en.htm
 - EUREF (EU Geodetic Reference Systems) - <http://www.euref.eu/>



- Work undertaken in 2010 work brought up-to-date and more detailed analysis undertaken.
- Total of 13 MS maritime boundaries exist in the North Sea region.
- NLHO compared data across 9 maritime boundaries – the remaining four did not have the necessary data available
- The differences at each common point along a boundary was divided by the charted depth at that point (i.e. depth below CD) to give a meaningful 'impact assessment' of that difference (i.e. LAT difference divided by depth)
- The differences were graphed and expressed as a percentage of the depth at each point
- Conclusion was that a difference of $\leq 1\%$ depth was acceptable, and values outside of this tolerance were to be investigated with a view to reducing them.