

Nordic Hydrographic Commission

Minutes from the NHC 60th Meeting Stavanger 12-13 April, 2016

A.1 Opening of the Meeting

The NHC Chair Evert Flier opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He especially welcomed Pia Dahl Højgaard who participates in a NHC meeting for the first time. Three of the Section Managers from Norwegian Hydrographic Service (NHS) also attended.

A.2 Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair suggested to move item D2 to the end of first day as the NHC representative of the IENWG, Gerhard Heggebø, would then be present.

A.3 Minutes and Actions from NHC59

The NHC59 Minutes have been commented and approved by correspondence.

The Action Items were reviewed with the following comments:

Action Item 1: Member States to review national ENC Backup requirements. None of the NHC MS has updated the required information since 2007. All MS were encouraged to take action on this item.

Action Item 2: Not all MS have approved the most recent States applying for membership of IHO. Consult the IHB report (Agenda B1) to see the actual MS to take action.

Action Item 4: For some reason the bi-annual reports from NHC have not been archived in the normal way and were treated as missed. The reports were re-sent during the meeting.

Action Item 8: NO is the acting Chair in the Nordic Council Marine Group and NHS cooperates with his mother institution with respect to MSDI and MSP. The MSDI activities within the NHC are reported.

B.1 Report from the IHB

A detailed and informative report was provided and supplemented by a presentation.

The very first Assembly is likely to take place in April 2017.

The development of IHO GIS and databases (included C-55) was presented, as were capacity building, crowd-sourced bathymetry and the status of the IHO Work Programme. The preparation for the Assembly was treated as a separate subject, see B8.

The MS were invited to submit any proposal to update the Strategic Plan (CL 17/2016).

B.2 National Report of Denmark

The Acting Director, Pia Dahl Højgaard, briefed the participants on the background for the comprehensive changes in the Danish Geodata Agency (DGA). Some parts of the organization, including the hydrographic unit, move to the city of Ålborg in the north of Denmark. Several employees have decided to leave the organization and recruitment of new staff is ongoing. DGA now reports to the Ministry of Energy, Supply and Climate.

DGA has some problems of fulfilling the obligations of the agreement with Greenland. There will be some changes in the survey operations around Greenland. A regular patrol vessel will be equipped with MBES and conduct “intelligent crowd-sourcing”.

Two survey launches are under construction. The Navy is constructing a new vessel that will be equipped with two MBES.

B.3 National Report of Finland

The report was supplemented by a presentation.

FI will survey some areas by use of Lidar technology. A Notices to Mariners Online will soon be operational. A study to determine product specification for Bathymetric Surface (S-102) is in progress. Finland is testing different solutions in order to renew the existing system.

The surveying related to the HELCOM programme is finalized.

B.4 National Report of Iceland

The report was supplemented by a presentation.

The Icelandic Coast Guard has received very promising statements from the Government with respect to funding for surveying of the EEZ waters within the next 10-15 years.

The surveying for 2016 will fill in some gaps in the coverage on the West coast.

B.5 National Report of Norway

The report was supplemented by a presentation.

The main topics mentioned were: new office premises, changes in the organizational structure, the initialization of a socio-economical study, continued extensive financial support to the Mareano programme and a contribution to a National MSDI through the BarentsWatch project.

NO was asked if the Socio-economical study will be available for others. This was confirmed and most likely a summary in English will be included. The study will be finalized in the autumn 2016.

B.6 National Report of Sweden

The report was supplemented by a presentation.

The presentation highlighted several topics like: the deliverables of the FAMOS projects, a new survey vessel available in 2015, a new chart system, the ADAPT project and the harmonization of the vertical reference level for the Baltic Sea.

At present, 51% of the total sea area of Sweden is surveyed to the S-44 standard.

B.7 NHC representation in the Council. Rules of procedures

Some documents were available in advance of the meeting. In addition an overview of existing regulations and options was presented by IHB (ppt).

It is obvious that NHC will have only one delegate in the Council as the Commission consists of just five MS.

A Drafting group was established with the purpose of presenting a proposal for procedures for selection of the representative the following morning. After some discussions, a final version of the procedures was presented. This version was endorsed and will be annexed to the Statutes of NHC.

Ten MS will be selected to the Council from the Tonnage list. The list will be closed 6 months in advance of the Assembly. In the current list Norway and Denmark are number 10 and 11, respectively.

The MS interested in represent NHC in the Council had a short side meeting and agreed to nominate SE. SE was elected as the first member of the Council.

Action Item: *Chair to inform the IHB that SE, as the only MS counting, will represent the NHC in the Council*

B.8 Contribution to the preparation of the IH Conference/Assembly of April 2017

IHB had prepared a presentation that included background, timeline and possible NHC contributions.

