

Report of the NSHC Re-Survey Working Group

1 Introduction

The 29th NSHC Conference held in Brest in September 2010 assigned the following tasks to the Resurvey WG (conclusion 89):

- to complete the overview where applicable.
- to publish the scheme on the internet
- to propose a way forward to harmonize the presentations of the resurvey schemes and of C55
- to include conclusion 28 “Resurveying of critical areas” in their work program.
- NSHC Re Survey WG to liaise with Dover Strait Strategy WG for coordination of effort.

2 Activities

The WG had a meeting in Hamburg in November 2011 and worked on the tasks of conclusion 89. Juha Korhonen, chairman of the BSHC Resurvey Monitoring WG, joined the meeting as an observer. His participation was very much acknowledged and his inputs were very helpful.

Another especially positive aspect of the meeting has been the valuable exchange of the different practices in survey planning.

The Netherlands provided the result of the Deltares project.

Besides that, the following results have been achieved so far:

2.1 Completion of overview where applicable

Taking into account the current activities related to C-55 the WG Members resolve to update the resurvey-scheme of the North Sea by switching the platform to GIS and add the necessary attributes. 2 Layers should be built up:

- Information on the data quality
- Scheduled resurvey plan

2.2. Publication of resurvey scheme on the internet

GE volunteered to collect the information from MS and build the GIS-files. The updated scheme will be handed over to all MS. MS are being asked to consider publishing the scheme on their websites. The Chairman will determine in liaison with the IHB and in coordination with the further development of C-55 a publication on the IHO website.

2.3. Harmonize the presentations of the resurvey schemes and of IHO publication C55

WG Members discussed about the development of C-55. Juha Korhonen, who joined the meeting, gave very valuable input. The Chairman liaised via him after the meeting. He then provided a comprehensive paper and sent it via the BSHC Chair to Jeff Bryant. The paper has been coordinated with Thomas Dehling and disseminated to the NSHC Resurvey WG members as well. It has been considered premature to harmonize the presentation before having a clearer picture about the future C55. The WG will contribute to the further development of C55, taking into account the requirement for the NSHC Resurvey WG.

2.4. NSHC conclusion 28 "Resurveying of critical areas"

The conclusion 28, which had been adopted by the 8 NSHC Conference in 1973, reads as follows:

Conclusion 28:

The North Sea Hydrographic Commission during its eighth session in Hårnösand, September 1973

Being aware of the continuous changes occurring in the bottom topography in certain areas of the North Sea;

Recognizing the necessity of providing the most recent information on depth, particularly with regard to the main shipping lanes;

Recommends to its members to resurvey the critical areas of those lanes as frequently as necessary.

Since then, periodical resurveys have been addressed as well in the introduction of S-44. S-44 page 4 (Introduction) reads:

It should also be noted that where the sea floor is dynamic (e.g. sand waves), surveys conducted to any of the Orders in these Standards will quickly become outdated. Such areas need to be resurveyed at regular intervals to ensure that the survey data remains valid. The intervals between these resurveys, which will depend on the local conditions, should be determined by national authorities.

This topic has been considered as still being very important for the NSHC Resurvey WG and should be followed. Thus, the WG invites the NSHC to adopt the following task as No.9 of the Terms of Reference:

“9. to fulfill the aims of conclusion 28”

2.5. Cooperation with the Dover Strait Survey Policy Working Group

MS agree upon a very close cooperation with DSSP-WG. Both WGs should continuously exchange information about their work. Joint meetings should be arranged, if necessary. The installation of DSSP-WG as a sub-WG was rejected, due to the different instructing parties. The DSSP-WG has been installed by the four Hydrographic Offices involved and not by the NSHC.

3 Further work

The process of collecting and processing the data for the presentation of the resurvey schemes is ongoing. A timetable has been elaborated (see annex 1).

It has been considered as necessary to maintain the WG active.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 2012, back to back with Hydro 2012 in Rotterdam. The WG thanked NL for offering to host that meeting.

Thomas Dehling announced, that he will not be able to carry on the chairmanship beyond 2012 due to his new duties in chairing the Capacity Building Sub-Committee. WG members have been invited to provide suggestions for candidates to take over the chairmanship of this WG after the next meeting.

4 Proposals

The Commission is invited to

- take note of the report,
- adopt the task No.9 of the WGs TOR: “to fulfill the aims of conclusion 28”,
- decide upon a new chairman or to leave the decision to the WG at its next meeting.

Annex 1

NSHC Resurvey Working Group

List of Actions

Number	Action Item	Responsible	Deadline
1	Provide updated input to the overview of resurvey schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none">- resurvey plan- quality	MS	Febr 2012
2	Collect the information from MS and build the GIS-files and process combined overviews based on ArcGIS. The updated scheme will be handed over to all MS.	GE	April 2012
3	Provide the data for a publication of the overview on the internet. The Chairman will determine in liaison with the IHB and in coordination with the further development of C-55 a publication on the IHO website.	GE	May 2012
4	Each MS implements a link to the overview or publishes the overview on their website.	MS	Mid june 2012
5	Provide input to the development of C-55	MS	Dec 2011
6	Send input for C-55 development to NSHC Chairman (France), coordinated with BSHC if possible	Chair	Jan 2012
7	Draft report to NSHC 30	Chair	Febr 2012
8	Provide suggestions for candidates of chairmanship	MS	Up to May 2012