

**Final Minutes from the  
52<sup>nd</sup> Nordic Hydrographic Commission Conference  
Norrköping, Sweden 6-8 May, 2008**

### **Opening of the Meeting**

The NHC chairman Åke Magnusson welcomed all participants to Norrköping and the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Nordic Hydrographic Commission. Admiral Alexandros Maratos, president of the IHB, and the new Norwegian Hydrographer Gerry Larsson-Fedde were especially welcomed.

Ref            *NHC52\_1B\_Participants.doc*

### **1.Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved with a discussion on AVCS added under the agenda item 10 AOB.

### **Minutes of the NHC 51 meeting**

The minutes of last meeting were reviewed without any additional comments.

### **Actions of the NHC 51 meeting**

The action list of the last meeting was reviewed and at the end of the meeting updated with actions decided in the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Ref            *NHC 52 Action items.doc*

## **2.Reports on activities within nautical charting and hydrographic surveying in each of the Nordic countries (National reports)**

### **2 A Hydrographic National Report of Denmark**

Ref            *NHC52\_2A\_DK Hydrographic national report 2008.doc*

Denmark has special efforts ongoing to make new charts in the Greenland area. The intention is to produce six charts during 2008. The new charts have created interest within the local mariner community and a lot of comments are handled. The hydrographic surveys in Greenland are focused

for safe entrances to main cities and for routes between the most important cities. The area is also interesting for cruise vessels.

Denmark is investigating how to proceed in cases where private producers are using Danish chart information without proper agreements.

## **2 B National Report of Finland**

Ref *NHC52\_2B\_National Report of Finland.pdf*

Finland reported on possible new organisation of the production. A probable solution could be a government owned company. A new TSS is planned south of Åland which requires surveys to be performed and new charts produced. The plan is to obtain a good national ENC coverage by 2010. Leisure craft charts will still be produced by FMA in the foreseeable future.

In connection with this report the responsibilities to produce charts for smaller vessels were discussed. Alexandros Maratos pointed out that the regulations in SOLAS chapter 5 applies to all types of vessels unless otherwise decided by national authorities.

## **2 C National Report of Iceland**

Ref *NHC52\_2C\_Icelandic Nat Report.pdf*

Iceland presented the national report on performed surveys, chart and ENC production. The establishment of a TSS has caused some problems. Iceland is planning to have full ENC coverage in 2010. In cooperation with the UKHO a new version of the Arctic Pilot Vol II is being produced. IHB commented with a reminder to notify the bureau when new or changed INT charts are produced.

## **2 D National Report of Norway**

Ref *NHC52\_2D\_National Report Norway 2008.doc*

Norway reported on the organisation and some important changes in roles and positions. Hydrographic surveys in Svalbard have been efficient and are important also to support the increasing activity of cruise vessels in the area. A multibeam course will be held in Stavanger in march 2009. A project is ongoing to improve the flow of information from the Coastal Administration to the Hydrographic Office. The difficulty to recruit staff with the proper skills and experiences was mentioned.

## **2 E National Report of Sweden**

Ref *NHC52\_2E\_Sweden National Report.doc*

A couple of government investigations is ongoing which will have effects on the organisation of the Swedish Maritime Administration. The possibility to make parts of the production in private companies is taken into consideration within the investigations. The outcome and effects for the Swedish HO is not clear at the moment.

There is a project to improve and renew the necessary nautical publications. They have not been updated properly during the last years.

## **2 F Analog depth information to be included in the Swedish National Depth Information database - Sweden.**

Ref            *NHC52\_2F\_ScanDis.doc*  
                 *NHC52\_2F\_Presentation\_Analogue depth.ppt*

## **2 G Hydrographic surveying using high resolution satellite images - Sweden.**

Ref            *NHC52\_2G\_Quickbird.doc*  
                 *NHC52\_2G\_Presentation\_Quickbird.ppt*

## **3. Reporting of joint projects**

### **3.A Proceedings for the Validation Workshop – Denmark**

Denmark shortly reported from a workshop on validation of multibeam data that was decided at the previous NHC meeting. One question is whether this type of workshops should continue in some way. The meeting was of the opinion that this workshop will be arranged also in the future with rotation of hosts.

**Action:** Sweden will invite to the next workshop concerning this item.

### **3.B Nordic Working Group on Paper Chart Harmonisation – Chairman**

The working group has concluded their task and delivered a report. It is decided that the working group has fulfilled its task and is disbanded.

Denmark suggested that a status report on implementation of the harmonising rules is delivered to the next NHC meeting by all countries concerned.

It is decided to establish a Nordic Working Group on Exchange of S57 Data.

Denmark briefly reported on the ongoing work of the Baltic Sea ENC Harmonisation Working Group ( BSEHWG). A number of recommendations will be reported and the aim is that these recommendations are approved by BSHC members before finalising the report.

Sweden brought up the question on the use of red colour symbols, text and line types in charts. Iceland have noted this also and have the same concerns. Norway commented that also the S52 ECDIS display causes problems.

**Action:** Before the next NHC meeting all countries concerned will produce a report on the implementation status of the recommendations in the report of the WG on Paper Chart Harmonisation.

**Action:** Sweden will invite to the next meeting, possibly held during the autumn 2008, of the Nordic WG on Paper Chart Production.

**Action:** Sweden will invite to a first meeting of the Working Group on Exchange of S57 Data to be held during autumn 2008. Sweden will distribute draft Terms of Reference for this WG.

