

E NSHC WORKING GROUPS

Report of NW European Charting Group

Report by the Chairman of North-West European Charting 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, Hans Ferwerda, for the North-West European Charting Group (Region D) until June 2004. The United Kingdom has provided the Chairman, Tim Wellington, since then.

Terms of Reference and Work Plan.

7. The 26th NSHC Conference confirmed Tim Wellington, United Kingdom, as Chairman and placed an action item on him to produce Terms of Reference and a Work Plan, which had not existed previously. Copies were sent to Member States on 26 June 2006 for approval. The Work Plan has since been amended as suggested by NSHC members, using the Minutes of the 27th NSHC Conference. An amended Work Plan has been provided, with this report, for the 28th Conference.

Catalogue of the INT Charts of Region D

8. The Chairman sent an updated copy of the Catalogue of INT Charts of Region D to the Members of the North-West European Charting Group (Region D) in July 2006 requesting amendments. Following receipt of these amendments, the Catalogue was corrected with amendments to the end of August 2006. The Chairman sent an e-mail dated 11 October 2006 to the Members of the NW European Charting Group, including the IHB, with an updated copy of INT Chart Catalogue Region D as a PDF attachment. The e-mail offered further assistance if required. Some nations were

unable to receive the e-mail because the attachment was large so CDs of the catalogue were sent to those nations. The Catalogue will be amended again in 2008 following the same process.

Progress with the INT Charts of Region D

9. The scheme of INT Charts in Region D is almost complete and requires few amendments, e.g. as new routing measures are introduced or new developments of international ports are confirmed. The following changes to the scheme of INT Charts in Region D have been considered and approved by the Group over the past two years:

- IMO-adopted changes to the “Approaches to Hook of Holland and at North Hinder” Routing Measures will be implemented on 1st July 2008. To ensure that these changes are adequately covered in the INT Chart series, NL proposed that INT Chart 1472, Approaches to Europoort and Hoek van Holland, should be changed from scale 1:50,000 to 1:60,000, with revised limits.
- INT Chart 1557, covering the approaches to the ports of Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth, England, at scale 1:40,000 will be replaced by two INT Charts, 1558 and 1559 at a larger scale. The reason for this is major new harbour developments in Great Yarmouth.
- The Netherlands have re-schemed charts in the Europoort/Rotterdam area because of the extension of the Maasvlakte seawards (about 2 miles) and at the request of the Harbour Authorities of Rotterdam to chart this particular area on a larger scale. The two existing charts 132 (INT 1475) and 133 (INT 1476), scale 1:25,000 will be replaced by three charts 207, 208 and 209, scale 1:20,000 with INT numbers 1465, 1466 and 1467.

The adjacent area managed by the Baltic Sea International Chart Committee have been kept informed and consulted on the INT numbers of new Swedish INT Charts falling within Region D.

10. The total number of charts in the scheme is now approximately 203.

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 Co-ordinator.

Tim Wellington, Chairman, NW European Charting Group, March 2008

**TERMS OF REFERENCE and WORK PLAN
for the
NORTH-WEST EUROPEAN CHARTING GROUP**

1. Background

- (i) The North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC), in the 1980s, recognized the need to study the problems connected with international charting in the North Sea.
- (ii) The North-West European Charting Group was therefore established with the task to study the problems connected with international charting and to prepare an integrated scheme for International Charts in the North Sea. This has operated very harmoniously and successfully but without any Terms of Reference.
- (iii) At the NSHC Conference in 2004 an action was placed on the Chairman of the North-West European Charting Group 'to review the Terms of Reference and devise a work plan for the Group, and circulate these for approval to NSHC MS Group'

2. Terms of Reference

- (i) The North-West European Charting Group is tasked to study the problems connected with international charting and to prepare and maintain an integrated scheme for International Charts in the North Sea
- (ii) The North-West European Charting Group is chaired by one of the member states elected at a NSHC Conference
- (iii) The North-West European Charting Group is open to participation by all members and associate members of the NSHC. It will offer advice based on its experience to individual Member States, on chart schemes, in order to encourage adherence to IHO charting standards
- (iv) The work shall be done in accordance with 'Guidance for Regional Coordinators of INT Schemes' (IHO Publication M-11 Part 2, formerly S-48). Also the guidance in M-4 Part B, which provides an internationally-agreed product specification for both national and international (INT) charts at medium- and large-scale, will be used.
- (v) The work shall be carried out in co-operation with the Baltic Sea International Chart Committee (BSICC) under the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) to ensure co-ordination of overlapping charts between the two charting areas.
- (vi) The work of the North-West European Charting Group will be carried out primarily by correspondence. The members are strongly encouraged to give their opinions to the correspondence without unnecessary delay and preferably not beyond the stated deadline.
- (vii) All NSHC members and associate members shall notify the chairman of any information of interest for the North West European Charting Group without unnecessary delay e.g. change in points of contact, status of chart production, proposed changes in chart limits, proposed large scale charts etc.
- (viii) The North-West European Charting Group will provide a report and an updated NSHC - INTCHART catalogue to the NSHC Conference, when required by the Conference.

3. Work Plan

- (i) The work of the Group will be carried out primarily by correspondence.
- (ii) The Group will continue to maintain an integrated scheme for International Charts in the North Sea
- (iii) Members will submit proposals for new International Charts, or amendments to existing International Charts, in the North Sea to the Group.
- (iv) Members will obtain a new International Chart number from the Chairman for any new chart planned.
- (v) The Group will continue to work in co-operation with the Baltic Sea International Chart. Committee (BSICC) under the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) to ensure co-ordination of overlapping charts between the two charting areas.
- (vi) The Group will offer advice based on its experience to individual Member States on chart schemes in order to encourage adherence to IHO charting standards.
- (vii) The Group will keep the NSHC – INT CHART Catalogue up-to-date and will provide it to Member States on request.
- (viii) The Group will check for consistency with all adjacent INT Regions.

Tim Wellington, Chairman, NW European Charting Group, March 2008
