

NORDIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NHC)

NHC input to IRCC5
Wollongong, Australia, 3-4 June 2013

1. General

The 57th meeting of the NHC took place on 15 -17 April in Arkö, Sweden. Sweden chaired the meeting. The meeting documents are available on the IHO website. The 58th meeting of the NHC will take place on 19-20 August 2014 in Finland.

Mr Patrik Wiberg (Sweden) has been the Chair of NHC until 17th April 2013 and *Mr Jukka Varonen* (Finland) will be the Chair since that.

The main issues of the NHC57 meeting were:

- Exchange relevant information on hydrographic activities within the NHC members
- Presentations of joint hydrographic projects in the region
- Information on new survey technologies (e.g. shallow water LIDAR)
- Discussion on experiences on outsourcing hydrographic surveys
- Discussion on Danish plans for making official ENC products for leisure crafts
- Discussion on harmonized participation to the MSDI developments within the European Commission, especially related to Marine Spatial Planning Directive. It was agreed that Sweden will, after consultancy with the chair of the NSHC EU2MWG, present a proposal to IRCC5 for an EEA (EU) group to interact with the EU regarding "blue" policy issues.
- NHC Input to IRCC5 and WEND-WG3
- Information on the development of hydrographic data processing systems
- NHC57 agreed to initiate a process to update NHC Statutes.

The NHC has formed the following Working Groups:

- Multibeam validation Workshop has been arranged yearly. Finland arranged a Workshop on Validation of Multibeam Data 13 – 14 February 2013. The main issues on the agenda are Survey Systems and Vessels, Quality Checks and Data Analysis and Data Processing and Management Systems.
- Nordic Nautical Publication WG. The NHC members agreed that a joint workshop approach should be continued. Denmark will invite the NHC, ARHC and BSHC members to a workshop in 2014.
- Nordic Paper Chart Expert Group will have its next meeting in Iceland in September 2013. Status of implementation of improved data exchange recommendations will be discussed at the meeting.

2. Status of IRCC4 actions (relevant for the NHC)

Status of NHC relevant IRCC4 actions are listed in the table below.

No	ACTION	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS - NHC
IRCC4/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.	RHCs	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2012	Discussed at NHC57 Meeting.
IRCC4/02	Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention.		Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2012	All NHC member states have approved the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention
IRCC4/04	Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board and report to the IHB	NHC	30 Dec 2012	The NHC57 decided that the NHC Chair will be its representative to IHR Editorial Board and this has been communicated to IHR and IHB.
IRCC4/13	Provide written feedback on Annexes B and C of WEND Principles (CONF.18/WP3) according to 18 th IHC Decision 13	RHCs	?	Done via WEND-WG.
IRCC4/17	Circulate the paper "A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability" to RHCs to be used as a raising awareness tool.	Chair RHCs	As soon as practicable	Circulated.
IRCC4/18	Provide the IRCC Chair with their report on the progress of the relevant tasks of the IHO 2012 Work Programme.	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	by the end of Jan 2013	Normal progress - no special issues to be reported.
IRCC4/20	Review the relevant tasks of the IHO 2013 Work Programme in their respective work plans and report on suggested updates, if any, to the IRCC Chair	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	by the end of Oct 2012	Done.
IRCC4/27	Inform MSs of the IMO's transition to and the implication of the mandatory IMO Member States Audit Scheme from 2015	RHC Chairs	As soon as possible	Done.
IRCC4/30	Consider the participation of the stakeholders at the RHC conferences	RHC Chairs	?	To be considered for NHC58.
IRCC4/32	Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2012 and target values for 31 December 2017	RHC Chairs	by the end of Jan 2013	Done.

3. Proposals

No formal proposals were made.

IRCC5 is invited to take note of the report.

Jukka Varonen
Chair of NHC