

**55th NHC Meeting
Stavanger, 4-6 April, 2011**

Final Minutes
(June 2011)

Venue: Victoria Hotel, Stavanger

Chair: Mr. Evert Flier

Secretary: Noralf Slotsvik/Grete Wolden

Participants: Totally 16 persons from all NHC HOs, IHB and private industry, see Doc [\[NHC55-1B\]](#)

1. Opening of the Meeting

The NHC Chair Evert Flier opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He especially welcomed Sigvard Stampe Villandsen and Patrik Wiberg, who recently have taken up new positions.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Denmark informed that agenda items 8.6 VTS Sound Expansion and 8.7 Status of changing routes in Kattegat could be included in agenda item 4.1, the National Report of Denmark. Status report from WEND-WG, proposed as Item 5.1, was moved to Item 7.2 IRCC Issues

The agenda was then approved without further changes.

The List of Documents was updated 2 April and distributed to the participants in advance of the meeting. A further updating was done during the meeting. [\[NHC55-1A\]](#)

3. Minutes of the 54th Meeting

The NHC54 Minutes states that NHC53/9 and NHC53/10 (related to IDEWG) were deleted, but notice was taken that both continue on the Action Item list (NHC54/5 and NHC54/6). The minutes from the 54th NHC meeting was then approved. [\[NHC55-3A\]](#)

The status of actions was reviewed and updated.

Action	Agenda	Action	Action by	Remarks
NHC54/1	3	Norway to report on the lessons learned on <i>Rocknes</i> incident, to be distributed when available	NOR	Pending Carried on from the 50 th meeting
NHC54/2	3	Countries concerned to report on status of implementation of the harmonising rules resulting from the work of the WG on paper Chart Harmonisation	All concerned	Pending
NHC54/3	3	All to use available channels and networks to assist in the process of approval of the protocol of amendments and new member states	All	Pending
NHC54/4	3	All to forward C-55 update to IHB asap, even if there are no or minor changes	All	Pending
NHC54/5	3	All to follow the approved IDEWG (Improved Data Exchange Working Group Recommendations) (altogether 9 recommendations)	All	Deleted
NHC54/6	3	All to report at the next NHC meeting on the status of implementation of IDEWG Recommendations	All	Pending
NHC54/7	3	Arrange a NCPEG meeting in autumn 2010	FIN	Completed
NHC54/8	3	Arrange a Multibeam validation workshop in 2011	NOR	Completed
NHC54/9	3	Arrange a NNPWG kick-off meeting in 2010	DEN	Completed

Action NHC 54/1:

The Rocknes case has been appealed to the Supreme Court, so the action item is kept pending. The Norwegian Hydrographic Service will distribute a report after the Supreme Court has delivered its verdict.

Action NHC 54/2:

Sweden has completed all the action items and other countries are close to completion. In Norway the implementation of the harmonizing rules has been delayed by the introduction of a new chart production system. The related scheme to this Action Item is to be circulated one month prior to the next meeting.

Action NHC 54/3:

President Maratos informed that only 29 out of the required 48 member nations have approved the protocol. The action item is therefore kept. A list with the members who have approved is available on the IHO website.

4. Reports on activities within nautical charting and hydrographic surveying in each of the Nordic countries

4.1 Report of Denmark: [\[NHC55-4.1A\]](#)

Denmark gave a presentation on the changing of routes in the Kattegat area. The traffic separation scheme is an attempt to minimize the risk of collisions in the area. The new routes are planned to be implemented by 2015.

Denmark also presented the Sound Vessel Traffic Service. This is a mandatory system for ships 300 t+.

4.2 Report of Finland: [\[NHC55-4.1B\]](#)

Finland reported on the status of the work to improve the ENC coverage in Finish waters, and informed about planned new hydrographic surveys in 2011. It was also highlighted that the sales of printed charts has increased during the previous year.

4.3 Report of Iceland: [\[NHC55-4.1C\]](#)

Iceland highlighted that the work to transfer all main charts to ENCs, a total of 61 cells, has been completed. Ten harbour plans and four new charts will be added to the portfolio this year.

4.4 Report of Norway: [\[NHC55-4.1D\]](#)

Norway informed that there is an ongoing process to introduce the LEAN methodology in the Norwegian Hydrographic Service. This is done as an attempt to streamline the production chain, so that product can reach users more quickly.

