

## EIGHTH MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

### IHO-IRCC8

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 29-31 May 2016

#### Report of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC)

<b>Submitted by:</b>	NSHC Chair
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This paper provides a summary report of the work of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission since the last meeting of IRCC

#### 1. chair and vice-chair:

chair: Marc van der Donck (NL) from September 2014

vice-chair: Declan Black (IE) from June 2014

#### 2. membership:

BE, DE, DK, FR, IE, IS, NL, NO, SE, UK

#### 3. meetings:

32nd Conference: Dublin (IE), 21-23 June 2016

#### 4. Working Groups:

- North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group (NSEHWG, chaired by UK) and Region D International Chart Coordination Working Group (ICCWG, chaired by UK)
- BSHC/NSHC Baltic Sea and North Sea MSDI Working Group (BSNSMSDIWG, chaired by DK):  
At BSHC20 it was decided to expand the BSHC MSDIWG to also include MS from the NSHC and as a consequence the name was changed to Baltic Sea and North Sea MSDIWG.
- Resurvey Working Group (RWG, chaired by NL), including the former Dover Strait Survey Policy Working Group (DSSPWG of BE, FR, NL, UK):  
NSHC agreed by correspondence to transfer the work of the Dover Strait Survey Policy Agreement to the RWG.
- Tidal Working Group (TWG, rotating chair, currently NL)

#### 5. Status of relevant IRCC actions

In order to identify the NSHC actions to be taken, they are marked with a colour code.

- Open action items: These action items focus on concrete deliverables.
- Continuous action items: These action items are standing activities/responsibilities not inherent to the responsibilities of the Working Groups (Terms of reference).

- Completed or closed action items: These action items do not need individual review at Commission level. Either they are completed, taken over by events, or do not require further action as they are inherent to the responsibilities of the Working Groups (Terms of Reference).

Legend
open action item (white)
continuous action item (light grey)
completed or closed action item (light green)

Action identifier	IRCC action description <sup>1</sup>	IRCC status	Actions taken by NHSC
IRCC7/01	Pending applications for IHO membership	permanent	Not applicable, all relevant HOs are a member.
IRCC7/02	Ratification of the IHO Convention by pending applicants	permanent	Not applicable, all MS have ratified. (BE has in September 2015 submitted the approval at the embassy of Monaco in Paris. BE is waiting on a receipt by the depositary of Monaco.)
IRCC7/03	Participation of stakeholders	permanent	Stakeholders participate on a regular basis. The next Conference will consist of an open and a closed session, to accommodate the various needs.
IRCC7/05	Progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme	permanent	See separate document " <i>North Sea Hydrographic Commission report to IRCC8-2016 on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme</i> ".
IRCC7/07	Estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators	permanent	Estimated values as of 31 December 2015 and target values for 31 December 2017 are given in the separate document " <i>North Sea Hydrographic Commission report on estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators for the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015</i> ". The indicators are complemented by comments on the difficulties encountered and suggestions for a way forward.
IRCC7/08	Attendance of GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs	permanent	Cooperation takes place through the Bathymetry Lot of the EMODNet project. GEBCO will be invited to NHSC32.
IRCC7/09	Promotion and cooperation relating to Satellite Derived Bathymetry	permanent	The NSHC Resurvey Working Group is monitoring developments, and it is a regular agenda item for NSHC Conferences.
IRCC7/15	Material provided to IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies	permanent	MS are encouraged to provide materials.
IRCC7/17	Encourage English language training	permanent	Not applicable, staff at all HOs is able to speak English

<sup>1</sup> The action descriptors were shortened for ease of reading. For the full description, reference is made to the IRCC Action list.

