

NSHC WORKING GROUPS

North Sea International Charting Co-ordination Working Group

Report by the Chairman (Tim Wellington) (April 2014)
of the North Sea International Charting Coordination 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/Coordinator, Hans Ferwerda, for the North-West European Charting Group (Region D) until June 2004. The United Kingdom has provided the Chairman 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. The NSHC 29th Conference also established the North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group which will report for the first time at the 30th Conference.

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

- 8 The Chairman contacted Members of Region D requesting catalogue updates and subsequently provided an updated copy of the Catalogue of INT Charts of Region D to the Members of Region D and the IHB in February, 2014. The IHB displays the latest version of the Catalogue, S-11, Part B, on the IHO website.
9. Seven INT Charts (100, 113,174,175, 1015, 1016,1017) have been transferred from Region D to Region N because the chart limits fall mostly or wholly north of 69° N (The northern limit of Area D was re-defined at 69° N when the new Arctic Ocean Region N was set up).

Further significant changes to the Region D INT Scheme are;

- a) Norwegian coastal INT charts 1400, 1401, 1402, published in 2012-14, were added to Region D to provide improved coverage.
- b) INT Chart 1566, England, Approaches to the River Humber, was added to Region D in 2012 to provide improved coverage.

10. 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 214 INT Charts in Region D which are frequently updated by New Editions.

11. 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 Coordinator.

12. The Baltic Region E requested additional INT Numbers for charts in their Region, so significant blocks of INT Numbers were transferred from Region D to the Baltic Region E. However, more INT Numbers may still be required for the Baltic Region so it has been agreed that 5 figure INT Numbers can be used for further INT Charts when no more 4 figure INT Numbers are available.

13. The North Sea ENC Harmonisation Group is now chaired by Paul Barrett, UKHO, who will provide a separate report.