

NSHC 28th Conference
Elsinore, Denmark
April 2008

Explanatory Note
Item E2
Denmark

Report of the 15th meeting of the NSHC-TWG to the 28th NSHC Conference

1. Meetings and attendance

After the 27th NSHC Conference had taken place in Rostock, September 2006, the NSHC-TWG meeting was held at the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency in Hamburg, Germany (24th - 25th May 2007) and was attended by representatives from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and United Kingdom.

The representatives made note of the report of the 27th NSHC conference recognising that the work of the group needed to be continued and asking that its title should be Tidal Working Group rather than Tidal Committee under the NSHC.

2. Current actions

There are a number of ongoing actions within the NSHC-TWG. These include:

- monitoring LAT implementation by member states,
- monitoring new developments in modern tide gauges,
- exchanging experiences in tidal modelling and new methods of tidal reduction,
- online tidal predictions, digital tide tables,
- absolute (geodetic) determination of seamless offshore vertical tidal reference surfaces.

In this latter field of work, which covers a large potential of applications (e.g. absolute offshore level determination as well as satellite assisted tidal/water level reduction for surveying and navigation), important initiatives are being undertaken by the HOs. Aim of the working group is also the integration and consistency of the national tidal reference surfaces produced by each HO for their zones of responsibility in a common set of seamless surfaces covering the North Sea area.

3. List of deliverables and timing

- Determination by 2010 of a first common seamless Chart Datum based on LAT and referred to ETRS89/ETRF89 as geodetic frame (North Sea coverage: 4°W to 14°E and 49°N to 62°N). This will be based on modelling activities going on in UK, DE, FR and NL.
- New edition of co-tidal chart 5059 by 2008: DE & UK will act as the main players. Model data from DE and NL will be used.
- Unified tidal prediction system by 2010: FR & UK work towards a common concept which will be presented at the next TWG meeting.

4. Terms of Reference for the group

These are mentioned in annex 4 of the minutes of the TWG meeting (annex 1 to the report of the NSHC-TWG to the 28th NSHC Conference). According to the recommendations of the 27th NSHC report, the TOR have been revised to Tidal Working Group.

5. Recommendations to the 27th NSHC Conference

The current actions and the definition/monitoring of a scheduled work plan described above require active international co-operation between member states and emphasise the need for the working group. This is why the TWG meeting was considered extremely useful, particularly for the exchange of ideas, definition of common actions to be carried out and methods to be used.

The 27th NSHC Conference is invited to:

- approve this report, after having made amendments, if any,
- approve and amend, if necessary, the proposed Terms of Reference;

6. Presentation of the Report

Under rotating chairmanship, the 16th NSHC-TWG will be held in Holland, under Dutch chairmanship. The Dutch representative will present the report on behalf of the NSHC-TWG.

Hamburg, 20th June 2007

Dr. Patrick Goffinet
Chairman of the 15th NSHC-TWG meeting
Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie
Hamburg, Germany

Annex 1 to the report of the NSHC TWG to the 28th NSHC Conference

Terms of reference for the North Sea Hydrographic Commission Tidal Working Group

Objective :

To provide technical advice and promote co-ordination on tidal issues within the NSHC.

1. Terms of Reference

1.1 To make recommendations concerning any tidal and related matters requiring discussion, development and co-ordination within the NSHC.

1.2 To exchange views and experiences related to vertical datums

1.3 To exchange views and experiences concerning the exchange and distribution of tidal and related data

1.4 to exchange views and experiences related to tidal observations, analysis and predictions

2. Rules of procedure

2.1 The group is composed of representatives of the Member States

2.2 Invited external experts are not entitled to vote.

2.3 The group will conduct its business mainly by correspondence. Meetings will usually be held at intervals of about 18 months

2.4 The chairperson and the vice chairperson will be from the member state hosting the meeting.

2.5 The chairperson is to submit a report for inclusion in the NSHC conference.