

ARCTIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

ARHC report to IRCC04 Singapore, 7-8 June 2012

1. **Inaugural Chair:** Dr. Savithri Narayanan,
 Dominion Hydrographer, Canada
 Chair (Oct 2011) Mr. Sven Eskildsen,
 Director General, Danish Maritime Safety Administration
 Chair (Jan 2012) Mr. Sigvard Stampe Villadsen
 National Survey and Cadastre, Denmark
 Inaugural Vice-Chair: Mr. Sven Eskildsen, DG
 Director General, Danish Maritime Safety Administration
 Vice- Chair (Oct 2011): Cdr. Evert Flier
 Director Hydrography, Norway

2. **Membership:** CANADA Dominion Hydrographer
 Dr. Savithri Narayanan

 DENMARK Danish National Survey and Cadastre
 Mr. Sigvard Stampe Villadsen

 NORWAY Director Hydrography
 Cdr. Evert Flier

 RUSSIAN
 FEDERATION Chief, Dept. of Navigation & Oceanography
 Captain Alexander Shemetov

 U.S.A National Hydrographer
 Captain John E. Lowell

 Observers Finland and Iceland

3. **Meetings:** 1) Inaugural Meeting (ARHC1) held in Ottawa, Canada October 4-6, 2010
 2) ARHC 2 held in Copenhagen, Denmark September 28-29, 2011
 including an open scientific forum a day ahead of the conference.
 3) Special meeting in connection with IHO conference April 25, 2012
 4) Next meeting will take place in Tromsø, Norway October 9-11, 2012

4. **Agenda Items:** *(all of which are best aligned to the IHO Work Programme 3 Element 3.1)*
 - Agreement and signing of Statutes for the Commission at the inaugural meeting
 - Establishment of three working groups to undertake the work of the Commission inter-sessionally (Strategic Planning WG, Arctic Mariners Routeing Guide WG, Operational and Technical WG)

- Area of responsibility has been agreed and pending actions to formalize an INT Chart area 'N' and adjust associated IHO documentation. Norway has asked for advice from IHB in the ongoing process.
- Norway established as the INTernational Chart Coordinator for the ARHC
- Discussions and development of a prototype design of an Arctic Mariners Routeing Guide
- Agreement on exchange of technology applications and experiences including standards allowing more rapid collection and utility of Arctic hydrography on nautical charts
- Agreement to monitor Arctic hydrography developments such as those initialized by the Arctic Council (Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure) and TSMAD (development of polar projections suitable for ENC application)

5. **Conclusions:**

- ARHC is formally established
- Agreement on the area of responsibility for the ARHC in consultation with neighbouring Commissions
- Working groups established to work between Conferences
- The current Observers to ARHC are Finland and Iceland

6. **Status of IRCC actions relevant for ARHC**

- *IRCC03/01: Implement actions 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.*
In the ARHC only one country has not yet approved the amendments to the IHO Convention. The issue is discussed at the meetings.
- *IRCC03/02: Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership. RHCs Permanent.* Member states are encouraged at the meetings.
- *IRCC03/07: Nominate a representative of the IHO editorial Board and report to IHB.* Canada is representing ARHC in the editorial board.
- *IRCC03/08: Resolve the definition of the southern borders of the ARHC and associated INT Chart scheme in conjunction with neighbouring RHCs.*
ARHC has agreed to adopt the area defined by the Arctic NAVAREAS XVII – XXI with the exception of the area between Greenland and Norway which will be defined as area north of the 69°N parallel. Norway is in the process of creating an INT chart area "N" for the Arctic region.
- *IRCC03/09: UK to lead the design of a framework for C-55 development by correspondence. 31 July 2011.* ARHC has not contributed directly to this work. MS have expressed opinions concerning identification of user groups and risk of duplication of effort, since many member states already provides a similar service at a national level.
- *IRCC03/12 Ensure the timely provision of the appropriate documentation that justify expenses associated to CB projects, and to demand refund, if needed, not later than one month after the event has finalized. RHCs Permanent.* Not relevant for this Commission.

- *IRCC03/13 Report to the WENDWG Chair on the implementation of each item of the WEND Principles and on the validity of coverage and overlap analysis submitted by the WENDWG. RHCs 30 June 2011 Completed*
- *IRCC03/15 Provide to the WENDWG Chair and IRCC Chair comments on the draft report on implementation of the WEND Principles. RHCs 15 October 2011. Completed*
- *IRCC03/17 Invite GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs to attend corresponding RHCs meetings, aiming at strengthening collaboration with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level. RHCs/GEBCO Permanent. GEBCO and IALA were represented at the Scientific Forum in connection with 2nd ARHC in Copenhagen.*
- *IRCC03/18 Update the report to IRCC Chair on the implementation of the guidance for the preparation and maintenance of International chart schemes (CL 23/2010 of 3 March 2010). Completed*
- *IRCC03/19 Report to IRCC4 on: a. their experience in dealing with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005), Nothing to report for ARHC.
b. strategies to involve non-IHO MSs in RHC's activities. Not relevant for ARHC for the moment.*

7. Proposals
IRCC is requested to take note of the report.

For the Chairman of ARHC

Lars Hansen
Commander