Norway also notified the group about a internal report on future survey capacity which was published in 2010. The Norwegian Hydrographic Service is now working on an appendix to the report, which will include issues related to buying service from private companies.

4.5. Report of Sweden: [\[NHC55-4.1E\]](#)

Sweden informed that the survey capacity was reduced as one vessel was sold. The crew number was brought down from 33 to 17 persons.

5. Reporting of joint projects

5.1 Status Report on Improved Data Exchange Implementation

Sweden, Finland and Norway have delivered a status report, Docs [\[NHC55-5.1A\]](#), [\[NHC55-5.1C\]](#), [\[NHC55-5.1B\]](#). The Danish status report is ready, but it was informed that there have been no changes from previous years.

5.2 Improved Data Exchange

A proposal from Sweden was supported by the NHC [\[NHC55-5.2A\]](#). A questionnaire will be compiled and distributed. *Action NHC55/6*

5.3 Nordic Nautical Publications WG

Denmark presented the results from the workshop, as well as a draft of Terms of Reference for NNPWG [\[NHC55-5.3A\]](#). Denmark also proposed that the NHC initiate the establishment of a Nordic Publications Working Group as a formal working group. It was made clear that NNPWG would be complementary to the Standardization of Nautical Publications WG (SNPWG).

The NHC agreed that there is a need for this working group, but the members were worried about the workload involved. It was decided that Denmark takes the Chair of the working group, but would like to be assisted by a Secretary from one of the other countries. The expected workload on the Secretary to be clarified as no one volunteered to take up the position. All countries nominate an expert to the NNPWG. *Action NHC55/7*

6. Reporting of Working Groups etc

6.1 Report of the Nordic Chart production Expert Group (NCPEG)

Finland gave a short summary of the report [\[NHC55-6.1A\]](#). The NHC supports the continuation of the expert group.

6.2 Report of the work of the Data Quality Working Group (DQWG) and proposals for the further work of the Nordic DQWG

Finland gave a short summary of the report [\[NHC55-6.2A\]](#). The working group worked well in the beginning, but has not been active for the last 1,5 years.

Norway informed that Kjetil Wirak now represents Norway in this working group.

Finland encouraged all countries to contribute actively in DQWG under HSSC, and proposed that the Nordic DQWG continues mainly as a correspondence group. This was supported by NHC members as it would be hard to present a harmonized Nordic view on all topics.

Finland takes the Chair of the NDQWG. The working group is to be evaluated at the next NHC meeting. *Action NHC55/8*

6.3. Report from the Workshop on Validation of Multibeam data

The workshop was hosted by Iceland, but Norway was responsible for arranging it [NHC55-6.3A]. The workshop was successful and the NHC supports the proposal to arrange a next meeting in Finland in 2012. **Action NHC55/9**

7. The IHO Work

7.1 IHO Issues presented

- The establishment of the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC):

The ARHC covers an important part of the world, and the establishment of the commission is therefore seen as an important development. The whole world is now covered by hydrographic commissions. Canada will chair the ARHC and the next meeting takes place in Copenhagen in September 2011.

- IALA – initiative to look into Aids to Navigation in the Arctic region. An Arctic Waters Forum was established by the circumpolar nations and intends to meet yearly. All the HO in the region to be represented in the Forum.
- In March 2011 IMO celebrated the establishment of 5 new NAVAREA in the Arctic Region
- Discussion has taken place with IMO in relation to the obligations under the SOLAS convention chapter V. A letter has been sent to the members of IMO not yet a member of IHO, with the purpose of recruiting new IHO members. So far the initiative has not resulted in any new applications. A strategy for recruitment to be discussed at the next IHO Conference.
- S-23 Limits of Oceans and Seas: The updating of the publication has been hampered by the unsolved naming of the Sea between Japan and the Republic of Korea. A working group has been in operation since 2009. To name the disputed area as the Japan Sea will be proposed.
- Several retirements of IHO technical staff will take place in the period 2011-2013. The recruitment process for successors has already started.
- The role of the RENCs within IHO(presented by Norway):
Both RENC's have through the years accumulated knowledge and experience with regard to ENC quality assurance and distribution. Together both RENC's represent more than 40 IHO member states. We therefore suggest to give the RENC operators a more visible and acknowledged role within IHO.

