



NORTH SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

NSHC Report to IRCC03
Niteroi, Brazil, 26-27 May 2011

1. General

The 29th meeting of the NSHC took place on 28-29 September 2010 in Brest (France). The meeting report is available on the IHO website (http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/rhc/NSHC/NSHC29/NSHC29-Report.pdf). The IRCC Chair had the opportunity to participate in this meeting on 29 September and gave a short summary report on IRCC01 and IRCC02 meetings.

A proposal for the consideration of the WEND-WG, supported by the NSHC, was made by DE and FR on behalf of the Joint Distribution WG of the IC-ENC-PRIMAR Co-operation to promote the WEND principles through the distribution of ENCs under a new brand name, namely "IHO-WEND", provided these ENCs are integrated into the Joint ENC Database through the RENCs.

A second proposal was also made by DE and FR, that Regional International Charting Co-ordination Groups within RHCs should conduct systematic and periodic ENC overlaps and gaps analysis in their areas of responsibility, and report to WEND-WG.

There is nothing else significant to report to the IRCC03 that might be of interest to the other IRCC bodies.

The 30st meeting of the NSHC will take place in Ålesund (NO), between 18-21 June 2012.

2. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the NSHC)

IRCC02/01: Adopt objectives to accelerate the process of ratification of the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention in order to meet the end of 2011 deadline. RHCs Permanent. Report results to IRCC3

No significant progress made within the Commission. Note sent by the Chair to one NSHC MS who has not ratified the protocol yet, offering IHO support if needed.

IRCC02/02: Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership. RHCs Permanent. Report results to IRCC3

Not relevant for this commission.

IRCC02/05: a/ Report to IRCC3 on a/ the methodology used for assessing and displaying survey status, taking into account navigational and MSDI requirements. RHCs 20 APR 2011

The NSHC agreed implicitly that one of the objectives of the European Union EMODNET project (European Marine Observation Data Network) is precisely to provide survey metadata.



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IRCC02/05: b/ the implementation of the guidance for the preparation and maintenance of International chart schemes (CL 23/2010 of 3 March 2010). RHCs 20 APR 2011

The NSHC agreed to set up the NSHC ENC Harmonization WG (NSEHWG) recognizing the need to study the harmonization 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 to better satisfy the needs of the mariner.

The NW European Charting Group was also renamed in accordance with S-11 Ed. 2.003. It becomes the Region D International Charting Coordination Working Group (ICCWG).

IRCC02/05: c/ their experience in dealing with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005). RHCs 20 APR 2011

Nothing to report and not as relevant as it is for other RHCs.

IRCC02/05: d/ strategies to involve non-IHO MSs in RHC's activities. RHCs 20 APR 2011

Not relevant for this Commission.

IRCC02/06 Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board and report to the IHB. RHCs (which have not done so) 30 DEC 2010.

Commander Lars Hansen from Denmark (LHA@frv.dk) is the representative of NSHC to the IHR Editorial Board.

IRCC02/09: Consider the invitation of observers to the meetings of the RHC to be established in the Arctic Region, in accordance with article 4 of TR 2/1997 as amended. ARHC (in establishment process) Permanent

Completed. TOR of the ARHC are very clear. The definition of the Northern limit of responsibility of the NSHC (and Region INT D) is currently under discussion.

3. Proposals

The IRCC (and the WEND-WG) are invited to note this report.