#### **4. Report from Working Groups etc.**

There were no papers listed for this agenda item. Several NHC working group reports were handled in other agenda items.

#### **5.The IHO Work**

##### **5.A IHB Activities – IHB**

Alexandros Maratos reported on the status of the work at the IHB and important issues for the IHO. The new convention and organisation of the IHO as described in the protocol of amendments is approved by 19 countries. The process of approval is slow and with the current rate it will take another 10 years before the protocol is ratified. The Bureau is concerned about this fact and is willing to assist in whatever possible way to speed up the process.

There are three new member applications (Cameroon, Sierra Leone and Montenegro) in the process of ratification, Haiti is in the early stage of applying for membership and Surinam has been reinstated as a full member.

It was reported that all decisions of the last International Hydrographic Conference are in implementation faces. The planning of the next Extra IHC in June 2009 has started. Important topics for the EIHC will be reports from working groups ISPWG, HCIWWG and MSDIWG. The status of ENC availability will be on the agenda and member states may propose other important items for the next EIHC agenda.

The IHB is active in communicating with IMO Nav 54 and has delivered a report saying that a good global ENC coverage will be in place by 2010. A presentation will also be given at this summers Nav 54 meeting. Five new Navareas are being established in the north with Canada, Norway and Russia as coordinators. The Online Chart Catalogue, with sections for ENC, raster and paper charts, will be operational late 2008.

Finland asked, concerning the ratification of the protocol of amendments, if there are indications that member states are against the changes. IHB answered that they have no such indications but expresses concern once again about the slow process of approval.

**Action:** All NHC members to use available channels and assist in the process of approval of the protocol of amendments and for the approval of new IHO member states.

##### **5.B Report of the Nordic S-44WG on renewal of the IHO S-44 – Finland**

Ref *NHC52\_5B\_Report of the Nordic S-44WG.pdf*

Jukka Varonen reported that the finalization of the revised S-44 went quite well. The Nordic contribution by the work of the Nordic S-44 subWG has been recognized as important. More details in the report. The chairman expresses his gratitude for the work in the Nordic subWG. It is decided that the Nordic subWG is disbanded. Alexandros Maratos comments that S-44 is a very important standard for the safety of navigation.

### **5.C Report of the IHO ISPWG work – Finland**

Ref            *NHC52\_5C\_Report of the ISPWG work.pdf*  
                  *NHC52\_5C\_Presentation\_ISPWG.pdf*

Juha Korhonen, representative from NHC (and BSHC) to the IHO Strategic Planning Working Group (ISPWG), gave an introduction to the ongoing work in the WG. Juha welcomed all to contribute with comments and opinions to improve the documents.

Alexandros Maratos emphasized that the strategic plan is very important and the document needs to be reviewed and revised at regular intervals.

### **5.D Procedure for selection of NHC Members to council – Chairman**

This item was also discussed at the NSHC conference in april. Due to the delay in procedures for approval of the convention this is not an vital issue yet. It is the opinion of NHC to get as much influence as possible in future assemblies of the IHO. A discussion between NSHC and NHC is suggested to form a common approach.

### **5.E Status of Ratification of amended convention and Pending Member States – IHB**

See notes under 5A above.

### **5.F IHO Work Programme RHCs to report – Chairman**

The chairman raised the question whether these reports, according to the IHO Work Programme, should be delivered from the NHC. The bureau expresses the opinion that a short report could be helpful. The NHC will examine the situation and deliver a report.

**Action:** The NHC will produce a brief report on the tasks 17,18 and 19 of the IHO Work Programme. Sweden, Finland.

## **6. Other international activities regarding nautical charting and hydrographic surveying**

### **6.A Primar, Report 2008 – Norway**

Ref            *NHC52\_6A\_Status PRIMAR 2008.doc*

The latest country to join Primar is Ukraine and an agreement with Brazil is under way. A new service is being development to deliver chart data as WMS.

### **6.B Technical Report (ECDIS and ENC Coverage) – Norway**

Ref            *NHC52\_6B\_ECDIS\_ENC follow up 08 report.pdf*

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

Denmark commented on the fact that customers at times not are aware of that they buy unofficial products. Resellers prefer to sell those products where they have better margins. Finland mentioned that CMap publish printed charts for the pleasure market.

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

### **8.A Development of SDI in Sweden - Sweden**

Ref            *NHC52\_8A\_Development\_SDI\_in\_Sweden.doc*  
                  *NHC52\_8A\_Presentation\_SDI in Sweden.ppt*

The initiative, under the eContent+ framework, that is started by the UKHO was discussed. Note also the IHO circular letter CL41.

## **9. Next Chairman for NHC/ Date and place for next meeting.**

According to the NHC rotation order the next chair country for the NHC is Finland. Jukka Varonen was elected as the NHC chairman for the period up to and including the next meeting in 2009.

The place and time of next meeting was preliminary decided to be Helsinki Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup> until Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009.

## **10. Any other business**

### **Discussion on the UKHO AVCS initiative**

The recently announced initiative Admiralty Vector Chart Services (AVCS) from the UKHO was discussed. Especially the fact that UKHO will claim exclusive rights to distribute new ENC's produced as a result of AVCS was noted. This raises concern and questions among the NHC member states and will certainly be discussed further.

### **Closing of the Meeting**

The resigning chairman Åke Magnusson thanked the meeting participants for their attendance and the fruitful discussions and closed the meeting. The newly elected chairman Jukka Varonen expressed his gratitude for the organisation and hospitality during the meeting in Norrköping and welcomed the participants to Helsinki in 2009.