

Paper for consideration by NSHC**[Dover Strait survey strategy]**

Submitted by:	France
Executive Summary:	In the framework of the Dover Strait survey strategy Working Group, this paper presents the Dover Strait survey strategy between FR, GB, BE and NL and discusses the interest to improve it and to merge the WG with the NSHC re-survey WG.
Related Documents:	a) Stratégie de la France de suivi des dunes de sables en mer du Nord et dans le Pas-de-Calais (lettre n°046 SHOM/DMI/PL/NP du 5 juillet 2012) b) Stratégie de suivi des dunes de sable en mer du Nord et dans le Pas-de-Calais (lettre n°110 SHOM/EM/NP du 15 janvier 1999) ; c) Quadripartite agreement between Belgium, France, Netherlands and United Kingdom dated 2000 (lettre K6600/109383/KBN du 19 octobre 2000 (service hydrographique néerlandais - NLHO).
Related Projects:	-

Summary

Since 1999 and in accordance with the 2000 agreement (ref. c), France has implemented the strategy to survey sand dunes in the Dover Strait area as defined in the letter in reference a).

This work included:

- a systematic survey of the area over 10 years,
- annual monitoring of the most dangerous dunes.

All these works were performed and regularly analyzed by specialists of the dynamics of sand wave through modeling studies on the mobility of dunes.

Accordingly, SHOM proposed to the NSHC successively at its 29th meeting in 2010 and lately at its 30th meeting in 2012 an evolution of that strategy, effective since 2013:

- surveys will be conducted within waters under French jurisdiction, consistent with the legal responsibilities of States,
- areas with no recent bathymetric data will be surveyed to obtain an updated knowledge of the area, to detect the presence of wrecks and detect the arrival or birth of dunes,
- the most dangerous dunes will be surveyed every two years.

Those elements making obsolete the quadripartite agreement in reference (b), a new draft agreement was brought to the attention of the NSHC at its 30th conference in 2012 by France. This draft was supposed to include in fine the following details regarding the different parties and their common strategy :

- the geographical limits of the agreement, the same as in the 2000 agreement, and surveys limits coincide with the limit of waters under national jurisdiction,
- monitoring of the agreement made at each meeting of the NSHC (national report),
- the requirement to transmit to one State data collected by another State in waters under the jurisdiction of that State and within the limits of the agreement,
- the reference to technical provisions of each state (for instance the French hydrographic instructions).

Therefore, one of the 30th conference conclusions (#102) was stated as for the concerned member states to provide their comments and remarks regarding the draft agreement provided by France, and to attach to their feedback their technical provisions. Following up that decision, a letter was sent to all

concerned member states in July 2012, which lead to the providing of the technical provisions by the parties.

Analysis

Taking into account the information provided through national technical provisions, the national strategies are summed up in the following table.

Country	National strategy
Belgium	<i>(as it is written in Flemish, the editor of this paper is not able to summarize the strategy)</i>
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ surveys will be conducted in the areas of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) « North Hinder South » and adjoining TSS « In the Strait of Dover and Adjacent Waters » precisely in within waters under French jurisdiction consistent with the legal responsibilities of States, ➤ areas with no recent bathymetric data will be surveyed to obtain an updated knowledge of the area, to detect the presence of wrecks and detect the arrival or birth of dunes, ➤ the most dangerous dunes will be surveyed every two years.
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dover Strait strategy embedded in the Netherlands part of the continental shelf strategy (NLCP) ➤ NLCP area splitted in 114 categorized areas spread in 5 different categories to be respectively surveyed every 2, 4, 6, 10, 15 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ category 1/2/3 = full coverage of seabed with MBES; ○ category 4/5/6 = full coverage with sidescan sonar to ensure object detection.
United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dover Strait and Adjacent UK areas strategy is part of UK Civil Hydrography Programme. Key areas with minimal under keel clearance are integrated to the Routine Re-survey scheme (RRS) ➤ RRS dedicated to navigationally critical shallow waters areas with mobile seabed. ➤ Since 2012, UK elements of Dover Strait's TSS areas and DWRs are considered as high priority for CHP. A 2012-2016 work programme has been developed to ensure all Dover Strait areas have been surveyed to modern standards (IHO order 1a). This programme includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ areas already surveyed to modern standards; ○ areas to be surveyed in 2013//2014; ○ areas to be surveyed in 2014/2015; ○ areas to be surveyed in 2015/2016. ➤ Long term objective = definition of a re-survey grid with a re-survey interval estimated for each km² of seabed.

A resurvey strategy covers currently the Dover Strait. However, it is questioned whether it should be, more than a compilation of national strategies:

- a) worked out to be homogeneous in respect of the maritime traffic and the physical processes in the area,
- b) completed to describe relations between the HOs (on exchange of information on sand dunes which cross frontiers, etc).

This global strategy should be published, through an agreement or, if estimated too difficult to achieve (for juridical reasons for example), by another means (NSHC website, ...).

Considering that the subject of marine sand dunes and re-surveys deals with scientific aspects that could be of interest for other countries that the 4 involved in the DSS WG, the need to deal with it directly in the NSHC resurvey WG (and so to remove the DSS WG) could be discuss at the NSHC31.

Action required by NSHC

The NSHC is invited to:

- consider this document and take note of it

- discuss the interest to remove the Dover strait survey policy WG and to address its topics through the NSHC Re-Survey WG
- take actions as appropriate.