

Nordic Nautical Publications WG

Introduction

The presentation of status and initiatives related to nautical publications in the Nordic countries should create the background for a discussion. A discussion on how the Nordic member states see the future development of nautical publications in the region including the relation to other neighbouring regional hydrographic commissions, especially with focus on how NHC in the future can contribute with a regional approach.

Some remarks on the current situation

At NHC 54, the conference discussed the need for establishing a Nordic Nautical Publication Working Group as a formal working group.

It was agreed to hold a kick-off meeting/workshop, with the aim to discuss and to determine if there was a need for a working or expert group and to prepare a proposal to NHC 55 on how to proceed. It was decided that the Danish Hydrographic Office should arrange, host and chair the meeting/workshop.

The workshop was a one day convention and was held in early February 2011, with an agenda as described below. Sweden, Iceland and Denmark attended the workshop, remarks from Norway and Finland were received. Furthermore the vice chair from SNPWG, Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg from Germany, participated in the workshop.

Provisional agenda:

- Welcome
- Presentation of participants
- Purpose of the meeting
- Presentation of publications
- IHO
- Future needs and expectations for nautical publications and the most important issues for the future development of nautical publications
- Conclusion and way forward

One important issue was to clarify if the SNPWG would solve our challenges concerning publications in the future and thus make a regional WG redundant.

It was stated that the aim of SNPWG is to develop guidelines for the preparation of nautical publications, in a digital format compatible with ECDIS. It was stated that SNPWG will not provide guidelines for nautical publications in paper/printed version, nor the future content of nautical publications. A coordinated Nordic effort with regards to nautical publications does therefore not conflict or overlap with the scope of SNPWG.

Taking into account the current situation and the expectations for the future development of maritime information - including nautical publications - it was agreed that there is a need for closer cooperation between organizations responsible for the circulation of maritime information. And as a consequence a need to establish a WG where we have the possibility to share and discuss the future development of Nautical Publications regarding standardization, harmonization and requirements.

Establishing a Nordic Nautical Publications WG was as such seen as the most efficient solution to achieving the short and long term goals.

At the workshop the overall goals for a WG were listed and discussed. It was considered important to divide the goals into short and long term. Below the goals for a WG are listed:

- Focus on how NHC in the future can benefit from a regional approach
- Focus on knowledge and technology sharing
- Evaluate the current situation within the NHC and surrounding areas
- Identify and analyse the current status of nautical publications in the Nordic region
- Analyse the users' needs for Paper/printed nautical publications and the need for nautical publications in other formats
- Analyse the extended use of information and communication technology (ICT)
- Analyse how HOs under NHC can provide mariners with easy access to information and updates
- Evaluate the regulations related to printed nautical publications
- Closely liaise with maritime authorities
- Evaluate the foreseeable future development of nautical publications
- Monitor the development of publications that could be relevant for the Nordic region
- Study and propose harmonized solutions for nautical publications
- The NNPWG should closely liaise with the HSSC SNPWG
- The NNPWG should work mainly by correspondence
- The NNPWG should report to the NHC and other regional committees (at their annual meetings)

Proposals:

In this context, and in order to promote an increased awareness of the development of Nordic Nautical Publications within the Nordic region and the relation to neighbouring regional hydrographic commissions, it is proposed that NHC initiate the establishment of a Nordic Nautical Publications Working Group as a formal working group.

Benefits

NHC can achieve joint learning and a general increase in the awareness and development of Nordic Publications including exchange of knowledge and solutions.

Actions required from the NHC 55th Conference:

The NHC 55th Conference is requested to consider this proposal and to take appropriate action.

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Terms of Reference for
The Nordic Nautical Publication Working Group
(NNPWG)
(DRAFT - Approved by the NHC xxth Conference)

With referencing to:

- S-53 Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information Standardization of Nautical Publications Working Group (SNPWG)
- S-11 Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International Chart Schemes and Catalogue of International (INT) Charts.
- S-49 Standardization of Mariners' Routeing Guides.

The NHC at its 55th Conference recognised the need to initiate a study in order to create the basis for the work with the development of Nordic nautical publications within the Nordic region and the relation to neighbouring regional hydrographic commissions.

The idea is to achieve joint learning and a general increase in the awareness and development of Nordic Publications including exchange of knowledge and solutions.

Therefore the NHC 55th Conference established the NNPWG with the task as described below.

The Working Group should:

- Primarily focus on issues related to printed nautical publications (NP1) and to corresponding digital copies (NP2).
- If deemed appropriate and time permits also focus on NP3 and the co-operation with SNPWG. In order to discuss which of NP information should be included in the ECDIS and to agree on standards from a regional perspective.
- Identify and describe the current status of nautical publications in the Nordic region
- Analyse how HOs belonging to NHC can distribute their information and updates in the most efficient manner to the user
- Evaluate the current situation within the NHC and if deemed appropriate also within neighbouring regional hydrographic commissions:
 - evaluate the regulations related to the printed nautical publications
 - analyse the users' needs for printed nautical publications
 - evaluate the foreseeable future development of printed nautical publications
- Focus on how NHC in the future can benefit from a regional approach in order to achieve the listed goals for example by – study and propose harmonised solutions for printed nautical publications
- Monitor the development of publications that could be relevant for the Nordic region

- Present a report to the NHC. The report should as a minimum include:
 - A description of the current status
 - A proposal to a definition of printed nautical publications and their digital copies in a Nordic context, given the current development of the individual HOs
 - An identification of best practice in the various areas of nautical publications, including updating procedures, resulting in a report to NHC
 - Development of a strategy and work program on how the NNPWG should proceed with its' work
 - and, if deemed necessary, an action plan with a specified time schedule for future NHC actions.
- To forward its findings and recommendations for NP1s and NP2s which may have importance to the SNPWG for further evaluation

Rules of procedure for NNPWG:

- All NHC members are encouraged to participate in the NNPWG and to contribute to the work of the WG
- The WG shall be chaired by one of the member states elected at the NHC Conference
- The WG can invite other HO members and IHO bodies to participate in the work
- The WG shall provide a report to the NHC Conference, and - if deemed necessary - a work plan, which shall be approved by NHC
- The WG shall work in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations issued by the IHO and IMO
- The WG shall consult task groups, committees and working groups or other relevant bodies as deemed necessary. The WG should closely liaise with the NCPEG and the HSSC SNPWG
- The WG shall inform the NSHC, BSHC and the ARHC of its' progress in order to coordinate within the regions as much as possible
- The WG shall involve members of the NSHC, the BSHC and the ARHC as much as possible
- The work of the WG will be carried out primarily by correspondence (via e-mail). The members are encouraged to reply without unnecessary delay.