The Secretary-General and two Directors will be elected for 6 years at the first Assembly.

The NHC MS were encouraged to send input to the agenda for the Assembly in line with the possible NHC contribution suggested in the IHB presentation.

C.1 Report status and plans of nautical publications

DK and FI had prepared documents describing the present situation and future developments.

It was decided that for the future the reports on nautical publications should be part of the National reports.

C.2 Validation of Multibeam data

A report was prepared by SE.

NO to arrange the next workshop in 2017. IS confirmed the intention of participating in the workshop. FI suggested that Lidar technology and data processing should be on the agenda for the workshop.

It was agreed to change the name of the workshop to *Hydrographic Survey Technologies*.

C.3 Nordic Chart Production Expert Group

DK presented a report from the work of the Expert Group.

NO informed that only NO so far has INT Charts in the Arctic region.

FI commented that an ISO certification is in place.

Action 5 from the report reads: “ALL to conduct quality control on own charts adopted and published by the UKHO”. NO questioned this statement if the understanding is that we should control a UKHO product. NO has responsibility only for its own charts.

Action item: *NO as host of the next NCPEG meeting to include experiences with Print on Demand solutions in the agenda.*

The participation from MS is dependent on the Agenda items for the actual meeting. The group has no fixed membership.

C.4 Three projects within the region Southern Sunnmøre

A report was available in advance of the meeting. A presentation was given, mainly concentrating on the project “A common reference Frame in the Søre Sunnmøre Area”

C.5 geoNorge

A presentation about the Norwegian geoportal was given by Gerhard Heggebø. geoNorge is the key location to discover, view and download Norwegian spatial data.

C.6 Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 and possible impact in the North Sea

A report prepared by SE was available in advance of the meeting.

After some discussions, it was suggested to create a team with participants from DK, NO and SE for the purpose of finding solutions in in the transition zones for the countries involved.

Action Item: *SE to invite DK and NO for a meeting to discuss harmonization of the Chart Datum in the Skagerrak*

C.7 S-102 Pilot project (presentation)

Hans Christoffer Lauritzen, director of Primar, joined the meeting and presented the S-102 pilot project.

DK informed about the participation in the Horizon 2020 project Efficiency II, where utilization of S-102 is included. This project is not involved in developing display solutions as a final standard is not yet adopted. A cooperation with Transas is ongoing and it is likely that this company will prepare a display solution. DK proposed to build on the WEND principles for distribution of S-102 products.

C.8 Chart Production Systems

A document was available in advance of the meeting. SE also gave a presentation.

A contract for a new system was signed in 2015 and the deliveries will take place from 2016. All products to be produced with the new system from 2018. After the presentation, a discussion about the possibilities for production systems to export metadata and other relevant information to other systems took place. A system should also be capable of importing data/info from other sources without having to change formats etc.

C.9 Attribute for sector length in ENC

A document was available in advance of the meeting. NO gave a presentation.

It was proposed to submit a paper for consideration to the HSSC8 meeting. NO asked for a Nordic cooperation to prepare a document.

IHB stated that if the proposal would require changes in the Presentation Library it might be difficult to obtain support. Any proposal should be directed to the ENC WG first.

In general, the suggested improvements in the ENC display of light sector length were acknowledged and supported, but neither DK nor SE would support to open up for changes in S-57 at this stage.

Day 1 ended with a ceremonial signing of a bilateral arrangement between FI and SE.

D.1 Outcome of IRCC7 meeting

Evert Flier went through the action items from IRCC7 having most relevance to NHC. Since the meeting was almost one year ago many of the actions have already been taken care of.

D.2 Status of IHO-EU Network

A report was available in advance of the meeting. Gerhard Heggebø presented the report and added some more details.

DK commented that the requirement that all data presented in EMODnet should be freely available to everyone represents a challenge for some agencies. Some overlaps with the IHO MSDIWG were noticed and likely to result in some coordination activity between the MSDIWG and the IENWG.

According to INSPIRE recommendations, data made available should be stored as close as possible to the data owner. EMODnet does not follow this principle, as data is stored centrally.

D.3 Reports of RENC operations

Both RENCs had made their Annual reports available. Jens Peter Hartmann presented the IC-ENC report assisted by a presentation that highlighted the data flow, ENC folio growth, core services and organizational structure.

Hans Christoffer Lauritzen presented the PRIMAR report. By the end of 2015 more than 14000 ENC's were available for distribution through PRIMAR. They constitute more than 99% of all official ENC available to professional users.

