



Royal Netherlands Navy

**To:** NSHC Members  
**Copy:** Director IHB Mr. G. Bessero

Netherlands Ministry of Defence

The Netherlands  
Hydrographic Office

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

**Contact**  
S.F. van Leeuwen-Toet

T 070 316 28 00  
F 070 316 28 43  
SF.v.Leeuwen.Toet@mindef.nl

**Our reference**  
CZSK/2016001089

**Enclosed**  
Appendix 1 Procedure  
Annex NSHC Statute  
IHB File No. S1/6200

*Please quote date, our reference and  
subject when replying.*

**Date:** 9 March 2016

**Subject:** A procedure for the NSHC to designate  
representatives to the IHO council

## **NSHC LETTER No 02/2016**

Dear Colleagues,

This letter addresses an issue to be discussed during the 32<sup>nd</sup> NSHC Conference in June: the procedure for selecting the NSHC representatives to the IHO council. This procedure is requested by the IRRC. Action IRRC7/26 applies: "Report to IRCC on the status of the RHC procedures for selecting their respective representatives to the Council". In this letter I will present a proposal for a new Annex to the NSHC Statutes including a flow chart for this selection procedure (Enclosure 1). A similar Annex already has been adopted by the Meso American and Caribbean sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference.

The representatives in the IHO council will be approved by the first assembly of the IHO once the "Protocol of Amendments to the convention on the IHO (November 2005)" is ratified. The functions of the new IHO council are described in this protocol. They are amongst others.

- co-ordinate, during the inter-Assembly period, the activities of the Organization within the framework of the strategy, work program and financial arrangements, as decided by the Assembly;
- prepare, with the support of the Secretary-General, proposals concerning the overall strategy and the work program to be adopted by the Assembly.

Two-thirds of Council seats (20 seats in the current configuration) shall be held by Member States selected by the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs). The remaining one-third of Council seats (10 seats in the current configuration) shall be held by Member States that have the greatest interest in hydrographic matters and have not been selected by the RHCs.

The selection process for seats was considered at the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in Monaco. The Conference agreed Decision No 6 which provides guidance on the process by which the Secretary-General shall allocate the number of seats on the Council to each RHC.

The RHCs must now decide on a procedure for allocating these seats to its Member States. In Enclosure 2 more detail is provided in IHB letter S1/6200. Firstly, it describes the preliminary process for the determination of the number of seats on the Council allocated to each Commission. Secondly it describes a set of generic rules that RHCs may wish to use as the basis of a procedure for the designation of their representatives.

I took the generic rules as a baseline and worked it into the Annex to the Statutes with two main adaptations.

- For voting I removed the required quorum of 2/3 of the Member States (paragraph 7). It could be procedurally difficult to achieve this quorum, complicating effective decision making. Moreover, the current voting procedure for other (statute) matters does not require such a quorum.
- I used the wording agreed within the MACHC for the way in which the selected Member States carry out their role as NSHC representatives (paragraph 3). Three of the NSHC members are also MACHC members.

Subject to the ratification of the Protocol, the first Assembly is planned to convene from 24 to 28 April 2017. I anticipate that the Secretary-General will initiate the selection process for the establishment of the Council before the 33<sup>th</sup> NSHC meeting. Therefore the NSHC must have an agreed procedures before that date.

I invite you to study this proposed procedure including the flowchart (Enclosure 1) with the aim to make a decision at the upcoming NSHC meeting.

Yours sincerely,



*Captain RNLN Marc C. J. van der Donck*  
Director Netherlands Hydrographic Office  
Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy  
Chairman, NorthSea Hydrographic Commission

Netherlands Ministry of Defence  
The Netherlands  
Hydrographic Office

Date  
9 March 2016

Our reference  
CZSK/2016001089