

## Final Minutes of the NHC 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> of February, 2005 in Iceland

(2 May 2005)

### A. The meeting

The meeting was held at the Hotel Loftleidir in Reykjavik.

There were 14 participants from five Nordic Countries attending the meeting, including the IHB representatives RAdm. *Kenneth Barbor* and Capt. *Mike Barritt*. See the list of participants in *NHC/49/1B Rev3*.

The meeting included the Agenda issues and a visit to the National Museum of Iceland (see more on <http://www.natmus.is/>)

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/49/1A Rev4*.

### B. The Agenda Issues

#### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The NHC Chairman Mr. *Hilmar Helgason* welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. He pointed out that issues regarding the IHO 3rd EIHC were the most important items of the meeting.

#### 2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was approved as in the document *NHC/49/2A Rev 2*.

#### 3. Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> NHC Meeting

The minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> NHC meeting were approved without comments. (*Doc: NHC/48/FinalMinutes*).

The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed (*NHC/48/Action items*).

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* reported that for the time being Action item 10 could not be continued since work is still going on regarding the *Rocknes* case in Norway.

Capt. *Mike Barritt* reported that Action item 7.3 is still ongoing and that it is anticipated that the 49<sup>th</sup> NHC meeting will clear and work out some of the issues.

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* reported that with regards to Action item 7.1 a decision has been made to not produce any further SPWG reports.

#### 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/49/4A*). Capt. *Mike Barritt* asked that S-55 be updated to reflect the ongoing re-survey programme in waters of Greenland. "Behind the Nautical chart", a new publication

that explains the reliability of chart information, had been released and can be downloaded from the web. The actual use by marines/users can not be measured.

National Report of Finland (NHC/49/4B). Some additional information about difficulties aroused due to reorganization of FMA. Privatization within the Hydrographic Section will increase.

National Report of Iceland (NHC/49/4C). Some additional information about the survey and charting project of Lake Malawi. RAdm. *Kenneth Barbor* who is the IHB representative for the region expressed his satisfaction with the effort of the ICG-HD and NHS in the area.

National Report of Norway (NHC/49/4D). Some additional information about lesser funds than anticipated for survey program which is planned to run until 2008. Results from last year satisfactory. Melkøya project associated with the Snowwhite gas field and the future Hammerfest gas terminal. Additional charts need to be produced due to this project and Statoil will fund half of it. NHS has been requested by Ministry of Foreign Affairs to assist Croatia to update existing charts and through diplomatic channels to assist Mozambique to upgrade production line. Norway is assisting Sri Lanka as a part of concentrated Nordic aid in the area but will wait for a formal request in order to consider further expansion of assistance in SE-Asia.

National Report of Sweden (NHC/49/4E). Some additional information about the developments of the Helcom project in the Baltic Sea. The 5 year contract that was made with private companies is over and another 5 year contract is being made. Other companies becoming involved and there is a need to transfer experienced surveyors between the old and new contractors.

Hydrographic course in Finland (NHC/49/4F). Some additional information about the course that was held at the Technical University of Helsinki. Some of the major components were introduction, data management and IHO. The course was administered by FMA employees and well received by the students.

The course material has not been sent to the FIG/IHO/ICA International Advisory Board for recognition. Other countries welcome to utilize teaching material. Could be used in conjunction with other courses to make up material for Class B Hydrographic program.

## 5. Reporting of joint projects

No joint projects were reported.

## 6. Reporting of Working Groups etc.

Report from the Paper Chart Working Group (NHC/49/6A). *Mr. Arni Vesteinsson* expressed how important it is to keep contact alive between organizations. *Mr. Ake Magnusson* expressed his thankfulness to Denmark KMS for holding the work shop in September 2004. According to the Swedish participants it was very useful. *Mr. Kjell M. Olsen* offered on behalf of NHS to have the work shop in Norway sometime in September or October 2006.

Action: Norway

## 7. The IHO Work

Report of the IHB to the 49<sup>th</sup> NHC (NHC/49/7A). *Radm. Kenneth Barbor* pointed out that a WEND meeting and the IHO 3<sup>rd</sup> EIHC are coming up. The objective is to work towards a global ENC coverage. IHB representative present at the meeting render assistance but in order to do so they need input from the NHC members.

