

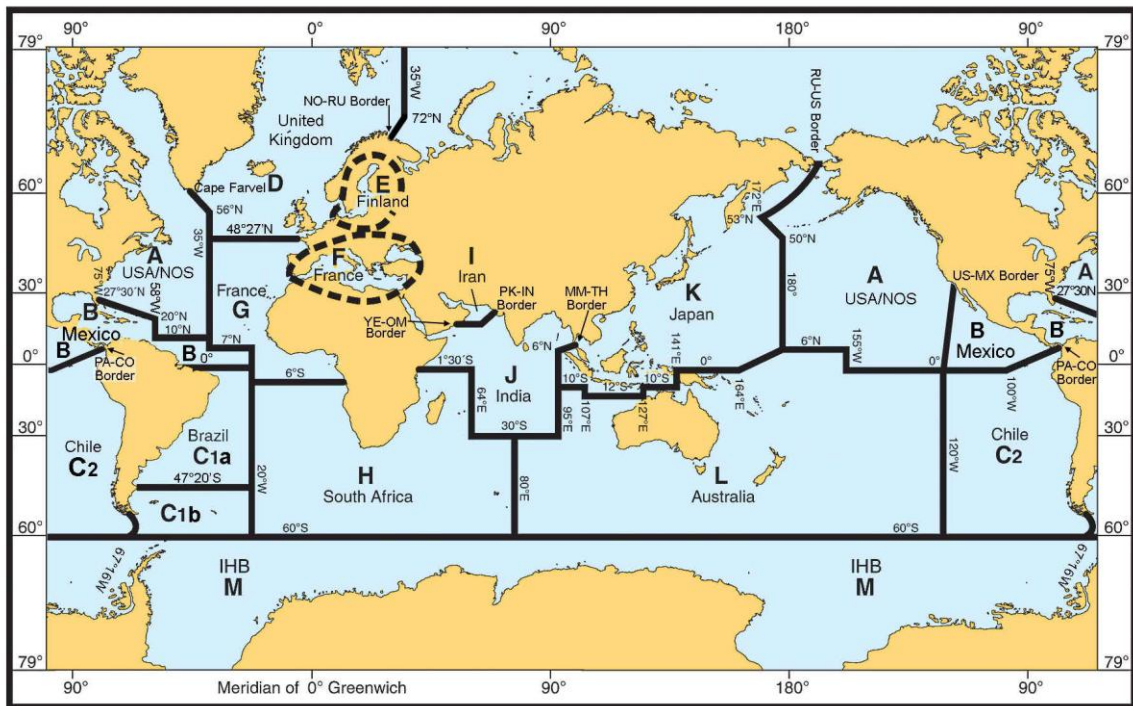
**54th NHC Meeting
Reykjavik, 13-14 April, 2010**