<b>Action identifier</b>	<b>IRCC action description<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>IRCC status</b>	<b>Actions taken by NHSC</b>
IRCC7/18	Facilitate resolution of inconsistencies between charts	permanent	Is part of standing NSEHWG and ICCWG activities
IRCC7/19	Encourage using risk assessments to establish survey priorities	permanent	Facilitated by the RWG
IRCC7/20	Provide input on possible sources of CB funding	input expected	To be discussed at NSHC32
IRCC7/26	Report on status of procedures to select representatives to the Council	ongoing	To be discussed at NSHC32
IRCC7/27a	Task new INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition of first INT Chart to ICCWG	ongoing	Not applicable, no new INT Chart Producer Nations
IRCC7/27b	Task ICCWG to manage the review of first edition of first INT Chart of a new INT Chart Producer Nations	ongoing	Not applicable, no new INT Chart Producer Nations
IRCC7/27c	Task INT Chart Producer to provide first and new editions of INT Charts to ICCWG 3 months prior to NSHC Conference	ongoing	Facilitated by ICCWG
IRCC7/27d	Task ICCWG to transfer submitted INT charts to IHB	ongoing	Facilitated by ICCWG
IRCC7/27e	Task MS to update list of online chart catalogues	ongoing	Facilitated by ICCWG
IRCC7/28	Implement procedure for new editions of INT Charts and report review processes for review of first edition of first INT Chart of a new INT Chart Producer Nation		Not applicable, no new INT Chart Producer Nations
IRCC7/33	Instruct ICCWG to investigate improved communication across the regions		Facilitated by ICCWG
IRCC7/41	Consider incorporating hydrography in more comprehensive maritime projects		MS are encouraged to incorporate hydrography in more comprehensive maritime projects.
IRCC7/42	Invite MS to update C-55 annually	input expected	MS are invited to update C-55 annually.
IRCC7/43	Provide access to IHB to CB promotional material	input expected	MS are invited to share CB promotional material to the IHB as displayed at the EIHC 5 CB exhibition.
IRCC7/44a	Provide technical visits summary reports	permanent	Not applicable, no technical visits
IRCC7/44b	Provide technical visits full reports	permanent	Not applicable, no technical visits
IRCC7/44 bis	Provide technical visits full reports for 2014	ongoing	Not applicable, no technical visits
IRCC7/48	Consider nominating regional MSDIWG representatives	input expected	To be discussed at NSHC32.
IRCC7/52	Continue supporting GEBCO regional projects	permanent	Cooperation takes place through the Bathymetry Lot of the EMODNet project.
IRCC7/53	Remind HOs of request to give GEBCO access to shallow water bathymetric data		HOs are reminded to give GEBCO access to bathymetric data.
IRCC7/56	Provide comments on relevance of information overlay services	expected via Action WENDWG5/01	Action is paused as the issue is still under consideration of the WEND WG (overlay services as AIO). See also decision 27 agreed at IRR7.
IRCC7/62	Consider providing IHO representatives at international meetings	input expected	MS are encouraged to provide IHO representatives at international meetings.

## 6. Agenda items

Some relevant items of NSHC31-2014 are:

### WP1 - Corporate affairs

ratification of the protocol of amendments to the IHO; European Union (JECMaP, EMODNet, PSI Directive); EIHC5

### WP2 - Hydrographic Services and Standards

vertical references (Tidal WG); airborne and satellite bathymetry; crowd-sourced bathymetry; MSDI (BSNSMSDIWG); INSPIRE; S-100 series

### WP3 - Interregional Coordination and Support

Capacity Building; WEND and RENCs; Region D ICCWG and ENC Harmonization WG; C-55; Dover Straight Survey WG and Resurvey WG; data acquisition and processing; NSHC internet site

## 7. cooperation with other organizations

See Element 1.1 in separate document "*North Sea Hydrographic Commission report to IRCC8-2016 on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme*".

## 8. Conclusions

NSHC focuses on the following topics:

1. shared progress to reach an up to date bathymetric coverage of the North Sea, taking into account resurvey strategies for dynamic areas and emerging survey methods (LIDAR, SDB, CSB);
2. shared experiences relating to Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures, notably through establishing a BSHC/NSHC MSDI Working Group;
3. shared progress on the establishment of vertical reference frames, including national Chart Datums, references suitable for the coastal zone, and Ellipsoidally Referenced Surveying.
4. The online publication of the North Sea Bathymetry Database at the new web site of NSHC, in order to (a) contribute to the further development of EMODNet, (b) assist in survey prioritization, and (c) make data available to society in line with the PSI Directive.

## 9. Achievements and lessons learned

The level of cooperation is excellent and progress on the three topics of the Conclusion is satisfactory, although the region needs to accept a limited survey capacity (topic 1), and lacks an international initiative to establish a consistent set of vertical references for the entire North Sea area (topic 3).

## 10. Actions required from IRCC

- a. note the report, including the status of the relevant action items;
- b. discuss interregional solutions to mitigate the limited survey capacity;
- c. discuss interregional solutions to establish a consistent set of vertical references for entire sea areas.

## 11. Acknowledgements

DE, DK, FR, IE and UK are kindly acknowledged for their useful feedback.

Marc van der Donck, Captain RNLN  
NSHC Chair