



Royal Netherlands Navy

Vlaamse Dienst
Directeur Mevr. V. Debuck

SHOM
Director Général B. Frachon

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
Rear Admiral T. Karsten

Date 15 July 2015
Subject NSHC Resurvey Working Group

Dear colleague,

In my letter 2015001947 of 30 April, I requested your input on five questions related to the future of the Dover Straight Survey Strategy Working Group (DSSSWG) in relation to the NSHC Resurvey Working Group (RWG). This followed from Conclusion 111 of the 2014 NSHC Conference. Thank you for your reply. I collected all replies in the annexed Table.

Based on your answer, I conclude that we all are in favour of merging the BE/FR/NL/UK DSSSWG with the NSHC RWG, and that at least three of us wish to pursue a new Dover Straight Survey Strategy Agreement (FR has not expressed its opinion), to be managed by the NSHC RWG.

As a consequence of your input and as tasked by NSHC, I disband the DSSSWG, and would like to express my sincere appreciation for the work that this group has done over the years. Also, I give the NSHC RWG the action to update the Agreement, building upon the work that has already been done since the last DSSSWG meeting in January 2011. This process could start during the fifth RWG meeting in September.

Your reactions included several productive suggestions for the future of the Agreement. They constitute a sound basis for further discussion within the NSHC RWG. As NL currently chairs both the NSHC and its Resurvey Working Group, I will monitor the progress of the group and will create ample opportunity during the next NSHC meeting in Dublin in June 2016 to discuss the new situation.

Yours sincerely,

Director Netherlands Hydrographic Office
Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy
M.C.J. (Marc) van der Donck
Captain (Royal Netherlands Navy)

Netherlands Ministry of Defence

The Netherlands
Hydrographic Office

Van Alkemadealaan 786
2597 BC The Hague
P.O. Box 10.000
1780 CA Den Helder
The Netherlands
www.hydro.nl

Contact
Dr. Ir. L.L. Dorst

T 003170 316 28 26
F 003170 316 28 43
ll.dorst@mindex.nl

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Enclosed

Please quote date, our reference and subject when replying.

Annex: Table with a summary of the answers

question	Answer BE	Answer FR	Answer NL	Answer UK
(1) confirm that you are in favour of the merger	is in favour of the merger	fully supports the proposal to merge the (...) RWG and the (...) DSSSWG.	is in favour of the merger	in favour of the merger
(2) confirm that a new Agreement should still be pursued	a new Agreement should be pursued.		wishes to effect a new Agreement	a new Agreement should be drawn up
(3) evaluate if the draft Agreement of 2012 needs additional work	agree with NL		would like to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reference to the NSHC Resurvey Working Group as the relevant body for the implementation of the Agreement; • an explanation that a survey policy consists of at least the types of resources deployed for a survey and the approach to resurveying; • an explicit notion of the process to balance each other's survey policies. 	agree with NL, noting that when it comes to "resources deployed"; UK surveys are carried out under contract
(4) check if you have submitted technical hydrographic instructions	has done so by email on 9 July 2015	has done so by letter N° 93 SHOM/DOPS/MIP/DTI/NP of 12 April 2012	has done so by email on 4 March 2014	we can provide SHOM with shapefiles of relevant completed and planned surveys in UK waters – as you know, David Parker is our expert
(5) share your opinion if the merger needs to wait until the new Agreement has been effected	if the new agreement has been effected this year, the merger can be delayed until that date, otherwise a merger should effected early 2016.	The merger should not wait for the conclusion of the new agreement.	is indifferent to the timing of the merger in relation to the new Agreement	if the parties have agreed in principle, then practical steps such as provision of shapefiles can occur and the document prepared in parallel – in other words the completion of the document need not hold up practical implementation

Additional comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• some technical hydrographic instructions (THI) may become invalid before a new agreement is adopted;• recommends to to keep the principle of exchanging THI;• post THI on the NSHC website;• focus on the coordination of survey strategies;• foster the sharing of information on dune dynamics near median lines;• harmonize dune dynamics portrayal on charts.		
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