

Draft report of The NHC 47th Meeting and the NSHC Extra Meeting 6-7 May 2003

The 47th NHC Meeting and NSHC Extra Meeting

The 47th NHC Meeting was held at the President Hotel in Norrköping, Sweden on 6 – 7 May 2003.

The NSHC Extra Meeting was arranged in order to give information of the item about the ongoing IHO Strategic Planning Work, which also was on the NHC agenda. The item was planned for a full day, 7 May. An extra information of the future of UK HO was initially given by the UK Hydrographer. The presentation should be sent to the delegates via e-mail.

This report handles the items in agenda order. *Ref. NHC 47/1.4 Annotated agenda*

There were 14 participants from the five Nordic Countries including the President of the IHB. Additional 5 participants arrived to the second day. *Ref. NHC 47/1.2 Participants of the 47th Meeting.*

A short visit to the Port of Norrköping was made during the first day.

1. Opening formalities

With a few opening words the chairman wished the delegates welcome to the meeting. Among others was mentioned that we in reality should have celebrated the 75th anniversary of our organisation and also should strengthen the cooperation again to the level from the forming of the NHC.

c. Approval of the Agenda

The chairman declared that the agenda was made up according to the latest statutes of the Nordic Hydrographic Commission. Also the headlines where no discussion item was reported was hence on the agenda. *Ref. NHC 47/1.3 Tentative agenda.*

The agenda was approved with a postponing of the report and discussions regarding the Strategic Planning Working Group, SPWG, until the following day where a joint meeting between the NHC and NSHC should take place during the whole day.

IHB Information

Before going through the agenda the IHB President Alexandros MARATOS gave some information. First from the GEBCO Centenary Celebration 14 – 16 April, where regrettably only few delegates from HO's attended. Secondly that the new Capacity Building Committee was formed to replace the old TACC, which latter was a joint

Working Group between IHO and FIG. Adm. MARATOS urged the HOs to consider their participation.

d. Outstanding/ongoing agenda items

There were three outstanding actions, *NHC 47/1.5*, of them two were effected. The remained one, arrangements of a meeting of the Paper Chart Production Group in 2003, was discussed. Finland was very interested of such a meeting as they just start to produce charts according to international chart standards. There was pointed out that meeting attendees should be arranged at team leader level. Sweden or Denmark stood in turn to arrange. Both explained that they at moment did not have the possibilities. The item was decided to be left outstanding and to be taken up at the next conference.

2. National reports

With the exception of the written reports – *Ref. NHC 47/2.1 – 2.5* – the following information and discussions took place

Denmark

Denmark, KMS, informed of its transfer to the Ministry of Environment with a heavy rationalizing both in staff and products. Only printed charts are to be made and no special product for the pleasure crafts. Except of that the goal is free publishing on Internet among others of the Danish Harbour Pilot. The Nordic HOs will be kept informed on further development through e-mails.

Finland

Finland reported only a divergence from the written report as the surveying ship *Kalla* was sold and they were waiting for the delivery of a new catamaran.

Norway

Norway had with success used multibeam in shallow water surveyings for the first time in a full year 2002.

The external production of nautical charts had got into a routine phase by now and it was more and more convincing. They could not compete with the Indian firm used.

The external production of sea surveying is for each company contracted for more than one year at a time i.e. at least three years. The first year of such outsourcing is a learning year

The leisure craft will likely be influenced by the new SOLAS V. Norway is at moment discussing the status of the leisure craft in the future.

After discussions it was put forward to discuss experiences got from outsourcing/use of private companies in future conferences.

Norway offered to support IHB with general information on contracting and technical specifications with check lists.

Denmark proposed that there should be given time to discuss regarding experiences in outsourcing and/or cooperation in production with private companies in future meetings.

3. Reporting of joint projects

Det levande sjökortet

Sweden gave short information on this product for the pleasure craft. The Swedish east coast south of the Bothnian Bay is now covered as an addition to the earlier west coast coverage.