- The relation to other Hydrographic Commission (ARHC, BSHC, NSHC)

It was already resolved at the 54th Meeting that there is no conflict in relation to geographical borders between NHC and ARHC. The border between NSHC and ARHC is to be settled. Norway will draft a statement of support for a proposal put forward at the first ARHC meeting to use the new NAVAREAs in the Arctic as delimitation. **Action NHC55/10**

- The World Hydrographic Day

The NHC was informed about an IHO letter concerning the World Hydrographic Day.

- Establishment of a Mariners Routing Guide for the Arctic

Denmark gave a short summary of the report [[NHC55-7.1A](#)]. Denmark has made a questionnaire which will be distributed to member states soon. Denmark has suggested that 4 to 5 routing guides covering different areas of the Arctic are established.

- Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (BSMSDIWG)

Denmark gave a short summary of the report [[NHC55-7.1B](#)].

7.2 IRCC Issues

- Status report from WEND-WG

Denmark was elected as the NHC's representative in the WEND-WG some years ago, but the working group has not been active for a long period.

President Maratos argued that the NHC should encourage the working group to be active.

The NHC developed a common statement to the IRCC during the meeting. The statement expressed the concern for the lack of activity in the WEND WG. Denmark is to include the Statement in the report to IRCC3. The Statement is attached as Annex 1.

- Actions and inputs to the IRCC3 Meeting

The next chair of NHC has to deliver a report to IRCC3. Several items on the Action List need to be addressed.

The Action IRCC02/5a, "The methodology used for assessing and displaying

survey status, taking into account navigational and MSDI requirements” was discussed. This issue is related to an improved reporting for C-55. It was stressed that even though some countries lack survey capacity, it is their obligation to act in accordance with SOLAS V.

- Status of updating of C-55
The NHC was reminded of the process. **Action NHC55/4**

8. Other international activities regarding nautical charting and hydrographic surveying

8.1 PRIMAR issues

- PRIMAR report 2010

The NHC had no comments to the report [\[NHC55-8.1A\]](#).

- Cooperation between PRIMAR and IC-ENC
Norway informed about the ongoing harmonisation process between the two RENCs. The directors of the Norwegian Hydrographic Service and the UK Hydrographic Office have had several meetings, and both directors agree that it would benefit the mariner if the RENCs harmonise their operation.

During the meetings, S63 has been discussed, and a note regarding S63 has been sent to the Data Protection group. The RENCs have also reached agreement on the licensing system and on a component price. A fourth meeting is planned to take place mid May

Norway stressed that although substantial progress has been achieved, many challenges remain.

8.2 IMO and IALA issues

Reference was made to the following CLs from 2010: 34, 48, 77 and 83

The importance of S-100 data model for the e-Navigation development was mentioned. Some problems related to differences in ECDIS software have been revealed. The cooperation with IALA in the Arctic with respect to marking the northern routes was addressed.

A paper by Japan (The establishment of symbols of virtual aids of navigation) will be discussed by IMO in June.

8.3 The MonaLisa Project

Sweden gave a presentation on the MonaLisa Project, which focuses on the development of the motorways of the sea [NHC55-8.3A]. Sweden, Finland and Denmark are involved in the project, which can be divided into the following activities:

1. Road maps for each vessel
2. Automatic verification system
3. Quality-assurance of hydrographic data
 - a. The speed-up of re-surveys
 - b. Development of Baltic Sea Depth Model
 - c. Pilot implementation of harmonised vertical reference
4. Global exchange of maritime data

President Maratos informed about the ongoing Marine Highway projects in the Malacca Strait and the Western Indian Ocean. A new project for the Western Mediterranean Sea is under planning.

8.4 Bilateral Arrangement with UKHO

Norway informed about a recent meeting with the UKHO regarding bilateral arrangements. All Nordic countries have separate bilateral arrangements with the UKHO, but Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden have common meetings with the UKHO. During the recent meeting, among other things pricing and the adaption of charts were discussed. The main aim of the meeting was to give inputs to a renewed arrangement.

Denmark drew attention to the fact that the UKHO issues paper charts on behalf of the Nordic countries, but that they in some occasion correct old charts instead of using the new editions.

Norway has launched a Print on Demand service and will discuss with UKHO on an upcoming technical meeting the possibility of basing future production on these updated charts.