**AGENDA ITEM 7.2
Boundary Limits for RHCs**

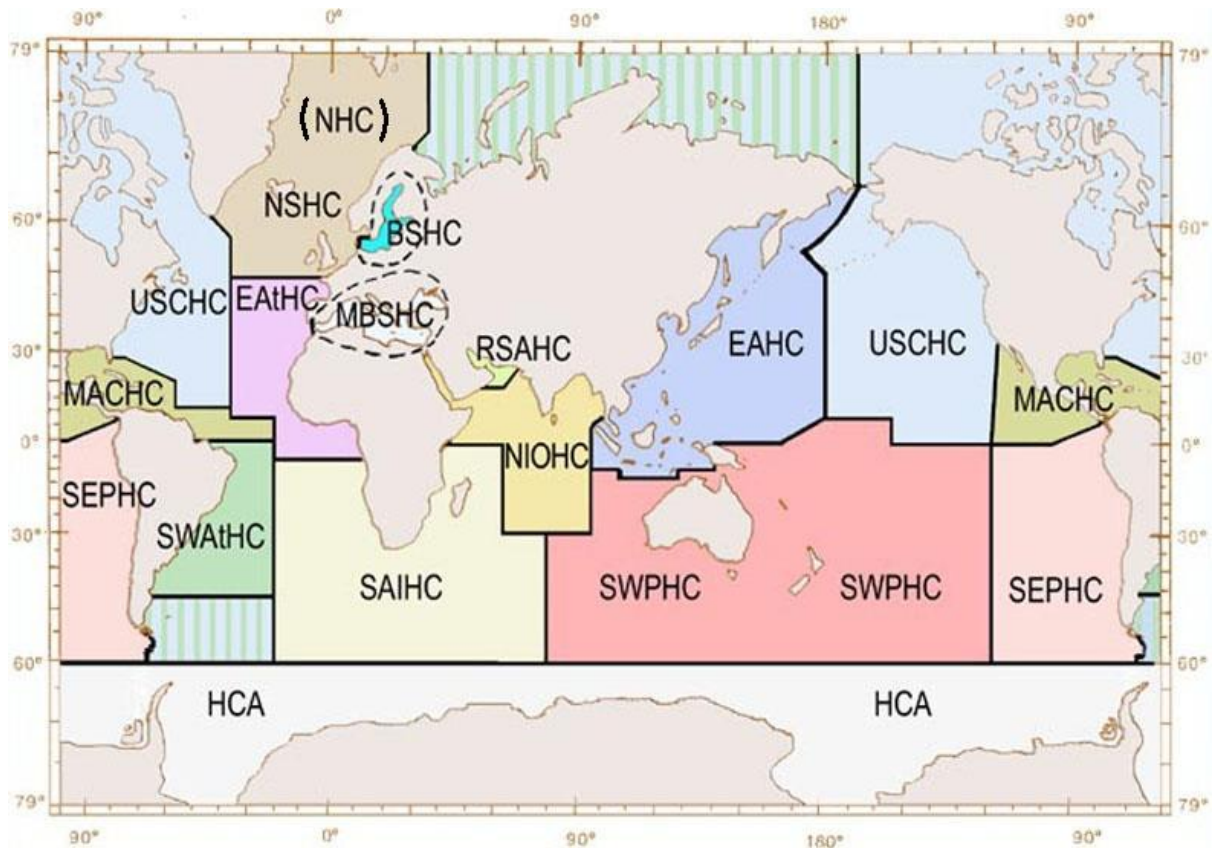
1. As indicated in the IHB report (NHC/54/7), the formation of an Arctic Hydrographic Commission, under the terms of IHO Resolution T1.3 is now under active consideration by the bordering States. The areas of interest to the US-Canada Hydrographic Commission, the North Sea Hydrographic Commission and the Nordic Hydrographic Commission all border the areas of the Arctic expected to fall within any Arctic RHC.
2. Part of paragraph 3 of IHO Resolution T1.3 states that:
..... Geographical areas of the RHC will normally coincide with INT chart regions, modified as appropriate to meet regional requirements and special circumstances. There are special provisions for Region M (Antarctica) because of its special status.
3. Unlike most other RHCs, the statutes of the NHC do not provide a delimitation of the area that the NHC covers. It could be inferred from its membership that the area of interest of the NHC covers parts of the north east Atlantic Ocean and the northern parts of the Baltic Sea. However, these areas lie within INT chart region D that has been specifically adopted by the North Sea Hydrographic Commission and INT chart region E that is overseen by the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission.
4. In view of the conditions set out in IHO Resolution T1.3.3 and particularly in view of the likely formation of an Arctic RHC in the near future, and the consequent requirement to define southern limits for the Arctic RHC, the Directing Committee encourages the Nordic Hydrographic Commission to consider how best to characterize its geographic area of interest and in particular, its relationship to other RHCs in the region.
5. Diagrams showing the designated boundaries of the existing RHCs, together with the boundaries of the INT chart regions are shown at Annex A.

Action Requested of the NHC

6. **Consider** how best to characterize the geographic area of interest of the RHC and in particular, its relationship to other RHCs, taking into account IHO Resolution T1.3.3., and the likely establishment of an Arctic RHC in the near future.



INT chart regions



RHC Areas