Denmark, who will not produce such a product any more, stressed the risk that the product runs away as it may end up in a product we actually should not do. We have made that product in an excellent style and should with this as an example perhaps let the private industry do this type of products.

Gridded bathymetri

Denmark, FRV, gave further information in connection to the written paper, *NHC 47/3.1*. Sweden expressed the hope to be able to take part in the project soon.

IHB informed that during the GEBCO Centenary Conference discussions on grids of 1 minute has started. If available it should be communicated with IHB or GEBCO. Also there were demands for information from Antarktis, Arktis and Greenland.

4. Reporting from working groups etc.

a. Multibeam seminar

Denmark, FRV, reported from the multibeam seminar effected, *NHC47/4.1*, as being an extremely good course, but left with a feeling that it was not specialised for the Baltic Sea.

The delegates expressed that the attendees of the course were full of praise and thanked Denmark for the arrangements. Most of delegates also expressed that there were a need for further seminars.

Denmark, FRV, also expressed a wish to arrange a course for a group of experts. It was decided that multibeam seminar should be on the agenda for the next conference and also on the BSHC agenda in September.

b. Paper Chart Production Group

No further remarks than under outstanding agenda items above.

5. IHO work

a. Status of individual Working Groups

A full day for only one IHO Working Group was devoted viz. the essential Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG). This was also the only item for the **North Sea Hydrographic Commission Extra Meeting**, why additional members of concerned HOs attended.

However, the UK HO got the possibility to begin with a presentation of presumable different ways to reorganize the UK HO. UK invited the attendees to give their views afterwards by mail or e-mail.

The information and discussions was chaired by the SPWG Chairman Frode KLEPSVIK assisted by the other members of the chair group, Dr. Wynford WILLIAMS, UK, and Adm. Alexandros MARATOS, IHB. The base for discussion was the report, *NHC 47/5.1* or *NSHC Extra Meeting, Doc. 2.1*, with appendices. The report concerning the proceedings in the work of reorganizing the IHO and IHB to meet modern standards and demands was explained by the chair group. A thoroughly discussion to get information and input to the next meeting of the SPWG a week later followed. Also was discussed new papers delivered by USA and Canada. The presentation and thoughts expressed were fully supported by all the attendees.

b. Relations to other NSHC and BSHC countries

Nothing was reported

c. IHO Circular letter 23/2003 – Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting

The CL was presented and the IHB President stressed that it was one of the most important publications of the IHO. An essential thing was to keep it updated as a living document and that there existed standards to get the answers on the same level and thus comparative between different national responsibilities. A new Circular Letter was planned with a questionnaire and where non-MS should be in touch via IMO. This status question regarding concerned matters should, according to the CL, be a standing agenda point in the future.

6. Other international activities regarding nautical charting and hydrographic surveying

a. PRIMAR-Stavanger

- i. Norway reported a good development and an insignificant increase in ENC's. However, the market goes very slow and there is obviously a problem for users to change from private published data to official. It is also a lack of education. It is also essential to reach outside our own area, why Primar-S offers infrastructure and competence as it also is difficult for other areas to set up a RENC, which requires just high competence.

- ii. SENC distribution from Primar-S is based on specifications made in cooperation with Det Norske Veritas. All the members of Primar-S except of France accepts SENC distribution. The SENC specifications should be delivered to the IHB for further distribution.

b. IMO and IALA

The IHB President reported good cooperation with both IMO and IALA which is improving every year.

c. HELCOM

- i. Information of BSHC-HELCOM Monitoring Group was presented by Finland. The Group, which consists of members of the Baltic Sea area, is chaired by Finland and follows up the planned surveys and production of ENC according to the BSHC decisions and analyses after the Copenhagen declaration.
- ii. The representation of surveyings in the charts was presented by as well Sweden as Finland. The intention is to inform the navigators where the most accurate surveyings regarding both positioning and depth and according to the last edition of S-44 are and in the BSHC area to recommend those surveyed areas for deep draught and other type of ships especially mentioned in the Copenhagen declaration. At moment the use of national symbologies, using tinted areas to reflect those surveyings, are introduced waiting for decisions from IHO of an international symbol.

