

**Draft Minutes
of the NHC 51st Meeting
on 17 – 19 of April, 2007 in Copenhagen**

A. The meeting

The meeting was held at the Phoenix Hotel in Copenhagen.

There were 13 participants from five Nordic Countries attending the meeting, and the IHB representatives President Alexandros Maratos and Captain Mike Barritt. See the list of participants in NHC/51

B. The Agenda Issues

Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Lars Hansen welcomed the participants to Copenhagen. He informed that the NHC Chairman Director Svend Eskildsen was indisposed and that he Lars Hansen would act as chairman. He then formally opened the meeting.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The following minor adjustments of the agenda were suggested:

- Document NHC/51/3B Joint Resolution/Proposal to be discussed
- Preparing of the IHO Conference in Monaco May 2007 (IHO) to be discussed
- Information regarding the tanker accident in the Gulf of Finland (FI).

The agenda of the meeting was then approved as amended.

Minutes of the 50th NHC Meeting

Documents: NHC/51/1A
NHC/50/Final Minutes
NHC/50/Actions

Admiral Maratos informed the participants on different issues of the work of the Bureau that have been taken place, since the previous meeting of the NHC.

Finland informed that due to communication error, their corrections to the NHC/50 Minutes were not included. It was however noted that these were minor ones and no action are needed to modify the minutes.

2. 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/51/2A).

Mr. Lars Hansen has been temporarily appointed to succeed Mr. Arne Nielsen.

A smaller correction to last page in the national Report of Denmark: From 2008 the RDHA will supply the hydrographic service with a survey ship.

National Report of Finland (NHC/51/2B).

No comments to the Finish report.

National Report of Iceland (NHC/51/2C).

Mike Barritt asked about the assistance to Malawi. Iceland reported about the person from Malawi, who was in Iceland for training in CARIS paper charts production.

National Report of Norway (NHC/51/2D).

Mr. Frode Klepsvik reported a change of the Norwegian administrative structure.

NHC agreed to prepare a proposal concerning ECDIS and ENC. The proposal was send to the President of IHO.

Action:

NHC requested IHB to forward a Circular Letter to members of IHO, referring to the proposal.

National Report of Sweden (NHC/51/2E).

No comments to the Swedish Report.

3. Reporting of joint projects

Proposal for joint projects (NHC/51/3B).

An invitation to experts to discuss procedure used to validate multibeam-data.

Action: Denmark

4. Reporting of Working Groups etc.

Paper Chart WG

Shall the Paper Chart WG continue or shall the Paper Chart WG merge with the Harmonisation WG? NHC postponed the decision until the next NHC Meeting in Sweden 2008.

5. The IHO Work

Report of the IHB to the 50th NHC. (NHC/51/5).

Captain Mike Barritt reported about the importance of revision and update of S-55.

5.1 IHO Working Groups

Finland reported on the work with the report of Nordic S-44 WG.

IHB stated that S-44 is a minimum standard. It is obvious that many countries are worried that the standards will be set to high.

Admiral Maratos promised to contact the Chair of S-44 Working Group to clarify and foster the future work of the S-44 WG.

6. Other international activities regarding nautical charting and hydrographic surveying

Report of Primar Stavanger. (NHC/51/6)
Norway informed about Primar Stavanger 2007.

IMO and IALA issues.
Nothing to report.

Status for The Galathea 3 Expedition.
Denmark gave a presentation on The Galathea 3 Expedition.

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

Nothing to report.

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

RHC input to the IHO/CBC

Captain Barritt noted the vital importance of RHC input to the IHO/CBC, including full visibility of ongoing bilateral capacity building programmes. The conference accepted an action to provide feedback from NHC to IHO/CBC.

He considered that funding is not currently the challenge for IHO capacity building. The need is for new ideas for capacity building tools, and human resources from MS to carry them out. He stated that the advice of NHC MS is highly valued by the CBC.

9. Date and place of the next meeting / Next Chairman for NHC

Mr. Åke Magnusson, Sjöfartsverket, Sweden was appointed as the next Chairman of the NHC.

Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Norrköping on 6th - 8th of MAY 2008. Dates to be confirmed.

Review of other items for the next meeting:

Should the Paper Chart WG merge with The Harmonization Group?¹

10. Any other business

Resolution of ECDIS and ENC

¹ Post meeting comments: Reviewing the TORs of the Harmonising WG it seems that this WG should have completed its tasks by October 2007. So there is no need to harmonise these WGs.

The Chair drew up a short letter to IHB and encloses the proposal for adoption on the IHO Conference may 2007.

The draft and the resolution were adopted by the members of the NHC Meeting 2007 and forwarded to IHO.

Tanker accident in the Gulf of Finland.

Finland presented the details of the route followed by the tanker accident in The Gulf of Finland. The report of the accident is not yet accessible.

Proposals for IHO Conference

Norway presented the list of proposals for discussion.

Guidelines for collection of bathymetry data by research vessels.

The subject was discussed in Svalbard. All NHC MS were tasked to prepare input to guidelines and include them in next years National report.

The Chair concludes that the NHC member states put the subject on next year's National Report.

11. Closing of the Meeting

Mr. Åke Magnusson and Mr. Ralf Lindgren welcomed all to the next meeting in Sweden.

Mr. Lars Hansen thanked the participants for the very good cooperation and contributions to the meeting.