

NSHC 30th Conference
Alesund
June 2012

Working Group Report
Item **D 4**
UK

North Sea International Charting Co-ordination Working Group

Report by the Chairman (*Tim Wellington*)(May 2012) of the North Sea International Charting Co-ordination Working Group (Region D)

Background

1. The North Sea International Chart Committee (NSICC) devised the original scheme of International Charts of the North Sea. Details were set out as Appendix F to the NSICC Report to the XIth International Hydrographic Conference (1977)
2. After discontinuation of the NSICC in 1983 the North Sea International Chart Sub-Committee (NSICSC) succeeded this group (Conclusion 43 of the 14th NSHC Conference).
3. The NSICSC, in turn, was disbanded in 1988 (Conclusion 52 of the 17th NSHC-Conference), but an Ad-Hoc Working Group on INT Charts was established at the same meeting (Conclusion 53)
4. In 1989 (18th NSHC Conf.) the Ad-Hoc group was replaced by the NSHC INT Chart Scheming Group (Conclusion 56); the Chairman was provided by the Netherlands.
5. During the 20th NSHC Conference it was concluded to change the name into North-West European Charting Group (Region D) because the charts covered a larger area than the North Sea.
6. The Netherlands provided the Chairman, Hans Ferwerda, for the North-West European Charting Group (Region D) until June 2004. The United Kingdom has provided the Chairman, Tim Wellington, since then.
7. At the NSHC 29th Conference in September 2010 (Conclusion 85), the NSHC Members agreed to change the name of the NW European Charting WG to the North Sea International Charting Co-ordination Working Group, largely to include digital charts (ENCs). The NSHC 29th Conference also established the North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group which will report for the first time at the 30th Conference.

Progress with the INT Charts of Region D since the previous NSHC meeting

8. The Chairman contacted Members (Region D) requesting catalogue updates and subsequently provided an updated copy of the Catalogue of INT Charts of Region D to the Members (Region D) in March 2012. The northern limit of Area D was re-defined at 69°N when the new Arctic Area E was set up. The scheme of INT Charts in Region D requires few new charts, e.g. when new routing measures are introduced or new developments of international ports are confirmed. There are now 212 INT Charts in Region D which are frequently updated by New Editions.
9. The IHB provide updates to the Catalogue, S-11, Part B, on the IHO website. Few significant changes have been made in recent years as the scheme is almost complete.
10. There has been no requirement for Members to meet for many years as the scheme is mature and all matters can be dealt with by correspondence. The Chairman has been performing the role as the Co-ordinator.