

**48<sup>th</sup> NHC Meeting**  
**Helsinki, 3 – 4 February, 2004**

# **Final Minutes**

(13 February 2004)

## **The Meeting**

The meeting was held at the **Hanasaari** Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre in Espoo, Finland.

There were 19 participants from five Nordic Countries, including the IHB representatives RAdm. *Kenneth Barbor* and Capt. *Mike Barritt*. See the list of participants in *NHC/48/1B\_Rev2*.

The meeting included the Agenda issues and technical excursions to the Helsinki University of Technology/ Institute of Cartography and Geoinformatics (see more on <http://www.hut.fi/Units/Cartography/>) and to the Meriturva Maritime Safety Training Centre/ Ship Simulator unit (see more on <http://www.meriturva.fi/main3.htm>).

The documents of the meeting were distributed before the meeting, and some documents were presented during the meeting. See the list of documents in *NHC/48/1A\_Rev 1*.

## **The Agenda Issues**

### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

The NHC Chairman Mr. *Jukka Varonen* welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. He pointed out the most important issues of this meeting: the IHO strategy, the WEND issues and the updating the S-55 and S-59. He also mentioned that the re-organisation is going on in many HOs of the Nordic Countries.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda of the meeting was approved as in the document *NHC/48/ 2A\_Rev3*. It was agreed that the Agenda Item 7 'The IHO Work' to be dealt after Agenda Item 3. A new topic: Information on the *Rocknes* incident was added into the Agenda Item 10 and was taken on after the excursions.

### 3. Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> NHC Meeting

The Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> NHC Meeting were approved without comments. (*Doc: NHC/47/ Minutes*).

The Chairman noted that the Actions decided on that meeting (*NHC/47/Actions*) have been included in the Agenda later on.

### 7. The IHO Work

RAdm. *Kenneth Barbor* introduced the Report of the IHB to the NHC/48 (*Doc: NHC/48/ 7A*). He pointed out the most important issues relevant to the IHO: New SOLAS V, UNCLOS Article 76, IHB – UN meetings, and the World Summit 2002. Then he iterated the IHB response to these issues, like the SPWG Work, IHOCBC Work, Updating S-55, WEND, ABLOS, GEBCO, and the improved IHO communication. Also a review of the pending Circular Letter voting was reviewed. The importance of the ENC coverage information was also discussed.

RAdm. *Barbor* introduced the IHB CL 76/2003, where the issue to establish an Arctic Hydrographic Commission was raised. Finland informed that even if the Nordic dimension is important to Finland it has no direct hydrographic activities on the Arctic area. Denmark indicated a positive attitude to the establishment of an Arctic Hydrographic Commission. Sweden has similar situation as in Finland. Iceland has not discussed this issue yet. Norway asked about the definition of the Arctic area and which are the members concerned. There already exist mechanisms to deal issues related to the Arctic. Norway stated that this is a politically sensitive issue and the HOs should consider carefully their reply to the CL 76/2003.

#### 7.1 IHO SPWG issues

The Chairman of the IHO SPWG Mr. *Frode Klepshvik* informed on the work of the SPWG and presented the latest version of the Draft SPWG Report (*Docs: NHC48/7.1A, IHO CL 6/2004, and Draft SPWG Report Version 7*). He also informed that new versions of the IHB Basic documents have been distributed for consideration of the HOs. See documents: *Proposed IHO Convention, Comments to the Basic Documents 28.1.04, Proposed General Regulations, Proposed Rules for Council, Proposed Rules for Assembly and the IHO Basic Documents Edition 2002*. The SPWG Chair Group will meet on 17 - 18 February 2004 and the SPWG meeting will be in Tokyo 1 - 4 March 2004. On 27-28 May 2004 there will be a meeting in Athens on the IHO strategy for the decision makers.

There was some discussion of the benefits of the IHO to the Member States. It was noted that the IHO Publication M-2 describes these benefits. The Chairman of the SPWG promised the SPWG to consider adding a summary of the benefits of the IHO to the Executive summary of the SPWG Report.

**Action: SPWG Chairman**

Mr. *Varonen* informed about the discussions with the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry was satisfied of the rapid progress of the renewal of the IHO. They agree in principle on the proposed changes and indicated the Finnish general principles for the new organisation: 1) The new organisation should be efficient, 2) the benefits of small countries should be taken care, 3) the voting power should not be combined to the membership fees and 4) zero-growth is not necessary if efficient operation needs resources. Finland supports the establishment of the Council. They also proposed that the UN voting area concept may be applied on the council membership model. Mr. *Klepsvik* informed that the SPWG had already studied the UN voting model.

There was a lengthy discussion on the Council membership model. Mr. *Klepsvik* introduced the six alternatives developed by the SPWG. A combination of the models A2 and A6 was estimated to be the best basis for further evaluation.

RAdm. *Barbor* emphasized that all HOs should actively inform their relevant Foreign Ministries on the IHO SPWG work and the proposed changes to the organisation of the IHO.