RHC input to the IHO/CBC (NHC/49/7B). *Capt. Mike Barrit* asked for feedback on CL 87 and CL 88 after presentation of a brief about IHO Capacity Building Committee issues. *Mr. Frode Klepsvik* pointed out that the capacity to produce charts and publications is very important. The major cost is not associated with the production phase but lies within the survey phase. However, countries get discouraged if the final product is not in the picture.

Action: All

Revision and update of S-55 (NHC/49/7C). *Capt. Mike Barrit* asked NHC nations to influence other nations that have not responded to the task of updating the data base after presentation of a brief about IHO Special Publication 55.

The role of the RHCs (NHC/49/7D). *Mr. Juha Korhonen* asked participants what their opinion is on RHCs after introducing a report about BSHC cooperation. *Adm. Kenneth Barbor* responded that the concept is extremely important. *Mr. Frode Klepsvik* agreed with the content of the paper regarding RHC cooperation and that an important issue has been brought up. *Mr. Frode Klepsvik* pointed out that IMO NAV meetings could be used to present RHCs. Decision made to have Finland prepare a presentation about the BSHC and present it at the IMO NAV 51 meeting, at relevant conferences etc.

Action: Finland

## 7.1 IHO 3<sup>rd</sup> EIHC

The Chairman of the IHO SPWG *Mr. Frode Klepsvik* informed that the executive summary is intended to assist national organizations to communicate with authorities in each respective country.

It has been agreed that the best way to define how much funds member states are to contribute to IHO and as a result how much influence they have is by tonnage of national fleet. How many charts member states produce is not a good measurement since some are producing charts of areas all over the world.

Attempt has been made to make RHCs a legal entity but it has been difficult. RHCs need be recognized since they are an important factor in the IHO structure.

There have been 5 main meetings held in the SPWG and the work of the group will be reported at the IHO 3<sup>rd</sup> EIHC in Monaco by the Chairman. As a result the deputy of the NHS will represent Norway. Some member states believe that IHO does not need to change for the next decades. NHC members need to come across at the IHO 3<sup>rd</sup> EIHC and pursue that this can not be the case since significant changes are required if IHO is to survive. *Mr. Juha Korhonen* asked if discussions have taken place with these opposing countries. *Mr. Frode Klepsvik* explained that pressure is not likely to function but rather intellectual discussions. *Mr. Arne Nielsen* explained that he is a little puzzled by Chile since they prepare a totally different text in their proposal while they have their representative at the IHB.

*Mr. Frode Klepsvik* informed that member states need to take stand with the SPWG proposal or the Chilean proposal. These two can not be intermingled.

*Mrs. Hanne Berg* asked if France's proposal for new criteria regarding appointments of Directors of IHB had been discussed. *Mr. Frode Klepsvik* reported that the SPWG considered that Article 20 covered this issue, and that it was up to MS to assess qualifications when nominating or supporting candidates.

*Mr. Asgrimur L. Asgrimsson* asked for further clarification on tonnage of fleet in relation to financial and influential situation within IHO. *Mr. Frode Klepsvik* explained that the criteria has not changed and that national figures are used as foundation.

## 7.2 IHO Working Groups

*Mr. Jukka Varonen* asked about the opinion of members regarding the Finnish proposal as put forward in NHC common input to the IHO S-44 WG. (Doc: NHC/49/7.2A). He explained that the group has been tasked to work fast on the matter. *Adm. Kenneth Barbor* pointed out that the issue should be discussed and a recommendation put forward. Each individual country needs to decide whether they want make additional standards and if they want to apply them to all areas of their waters. *Mr. Ake Magnusson* reported that Sweden has adopted a special interpretation of the S-44 but would prefer there to be a common international standard. *Mr. Frode Klepsvik* reported that Norway has nominated a special person for this work and that the conclusion is that a coordinating meeting with experts is needed regarding this issue. *Mr. Arne Nilsen* explained that Denmark trusts that the WG is taking their interest into consideration. Denmark has not participated but have observed the work of the group. Meetings are needed in order to harmonize the work. *Mr. Jukka Varonen* concluded that Finland will make the proposal that NHC countries are all welcome to participate and invite representatives to Helsinki. *Mr. Kjell M. Olsen* pointed out that the main task of working groups is to answer questions or raise questions. This is done by correspondence. Final meetings are then held in order to harmonize the work. *Capt. Mike Barrit* informed that the next shallow water conference will be held in Plymouth,

