

## Arctic Region Hydrographic Commission

### Arctic Science Forum and 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

#### Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA

29 - 30 January 2014

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Arctic Region Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) was held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA on 29 and 30 January. All five Member States, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russian Federation and the USA were represented together with representatives of Finland and the International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO) attending as observers. President Robert Ward represented the IHB. The meeting was chaired by Mr Evert Flier, the Hydrographer of Norway. Captain Leonid Shalnov, Russian Federation, was deputy chair.

Each Member State presented a briefing on the status of hydrography, progress and charting priorities in their areas of responsibility. The members of the Commission discussed the development of a strategic directions document for the ARHC and initiatives to raise awareness of the shortcomings of hydrography and charting in the region so as to gain greater levels of national and regional support. Participants exchanged views on best practices and new technologies for surveying in the Arctic. Discussion also centred on the preparation of input to the Arctic Council working group on the Protection of the Marine Environment (PAME).



Vice Chair, Chair and President seated in front of the other ARHC participants

At the end of the meeting the position of Chair was handed over to the Russian Federation.

The next meeting of the ARHC will take place in the October 2015 in St Petersburg, Russian Federation. A short ad hoc meeting of the Commission is planned to take place in Monaco in October during the 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Hydrographic Conference.

#### **Arctic Science Forum**

The meeting of the ARHC was preceded by an Arctic Science Forum with the theme: *Science in Support of Hydrography in the Arctic*. The forum was hosted by the University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Centre in nearby Durham. The seminar provided the opportunity for researchers, scientists and industry speakers to inform ARHC delegates about emerging technical and scientific developments and opportunities for improving hydrography in the Arctic region.