

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

May 2010

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 Brest France in September 2010. NSHC has not had any meetings since the first IRCC meeting in 2009.

Current work issues and activities

The NSHC mainly works with IHO- and common North Sea issues.

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.

Special attention has been put to the following EU initiatives:

- INSPIRE directive, which obligates member states to facilitate the exchange of spatial data amongst public authorities. In some member states, this has led to a trend where hydrographic data is sought to be made subject of free licensing.
- EMODNET, which seeks to gather a wide range of maritime scientific information in one portal, with the aim of making data inventories available to the public. HO's of NSHC has provided data to a pilot project where a 500 m. bathymetric model of the European sea basins is produced. The pilot project has included GEBCO data where no national data was available.
- A range of EU funded projects, which include hydrography, are currently well underway in the region. Some NSHC hydrographic offices are partners in some of these projects.

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)

**SECOND MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC1
New Orleans June 2010**

NSHC TWG held a meeting in Copenhagen in May 2010, with emphasis on common seamless vertical reference surfaces for the North Sea and satellite derived models of LAT on the NW European shelf.

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

For the chairman of NSHC

**Lars Hansen
Commander**