D.4 ENC's to leisure markets

Both DK and FI had made reports available in advance of the meeting. DK went through the report assisted by a presentation. The aim of the new ENC service is to enhance safety at sea among leisure craft mariners by providing an affordable and official alternative to paper charts as the primary means of navigation.

The project has been going on for a couple of years and a pilot solution has been tested by selected users during a season. The feedbacks from users are in general quite positive. The reported organizational changes at DGA and recruitment of a new project leader will delay the project somewhat. DK would like to see other Nordic countries onboard in the effort to deliver what the leisure market would like to have. A challenge is to avoid interfering with the end user distribution.

NO makes updated S-57 data available for producers that would like to generate products for the leisure market through the so-called *Geoview* solution.

DK expects to do some re-considerations in the project in cooperation with other MS of NHC.

Action Item: ***DK to invite the MS of NHC to a meeting for discussing the way forward for digital navigational products for the leisure or non-SOLAS market*** (The different MS may invite their national Safety Agency to participate)

FI highlighted some issues from its report. The product is made on the basis of Finnish S-57 ENC-service, including also chart data previously published only in printed leisure craft chart series. A derived product producer has started to use S-57 ENC service quite widely.

D.5 MSDI

Two reports were available in advance of the meeting: 1) report from the IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group and 2) Establishing a Danish MSDI.

Jens Peter Hartmann, the Chair of the MSDI WG, gave a comprehensive report of the work and highlighted actual items for NHC. A syllabus for a training programme is now available. HO MS in the MSDI WG do not have resources to conduct the training courses. The only option seems to be contracting capacity from private companies. The presentation also mentioned the work of the Baltic Sea-North Sea MSDI WG and the Arctic SDI WG. The latter is established by the Arctic Council.

Jens Peter continued with a presentation on the Danish efforts for establishing a national MSDI. For the marine and maritime arena, cross border cooperation is of great importance. Some coordination with neighboring countries already takes place.

D.6 Outcome of WENDWG6 in Stavanger 8-10 March 2016

Evert Flier attended the WENDWG6 and he informed about some selected topics. Resolving overlaps was an important issue. The harmonization between the RENCs has reached good results and is no longer a strongly emphasized topic. Some “exclusive” ENC are only available through AVCS and Jeppesen. UKHO and Jeppesen were encouraged to “release” all ENCs for general distribution. The issue of AIO got a lot of attention. It is quite satisfying to see that several other nations now are supporting the view of the Nordic countries. A proposal requesting UKHO to adapt the AIO service will be discussed at IRCC8.

D.7 Admiralty Information Overlay (AIO)

A document was prepared by SE, including the outcome of the WENDWG6 and the way forward. The AIO for Swedish waters has been evaluated and some important safety issues are discovered, especially related to the delay of including P&T messages in the AIO solution.

The Nordic countries maintain their request of removal of AIO if no permission is given.

D.8 The EU Coastal Mapping project. Demo of the Portal

A portal was accessible from late December 2015 in its first version. The portal will be further developed during 2016 and will be maintained with new information until the end of the Coastal Mapping project in June 2018. The portal can be accessed at www.coastal-mapping.eu

D.9 Capacity building

Noralf Slotsvik is CB Coordinator representing NHC in the CBSC. The most developed countries are encouraged to assist the least developed in fulfilling the SOLAS V requirements with respect to hydrographic services. NO informed about their capacity building project in Albania.

DK would like to have guidance on how to train newly recruited staff. To create common

courses was mentioned as a possible measure. NO is ready to share experience.

Action item: *To review the critical competence needed within each NHC HO and investigate the possibility of arranging common training courses.*

D. 10 Any issues for IRCC8

MS that would like to propose items for the upcoming meeting must do it within few days.

Action item: *MS that have items to be addressed in the IRCC8 report to send contribution by e-mail to the Chair*

E. Any other business

FI gave two short presentations on the status of the Merta project and on the survey plan, respectively. Merta is about renewing the Bathymetric Data Management System.

NO mentioned an ongoing project for developing Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV). Maritime Robotics conducts the project and NHS is acting as a potential demanding customer, but not otherwise involved in the project.

F. Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair

According to the rotation plan, DK is in the position to take over the chairing of NHC. Pia Dahl Højgaard will be the Chair and Jens Peter Hartmann the Vice-Chair.

G. Place and date for the next meeting

Next meeting expected in Denmark in March 2017. Date and place to be decided.

H. Review of the NHC60 List of Actions

The agreed List of Actions is in Annex A

I. Closing the meeting

Evert Flier thanked all delegates for contributing to another successful NHC meeting and wished everyone a safe trip home. Noralf Slotsvik informed that NHC60 is likely to be his last NHC meeting as he plans to retire early next year.