

Brief report of status for The North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC)

27 April 2009

General information

The North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC) was originally founded in The Hague in 1963. After the inclusion of Ireland in 2008, all National Hydrographers of the member states, surrounding The North Sea, are members of NSHC.

For statutes of the NSHC, please refer to the IHO website:
http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/msonly/tor/NSHC.pdf

Chairperson: Mr Svend Eskildsen (Denmark)

Vice-Chairperson: IGA Gilles Bessero (France)

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

IHB Representatives: Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos, Steve Shipman.

Meetings

NSHC has regular meetings every second year. Extraordinary meetings can be called for if necessary. The 28th NSHC meeting was in Copenhagen in April 2008. The next NSHC meeting will be in France in October 2010, as the nation of the vice chair hosts the meeting.

Work issues

The NSHC mainly works with IHO- and common North Sea issues at its meetings. Some bilateral agreements have also been initiated at NSHC meetings. Lately the maritime policy of the European Union has been an issue of interest for NSHC.

Current NSHC Working Groups

These include joint North Sea contribution to IHO working groups, such as ISPWG. In addition to this, NSHC currently supports the following internal working groups:

- NSHC-Tidal Working Group. (NSHC TWG)
- North- West European Charting Group. (Region D)
- NSHC Resurvey Working Group.
- NSHC EU Marine and Marine Policy Working Group. (NSHC EUM2WG)

Svend Eskildsen
Chairman of NSHC