Action: All

The NHC Commission gave a full support to the SPWG work and hoped that the still open issues could be fixed at the Tokyo meeting.

It was agreed that all HOs should forward their possible comments on the SPWG issues and opinions about the recommended Council membership model to the NHC representative (Mr. *Göran Nordström*) before the SPWG Tokyo meeting on 1 - 4 March 2004.

Action: All

## 7.2 WEND Issues

RAdm. *Barbor* introduced the WEND Task Group (Doc: *NHC/48/ 7.2A*). The main task for the WEND Task Group is to 'make WEND happen'. The main problems are the lack of availability of ENC's, and the consistency and quality issues with them. He also stated that these issues on the NHC area are well in hand of the HO's.

Mr. *Ole Berg* asked who is responsible about the Global Scheme of small scale ENC's. RAdm. *Barbor* informed that the WEND Task Group will develop this scheme. There was some discussion on multilateral meeting on these issues. Mr. *Berg* also pointed out that there are also other possibilities for 'one stop ENC service' than the RENC-to-RENC services. He also mentioned that ECDIS equipment should resolve possible overlapping chart areas.

Mr. *Juha Korhonen* gave additional information on the actions required by the WEND Task Group. He introduced the documents *WEND Letter 2/2003*, *WEND Letter 3/2003* and the *Report of the BSHC/HELCOM MWG, IHB CL 68/2003 ENC Production Boundaries*, and described briefly the actions made based on these as described in the document *BSHC and NHC Report to the WEND TG*. Mr. *Nordström*

informed that the NSHC Commission has made a similar report to the WEND TG, including mainly the TEN-T work.

Mr. *Korhonen* presented also the *Draft NHC Report to the WEND Committee*. The meeting approved the Report and asked Finland to send it to the WEND Committee as requested by the WEND Letter 3/2003.

Action: **Finland**

RAdm. *Barbor* introduced the *WEND Letter 1/2004*: Proposal to allow the use of ECDIS in RCDS mode without paper charts. He pointed out that there are two issues on this: 1) Safety of navigation and 2) IHO politics. This issue has been discussed earlier in CHRIS committee and has now been raised at the IMO MSC. Ms. *Tiina Tuurnala* said that in Finland this will not be allowed for safety reasons. Also the *Rocknes* case indicates the same. Mr. *Nordström* said that Sweden has a similar opinion. Mr. *Berg* pointed out that if ENC's are available these should always be used. However, compared to paper charts, RCDS offers better functionalities and it may be useful to use RCDS, if used correctly. Care must be taken not to slow down the ENC production. The *Rocknes* case showed that the critical issue in terms of the charts was the significant delays in the updating of both paper and digital charts. Thus care should be taken when using the *Rocknes* case in the argumentation against the use of RCDS. He finally emphasized that the HELCOM decisions on the use of ECDIS and the production of ENC's should be completed by all means as soon as possible. Mr. *Nordström* said that it is not possible to make a common agreement on this issue; it belongs to the National Maritime Safety Authorities. This opinion was agreed by the meeting and it was decided that all HO's to discuss with their Maritime Safety Authorities on the proposed use of RCDS without paper charts before the IMO MSC meeting.

Action: **All**

### 7.3 IHO CL 41/2003:

Capt. *Mike Barritt* gave a presentation of the status of Revision of S-55 and S-59: Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting (*Docs: CL 41/2003, NHC/47/7.3A*). He stated that this publication is intended to give strategic data for the decision makers. It should show key deficiencies in Hydrographic survey, nautical charting and maritime safety information and propose potential co-operative projects and assistance in capacity building. He showed some early conclusions from the analysis. He stated that the HELCOM Re-survey Plan is a good example on this kind of information. The IHB intention is to develop a continuously updated database for this kind of information. This will be linked to regional data bases. The review of this work is in IHB next week and a Circular Letter is planned to inform on further actions. The IHO Web pages on this issue are expected to be available at the end of 2004. Mr. *Varonen* informed on the Finnish actions experiences to evaluate the national data coverage and need for resurveys.

Capt. *Barritt* asked the member states to deliver their updated information to the IHB. He asked Denmark and Norway to provide further information for Bouvetoya, Faeroes, Greenland, Jan Mayen and Svalbard, as indicated in the S-55 presentation.

Action: **Denmark and Norway**

Also he asked the HOs who have bilateral agreements with other HOs to emphasize the importance of delivering updated information for the S-55. The updating of the S-55 should also be a standing agenda on the future RHC meetings.

Action: **All**

#### **4. Reports on activities within nautical charting and hydrographic surveying in each of the Nordic countries**

Each country introduced briefly their National Report.

National Report of Denmark (NHC/48/ 4A). Some detailed information was given.

National Report of Finland (NHC/48/ 4B). Some additional information on the new organisation, new and planned survey ships and on the process to renew the Finnish nautical charts and the chart production system were given.