England and therefore it will be a good opportunity for European nations to attend and get their point across since it is not being held in far away region.

Action: Finland

Mr. *Risto Rekimies* reported that a standard symbology for fairways is needed. Finland has discussed the proposal with Sweden and received positive feedback. (Doc: NHC/49/7.2B). It is very important for mariners to be able to trust that the depth in the whole area is correct and sufficient.

Mr. *Ake Magnusson* suggested that the definition of a fairway area needs to be clarified. If all areas satisfy the criteria then the whole chart will be grey. More time is needed to prepare the final proposal. Mrs. *Hanne Berg* asked about how much NHC members believed the need for fairway areas is in their respective countries. The future ENC's have to be taken into considerations. Mr. *Ake Magnusson* explained that ENC's are already being taken into consideration since they are the future.

Mr. *Risto Rekimies* reemphasized that the same symbology is needed everywhere and that Finland proposes grey colour because that fits most nations. Mr. *Arne Nilsen* asked if the conclusion is that Finland is going to submit a proposal that a grey colour will be used. Mr. *Juha Korhonen* explained that Finland would submit that as the proposal.

Action: Finland

Mrs. *Hanne Berg* reported that the new chairman of the CSPCWG is very active. (Doc: NHC/49/7.2C). It is very fruitful to meet once in a while since correspondence is not the same as a physical meeting. Increase in workload due to CL that are received and distributed to members and need to be responded to. *Adm. Kenneth Barbor* suggested that possibly a rule should be established that if CL are not responded to within 3 months the issues involved should be considered accepted. *Capt. Mike Barrit* asked about the representation of members of CSPCWG, whether it is world wide or concentrated in a particular area. According to Mrs. *Hanne Berg* the representation is worldwide.

Mrs. *Hanne Berg* reported that the Nordic Coordinator is not really coordinating any views. The main task has been to circulate letters from CSPCWG and send back answers from Nordic countries. The Nordic countries should each nominate their own representatives. Much likelier for results and influence. Finland and Norway have already done so. The proposal is to abolish the function of a coordinator. (Doc: NHC/49/7.2C). If that is not commonly agreed to then it is proposed that another person be nominated for the task. Mr. *Ake Magnusson* thanked Hanna for the good work and stated that he respected her decision and understands how time consuming this task has been. Mr. *Juha Korhonen* agreed with the proposal to have a national representative. Mr. *Frode Klepshvik* reported that Norway intends to continue to have a national representative. Mr. *Arni Vesteinsson* explained that Iceland would unlikely nominate a representative but will take measures to be able to follow up on what is going on. Mr. *Hilmar Helgason* concluded that each country should nominate a representative if so desired and apply for a seat in the CSPCWG to the chairman.

Action: All

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

Mr. *Frode Klepshvik* introduced the Report of the PRIMAR Stavanger (Doc: NHC/49/8A). An increase of ENCs noted on the market. Believed to be due to good coverage in areas around Norway. Good cooperation with IC-ENC. Able to support S-63 because of this close cooperation. NHS reorganized as of 1 October 2004. More focus on technically and navigationally skilled employees.

*Adm. Kenneth Barbor* reported IMO, IALA and IHO have been working together on issues regarding the recent tsunami in south-east Asia. Also cooperating on issues regarding automated, self reporting systems which will eventually be incorporated into ECDIS. IHO reports to IMO about charting activity.