7. Relations to other (Private) nautical charting interests in the Nordic countries

No further information was indicated than under discussions of the Norwegian National Report.

8. Discussion of general trends and policy

- a. **Renewing of the Printed Nautical Charts in Finland including Experiences of the new Paper Chart Production System (nSector)** was reported by Finland. The renewing of charts to be in accordance to international colours and symbology had started. However, some of the old symbols should still be used. The charts were named Blue Charts to differentiate them from the old, Green charts. The chart datum is equivalent to WGS-84. A lot of information and promotion had been carried out and only a few, minor negative comments were received.

The new chart production system, nSector, is a further development of HIS to give a full correspondence to the demands for the production of as well ENCs as printed charts.

- b. **The frequency of resurvey of fairways, dredged or with a small clearance.**

The problems with the restratification of shallow areas depending on the vessel traffic and the necessity of resurveying was introduced by Sweden with a request for the other HO's experiences regarding the frequency of surveyings necessary. No simple solution is obvious. However, Finland remarked that where the partly had been effected by ice they have to resurvey every year.

c. The situation of laser bathymetri in Sweden

Sweden informed that the laser bathymetri system previously used is that old that is had been taken out of use. It is impossible to foresee the possibility of shallow water surveys as the priority is given to the HELCOM related surveys. Sweden is aware of the development of new laser bathymetri systems with much higher efficiency.

c. Principles of QMS plas at FMA within the Navi program and in the Pilot Project.

Finland gave a short report on this matter which is a QMS based on traditional Microsoft software. It is not an ISO 9000 system but fulfils that demands.

d. ISO 9000 Certification at NSV.

With a reference to the Norwegian National Report Norway informed that they were certified for all activities through the Det Norske Veritas on May 5th. The work had started in 1998 but they went for certification only when they felt satisfied with the system.

e. ISO 9001 Certification at SMA

Sweden reported of the SMA certification in March this year.

On a question from the IHB President on how often you have to apply for a renewal of ISO 9000 Norway answered: every year and Sweden remarked that revisions are made twice a year to begin with.

9. Any other business

a. The new organisation of Finnish Maritime Administration and the role of Hydrography on it.

Finland informed thoroughly of its new organisation. The aim with this reform is to separate the shipping authorities from the service production. The authority is also the contractor and will be separated from service traffic, icebreaking and fairway management. Thus the possibility to competition from the open market will be introduced to give higher efficiency and savings.

b. The next office of the SMA

Sweden has since some years had problems with the old building and is nowadays located in different localities in Norrköping. However, a new office will be taken in use, probably in the late 2003.

c. Progress in the ENC production in Sweden

As a complementary addition to the report from PRIMAR-S Sweden informed that Swedish waters is covered with ENCs for the navigation in the open sea, usually in the scale area around 1: 250 000. Priority is given to the entrances to the larger harbours if not already done.

d. Paper Chart production in Sweden

Sweden reported the ongoing production of new charts in the northern part of the Bothnian Bay in THE scale 1: 250 000 to replace older ones. They are made up with borders according to the INT chart scheme.

e. A new survey catamaran at FMA

Finland gave a report assisted by pictures of a the new catamaran to be delivered this year

10. Specific agenda items for the next annual meeting.

None mentioned, however the S-55 matters should be on the agenda according to the IHO CL 23/2003

11. Closing formalities

a. Action items arose from the 47th NHC Meeting

See Appendix .

c. Election of next Chairman for NHC

According to the Statutes the 48th NHC Meeting will take place in Finland. The proposed Mr. Jukka VARONEN was unanimously elected as the new chairman.

d. Date and venue for the 48th NHC Meeting

The newly elected chairman informed that the next Conference will take place in Helsinki with two possible dates, 3 – 4 February or 2 – 3 March 2004, and with the possibilities to change the date in order to have the meeting before a planned last meeting of the SPWG:

The chairman declared the 47th meeting closed.