

# Report of the Nordic Data Quality Working Group

[31 August 2009]

## Introduction

The IHO HSSC data Quality Working Group (DQWG) was activated by the CHRIS-19 meeting in 2007. The CHRIS-20 meeting in November 2008 approved the Work Programme for DQWG.

Based on good experiences of the Nordic S-44 SubWG, a formal Nordic DQWG was established by the NHC 53<sup>rd</sup> Conference in April 2009. The main purpose is to forward joint Nordic input to the HSSC DQWG. The TORs of the Nordic DQWG are in Annex.

The Nordic DQWG members are:

Denmark: Mr. *Jesper Vedel*, DAMSA, Ms. *Berit Holse*, KMS  
Finland: Mr. *Mikko Hovi*, Chair of the Nordic DQWG  
Iceland: No member, Mr. *Hilmar Helgason* on distribution list  
Norway: Ms. *Lynn Kolbeinson*, head of Chart Production Section  
Sweden: Mr. *Kenneth Gustanfsson*, system developer

## Nordic DQWG work so far

The first meeting was held on 4 March 2009, where all members were participating. The HSSC DQWG Chair and Vice-Chair were also invited to the meeting, but were not able to attend. The meeting recommended that The Nordic DQWG should contribute with comments and proposals to the work of the HSSC DQWG and to ensure that the Nordic opinions and proposals will be duly recognised by the DQWG. During that meeting the Nordic current practices and opinions on data quality issues were reviewed and discussed widely. It was noted that further studies to enhance current quality specifications and presentations, brainstorming for new approaches for presentation of quality and efforts for educating and informing of mariners on quality related issues are needed. It was agreed that this WG will concentrate on the quality issues of bathymetric (depth areas and contours, soundings, rocks, ) data. The main focus should be on the how to clearly transfer the quality information on navigational products to mariners.

DQWG Chair has forwarded the Nordic opinions to the DQWG meeting in Norfolk in May 2009. The Nordic DQWG has elaborated these issues further on at its meeting in June 2009.

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**Relation to BSHC**

The NHC/53 discussed also on the relation with those BSHC members which are not NHC members. The DQWG proposes that for the time being the Nordic DQWG will be kept as a small group at least until it has found a solid base for its work and procedures. It will forward important Nordic opinions, findings and proposals also to BSHC members for information.

The Nordic DQWG members are also the members of the HSSC DQWG. It is highly recommended that the BSHC members will join to the work of the HSSC DQWG, where wider participation is appreciated.

**Actions for the BSHC 14<sup>th</sup> Conference**

The Conference is invited

- to take a note on this information and
  - to recommend the BSHC members to join the HSSC DQWG
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Annex 1. The TORs of the Nordic DQWG

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**Annex 1: TORs for the Nordic Data Quality WG**

[Approved by the NHC/53 meeting on 23 April 2009]

**1. Objective**

To contribute to the work of the HSSC DQWG and to ensure that the Nordic opinions and proposals will be duly recognised by the HSSC DQWG.

**2. Authority**

This WG is a subsidiary of the Nordic Hydrographic Commission (NHC). Its work is subject to NHC approval.

**3. Procedures**

A. The WG should:

- A.1 Evaluate current Data Quality practices in Nordic HOs
- A.2 Develop regional approaches when feasible
- A.3 Harmonise the Nordic Data Quality practices as far as feasible
- A.4 Develop actively and forward joint Nordic Data Quality opinions and proposals to HSSC DQWG
- A.5 For example, the work items of the Nordic DQWG may include but not limited to
  - to study the user (mariners) requirements for quality indicators
  - to study on the quality indicators related to information necessary for safety of navigation, especially depth related information
  - to develop and evaluate quality indicators adopted for M-4, S-100, S-101 and future replacement of S-52
  - to study the possibility to use new simple approaches for quality indicators considering existing solutions and proposed alternatives
  - to promote the education of mariners on quality related issues
  - to study the use of alarms for ECDIS route planning phase
  - to study the use of transparent colour area presentation on charts
  - identify and analyse consequences

B. The Nordic DQWG should work by correspondence as far as possible. Meetings will be organised when deemed appropriate.

C. The WG Chair will normally present the Nordic DQWG to the HSSC DQWG

D. The WG should report to NHC at least at the NHC annual meetings.

**4. Composition and Chairmanship**

- A. The WG shall comprise representative of NHC members. Expert contributors may be invited to join the WG.
  - B. Decisions should be made generally by consensus. If votes are required all member state has one vote.
  - D. The WG shall elect its Chair among its members. The election of the Chair shall be approved by the NHC.
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