8.5 Briefing on the EFFICIENSEA project.

Denmark gave short presentation on the project, which involves 16 partners from 6 countries [NHC55-8.5A]. The main work package focuses on e-Navigation.

Sweden argued that there is a need for an overview which shows the EU projects currently taking place.

8.6 VTS Sound expansion

This item was covered under presentation of the National Report for Denmark [NHC55-8.6A].

8.7 This item was covered under presentation of the National Report for Denmark [NHC55-8.7A].

8.8 CHEMSEA Project

Sweden gave a presentation of the project [\[NHC55-8.8A\]](#).

9. Relation to other (private) nautical charting interests in the Nordic countries

Egil Aarstad from Jeppesen gave a presentation titled “We’ve got the ENC – what about the I in ECDIS?”.

He argued that value-added data helps bridge officers increase safety, efficiency and situational awareness. Examples of value-added data were: Route planning, Tidal Predictions and streams, Weather, Cyclone warnings, Alarm settings and Piracy warning

10. Discussion of general trends and policy questions within the area of nautical charting and hydrographic surveying

The NHC had a joint meeting with the Standardization of Nautical Publications Working Group (SNPWG) on 6 April.

Jens Schroeder-Fuerstenberg gave a presentation on the SNPWG, while Jens Peter Hartmann gave a presentation on the planned Nordic Nautical Publications WG.

During the meeting the development of the pilot guides of the future was also discussed.

The session ended with David Acland’s presentation on navigation in narrow waters and the impact of 3D charts.

11. Status Reports and Technical Issues

- The Norwegian solution for Print on Demand

Kjetil Wirak gave a presentation on the Print on Demand service that has recently been launched by the NHS.

- The use of symbolization in ENC and ECDIS compared with paper charts

Denmark gave a presentation on the Danish experiences following the collision of two ships in a roundabout [\[NHC55-11A\]](#). The roundabout was displayed correctly in the ECDIS, but the incident was still termed an “ECDIS-assisted collision”.

Denmark asked whether there is a need for better or different training when it comes to use of ENCs and ECDIS. The NHC agreed that Denmark could present the paper for the TSMAD Working Group meeting the following week.

- ENC and ECDIS in northern Greenland

Denmark gave a presentation on the topic and informed that a proposal has been sent to TSMAD [*NHC55-11B*]. The main issue is that some ECDIS have problems in displaying ENCs north of 84°N. The members of the ARHC have also been informed. All countries represented in the TSMAD were asked to inform their representative, so that they could support the Danish proposal.

- New production system for production of Greenlandic charts

Denmark informed about the new production system which will be implemented in 2011 [*NHC55-11C*]. The new workflow and main production will start in 2012.

12. Next Chairman for NHC

As described in the NHC statutes Denmark should take over as Chair. This was accepted and Mrs. Charlotte Wiin Havsteen will be the next Chair of the NHC.

13. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

Denmark will come back with a specific date for the next meeting.

The agreed Actions were reviewed. The List of Action Item is attached [*NHC55-Action Items*]

14. Any other business

Norway gave a brief presentation of the BLAST project.

15. Closing of the Meeting

The NHC Chair thanked all the members for their participation and closed the meeting.

IRCC3

Status on the progress of the WEND WG

The Nordic Hydrographic Commission at its 55th Conference reaffirms the importance of the WEND principles and states its full support for the WEND principles. For that reason the NHC looks upon the WEND WG as the vital instrument to monitor and implement the WEND principles.

In order for the WEND-WG representative to prepare a coordinated and harmonised input to the WEND-WG, the representative from BSHC and NHC, have agreed to send a questionnaire to the BSHC and NHC members.

Even though a questionnaire will cover the actions stated by IRCC2, the NHC notes that the WEND-WG has not been active. The lack of progress in the WEND WG is of concern to the NHC.

As a consequence the WEND-WG representative from BSHC and NHC have not received any information from the WEND-WG since the IRCC2, have not participated in any WEND WG meetings and are not aware of any WEND-WG meetings being carried out.

In this context, and in order to promote and support the progress of the WEND-WG, the 55th NHC Conference strongly recommends IRCC3 to revitalise the WEND WG and to decide on the way ahead.

Actions required from the IRCC3:

The IRCC3 is requested to consider this proposal and to take appropriate action.