Mr. *Arni Vesteinsson* presented the cooperative bathymetric project undertaken by number of Icelandic institutions involving the Helical processing system. The basic idea is to collect all available data around Iceland. The data is processed, compared, evaluated and classified within the system. Some of

the data is collected by commercial trawlers while other comes from official national and international organizations. Useful data is stored in a database ready for various use if needed in the future. Mr. *Arne Nilsen* reported that a similar project is being undertaken in Denmark. An agreement is being developed about how to exchange data sets between countries. In the future ships will be required to record data such as speed and course and eventually depth. Denmark is willing to share data with Iceland. Mr. *Frode Klepssvik* reported that he finds this an interesting concept. NHS has been cooperating with other national institutions providing expertise and assisting them to do surveys according to the S-44 standards. Capt. *Mike Barritt* asked if this was something that could be shared. Mr. *Arne Nilsen* reported that the RDANH instructs crews of research vessels to calibrate equipment so the data collected can be used for charting. Capt. *Mike Barritt* noted that the **Hydrographic Committee for Antarctica** (HCA) was producing a co-ordinated survey plan, within which it was hoped that experts from hydrographic organizations can be loaned onboard ships during the Polar Year to assist where expertise knowledge is not available. He undertook to provide feedback to the HCA.

Action: **Capt. Barritt**

Mr. *Asgrimur L. Asgrimsson* reported about the multibeam project that the Icelandic Marine Research Institute has been involved with. The fishery research vessel *Arni Fridriksson* which is equipped with a Simrad 300 multibeam sonar has been leased for some periods of time during the past two years to the committee that has been formed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Industry to research and advise the Government of Iceland about the future continental shelf negotiations in the North Atlantic. The ship has also been leased to the University of Iceland and the Iceland GeoSurvey to chart the bottom around Iceland for scientific purposes, e.g. oil and gas explorations. Quite a bit of data has been gathered and is being offered to the ICG-HD but unfortunately there is neither the time nor manpower to process the data. Mr. *Arne Nilsen* reported that Danish authorities were involved in the same and were willing to share the data collected. Capt. *Mike Barritt* deliberated on whether this could be expanded and perhaps better guidelines could be given to the crews of these ships that are capable of surveying in order to receive better data. Mr. *Arne Nilsen* reported that some countries are reluctant to release data while most are trying to be as open as possible. Capt. *Mike Barritt* deliberated on whether this would be an issue for the S-44 group to work on.

Action: **All**

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

No relations reported.

**10. Discussions of general trends and policy questions within the area of nautical charting and hydrographic surveying**

No discussions took place.

**11. Status Reports and Technical Issues.**

Nothing reported.

**12. Next Chairman for NHC**

Mr. *Frode Klepssvik* NHS 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 Longyearbyen on Svalbard on 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> of April 2006.

#### 14. Any other business

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* reported that the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) ) have issued a press release informing that they have terminated all cooperation with the NDI (Nautical Data International Inc.) The NDI brought legal actions against CHS and as well against C-Map and Navionics. (Doc: NHC/49/14A). This is an interesting case to follow and see what will come out of it.

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* reported that Norwegian authorities have required that all high speed ferries operating south of the Artic circle will have ECDIS after 1 January 2006. (Doc:NHC/49/14B). Those operating north of the Artic circle will have the same requirements after 1 January 2008. Longer deadline due to the fact that there are fewer ferries in the area. The *Rocknes* incident one of the factors leading to this decision. Mr. *Arne Nielsen* asked which data is being referred to as geodata in the report. Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* explained that this is the same data as used in the ENC's. Mrs. *Hanne Berg* reported that a copy of the Norwegian letter with the headline "Norwegian Authorities requirement to nautical chart data used for navigation in Norwegian Waters" has been sent to the Danish Maritime Administration asking them if some similar information should be produced and distributed to the Danish ship-owners. No response has been received so far.

Action: Norway and Denmark

#### 15. Closing of the Meeting

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* and Mr. *Kjell M. Olsen* welcomed all to the next meeting in Norway and mentioned that since it will be the 50<sup>th</sup> meeting it needs to be specially celebrated.

Mr. *Hilmar Helgason* thanked the participants of the very good co-operation and contributions to the meeting.