National Report of Iceland (NHC/48/ 4C). No further information.

National Report of Norway (NHC/48/ 4D). Some additional information on contract surveys and outsourcing, QMS status, data management development, computer-to-plate printing of charts and co-operation with Coastal directorate were given. Finland thanked Norway on arranging a Finnish HO staff member to visit at the Norwegian Hydrographic Service during 2003-2004.

National Report of Sweden (NHC/48/ 4E). Some additional information on surveys, laser system, computer-to-plate printing of charts and QMS status.

#### **5. Reporting of joint projects**

No joint projects were reported.

#### **6. Reporting of Working Groups etc.**

Mr. *Jarmo Mäkinen* informed about the CHRIS/CSPCWG work. Main issues are now the updating of the M-4 and M-11. This WG has been reactivated under the new chairmanship of Dr. *Peter Jones*. Mr. *Jarmo Mäkinen* is the Vice-Chairman of this WG.

## 8. Other international activities regarding nautical charting and hydrographic surveying

Mr. *Kjell Olsen* introduced the Report of the PRIMAR Stavanger (*Doc: NHC/48/ 8A*).

Mr. *Berg* informed about the co-operation between the PRIMAR Stavanger and the IC-ENC, which is now mainly on a technical level and generally improving.

There were no IMO or IALA issues.

## 9. Relations to other (private) nautical charting interests in the Nordic countries

Mr. *Olsen* gave updated information on lessons learned from outsourcing (*Doc: NHC/48/ 9A*). He promised to send copies of the updated tender specifications on a CD-rom to the participants. Mr. *Varonen* said that similar process will be also in Finland and these kinds of specifications are useful. Capt. *Barritt* informed that NZ and US have similar specifications available (The NZ specifications are on the LINZ web site).

Action: **Norway**

RAdm. *Knud Borck* informed about the outsourcing issues and possible future organisational changes in Farvandsvæsenet.

## 10. Discussion of general trends and policy questions within the area of nautical charting and hydrographic surveying

Mr. *Klepvik* informed on the *Rocknes* incident, which happened in Norway on 19 January 2004. (*Doc: NHC/48/ 10A*). This has been the most severe ship accident in Norway. The case has emphasized the importance of the use of official chart data, their timely updating, and the correct interpretation of charts by the mariners. There was a lengthy discussion on these issues. Norway promised to prepare a paper on this incident and on its consequences. It was stated that all HOs should take relevant actions to ensure that official timely updated chart data is used and interpreted correctly.

Actions: **Norway, All.**

## 11. Status Reports and Technical Issues

Norway informed about their planned Multibeam Sonar Training Course in November 2004 in Stavanger (*Doc: NHC/48/ 11A*). Finland indicated its willingness to participate on this course. Denmark pointed out that a course on this level can be sensor-independent; if more detailed course is needed then it should be a specific manufacturer-sensor course. Finland promised to distribute the document to the BSHC countries.

Action: **Finland**

Mr. *Olsen* informed on their introduction to the NHS production line through e-learning (*Doc: NHC/48/ 11B*). The web access to these pages at the NHS web pages was given to the Nordic HOs.

Ms. *Hanne Berg* asked if the proposed Paper Chart Production Workshop is really needed. Finland and Sweden believed that it will be useful this year. It should be for the people in practical chart production work, mainly on a section leader level. Denmark offered to host next two-day Paper Chart Production Workshop on the first week of September 2004. Denmark will send invitation to all and ask proposals for the subjects for the Workshop. Some items have already been agreed on the last Workshop.

Action: **Denmark.**

## 12. Next Chairman for NHC

Mr. *Hafsteinn Hafsteinsson* was unanimously elected as the next Chairman of the NHC.

## 13. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Reykjavik on 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2005.

Specific Items for the next meeting were reviewed as following:

- IHO Strategy for discussing before the III IHO Extraordinary Conference
- Bilateral/mutual meetings for ENC production issues
- Continuous updating of the IHO S-55.

The secretary read the actions decided on this meeting (*NHC/48\_ Actions*).

## 14. Any other business

Denmark reported on a recently shown Danish TV program dealing with nautical chart data and promised to deliver copies of it to the participants.

Mr. *Nordström* informed that this was his last NHC meeting because he will retire next June. He said that he appreciate very much this kind of Nordic co-operation and thanked all for their friendliness.

RAdm. *Barbor* said that the IHB is very satisfied of the issues on this Commission and that the IHB has received all information needed. He also thanked the host country for the arrangements of the meeting. The chairman thanked the IHB for its contribution to this NHC meeting.

## **15. Closing of the Meeting**

Mr. *Hafsteinn Hafsteinsson* thanked for the organisation of this meeting and welcomed all to attend the next meeting in Iceland.

The old NHC Chairman Mr. *Varonen* thanked all the participants on their active participation and declared the meeting closed.

---