

54th NHC Meeting
Reykjavik, 13-14 April, 2010

Nordic Hydrographic Commission (NHC)
54th Conference - Reykjavik

(12-14 April 2010)

AGENDA ITEM 7

IHB Report

Introduction

1. The following notes report on current activities and issues being addressed by the IHB.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

2. Progress on Member States' approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention is slow but steady. By March 2010, 28 of the required 48 approvals had been received by the Government of Monaco acting as the depository nation for the IHO. Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden have indicated approval.

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

3. Slovenia, Montenegro and Haiti have applied for membership of the IHO. By March 2010, the status of approval for membership was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Slovenia	46 of 49
Montenegro	47 of 52
Haiti	40 of 52

4. All NHC States have indicated their approval.

Recruiting of New Member States of the IHO

5. The Directing Committee has obtained the agreement of Brazil, France and Norway to co-sponsor an information paper at IMO MSC87. The paper seeks to remind IMO of its previous acknowledgement of the importance of hydrography and the benefits for its Member States to be members of the IHO in order to better fulfill their international obligations under SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 9 covering hydrographic services.

Impact of the Strategic Planning and Reporting Process

6. The Directing Committee was invited by the 4th IHC to report on the possible resource and organizational impact of the strategic planning and reporting process proposed by the ISPWG and adopted by the

Conference. Norway volunteered to assist the Directing Committee in conducting an analysis and developing an implementation strategy. An initial meeting was held with the delegate from Norway in 2009. No further progress has been made.

Global Availability of ENCs

7. The IHO will make its annual report on the availability of ENCs to IMO NAV56 in July. The report will be based on the definition of “adequate ENC coverage” acknowledged by IMO in previous meetings. In effect, the definition acknowledged by IMO means that wherever there is a paper chart covering an international voyage, there should be a corresponding ENC by 2010.

8. The 2010 report will indicate that according to the definition, of the 154 States with a coastline, less than six will fail to meet or nearly meet the 2010 target. The report will note that Denmark has already indicated to IMO that there are deficiencies in paper chart coverage of Greenland and other offshore territory, and therefore this has an impact on ENC coverage as well.

9. The IHO report will also point out that the identification of “international voyages” used in the report has been based on total tonnage statistics for ports. Therefore, there may be some areas of the world frequented by relatively few, albeit large vessels, such as cruise ships, where ENC coverage may still be missing. The report will invite relevant authorities to bring any such shortfalls to the attention of the relevant coastal State and to the IHB so that the matter can be addressed.

10. The IHO report for 2011 will be particularly significant, since that report will cover the period after the IHO’s 2010 target has passed – by which time 100% “adequate coverage” should have been achieved..

Arctic RHC

10. The Directing Committee is taking a keen interest in the establishment of an Arctic RHC. The Directing Committee is also representing the IHO in parallel discussions within IALA, where a similar regional group is being established to coordinate aids to navigation services in the high Arctic.

S-23

11. The next meeting of the S-23 working Group will take place later in the year. So far, and in accordance with the process agreed by the WG, the areas of concern have been identified. The next meeting will begin to discuss how these areas of concern can be overcome such that a new edition of S-23 can be prepared for consideration at the next Hydrographic conference in 2012.

International Hydrographic Review

12. The IHR is now published on the IHO website twice a year. Obtaining sufficient quality submissions continues to be difficult.

IHB Staff

13. Mme Renée Caudoux retired in February after 23 years service and has been replaced by Mme Isabelle Belmonte. The role of Mme Belmonte is slightly different to Mme Caudoux. Her job has a stronger emphasis on desktop publishing, the management of the maintenance of IHO publications, and the use of the IHO website as the principal publishing medium. Her job title is Website and Publications Editor (WPE).

14. Mme Christine Meynadier, the Accounts and Administration Assistant, will leave the IHB in May to relocate to Paris after 11 years service at the IHB. Recruiting is currently underway.

15. Captain Federico Bermejo, Professional Assistant, will retire in May 2011. The Directing Committee will seek nominations for his position from Member States later in 2010. The selection process will be carried out by the Directing Committee in accordance with the relevant rules of the IHO.

Action Requested of NHC

16. NHC members are invited to take **Note** of this report.