

Final Minutes of the NHC 50th Meeting on 26th – 28th of April, 2006 in Norway

(12th May 2006)

A. The meeting

The meeting was held at the Radisson SAS Polar Hotel in Longyearbyen, Svalbard.

There were 13 participants from five Nordic Countries attending the meeting, and the IHB representatives Rear Adm. *Kenneth Barbor*, and Captain *Mike Barritt*. See the list of participants in *NHC/50/1B Rev2*.

In addition to the Agenda issues the meeting included a guided tour in the Longyearbyen.

Some documents of the meeting were distributed before the meeting, and some documents were presented during the meeting. See the list of documents in *NHC/49/1A Rev1*.

B. The Agenda Issues

1. Opening of the Meeting

The NHC Chairman Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* welcomed the participants to Svalbard. He informed that NHC was established in 1928, and also the oldest RHC in the IHO system. For that reason he thought it was a good idea to arrange the 50th meeting at Svalbard, especially as the focus on polar regions at the time is an important issue. He then formally opened the meeting.

Gest speakers:

Mr. *Terje Brinck Løyning*, Senior Scientist, Norwegian Polar Institute, gave an interesting lecture about the Norwegian Polar Institute including the following topics:

- NPI 's mandate
- Cooperation in the Barents Sea Region
- Research facilities and activity in the Arctic and Antarctica

A power point presentation will be enclosed in the final report.

In the afternoon Ms. *Hanne Margrethe Ingebrigtsen*, Legal adviser, from the Governor of Svalbard, gave an interesting lecture about the history of Svalbard, the Svalbard treaty and the administration of Svalbard today.

A power point presentation will be enclosed in the final report.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Document: NHC/50/2A Rev 2.

The following minor adjustments of the agenda were suggested:

- Document *NHC/50/7A* and *NHC/50/7D* to be discussed together.
- Document *NHC/50/7B* and *NHC/50/7C* to be discussed together.

The agenda of the meeting was then approved as amended.

3. Minutes of the 49th NHC Meeting

Documents: NHC/49/Final Minutes
NHC/49/Actions

Paragraph 8: Artic Committee should read Hydrographic Committee on Antarctica (HCA).

The Minutes of the 49th NHC meeting were then approved without any further comments or changes.

The Actions items resulting from the previous meeting in Reykjavik were reviewed. The following comments were noted. Numbers below refer to the numbering of actions, as in document NHC/49/Actions;

3 (*Rocknes* case) - Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* reported that this is still a sensitive matter. The criminal part of the case has now been dismissed. However, a civil court can still be raised within the deadline 1st January 2007. No identification so far that this is going to happen. A meeting with the Solicitor-General regarding lessons learned has taken place. Report about lessons learned is in progress. The report will be translated to English and issued autumn 2006.

Conclusion: Ongoing

6 (Paper Chart WG) – Mr. *Kjell Olsen* informed that the meeting is planed to take place in Stavanger in November 2006. Invitation will be sent in May.

Conclusion: Ongoing

7 (Information to IHOCBC).

Conclusion: Ongoing as a running issue.

7 (Presentation about BSHC and present it at The IHO3rd EIHC) –

Conclusion: Action closed.

7.2 (Input to the IHO S-44 WG) – Mr. *Jukka Varonen* informed that 4 meetings had been held in the NHC members Working Group. Report sent to the Chairman of the WG in February 2006. No feedback so far.

Conclusion: Ongoing.

7.2 (Finland to submit a proposal for standard symbology for fairways) – Mr. *Jukka Varonen* informed that a proposal had been sent to the CSPCWG, but that the WG had disagreed with the proposal.

Finland and Sweden can not accept the symbology as proposed by the WG and the proposal from Finland and Sweden will for this reason be withdrawn. National symbology will be used for fairways.

Conclusion: Action closed.

8 (Experts from HOs to be embarked onboard ships during International Polar Year 2007- 08) – Captain *Mike Barritt* informed about CL 11/06 inviting Experts from HOs to be embarked on board ships during the Polar Year to assist where expert knowledge is not available. He also informed that the next meeting in the HCA will take place in Punta Arena, Chile, November this year.

Conclusion: Ongoing

8 (Expanding cooperation with scientific organizations involved in survey operations).

Conclusion: Ongoing

14 (Norway to assist Denmark with preparing requirements for nautical chart data).

Conclusion: Action closed.

4. Reports on activities within nautical charting and Hydrographic surveying in each of the Nordic countries

Each country introduced briefly their National Report.

National Report of Denmark (NHC/50/4A).

Ms. *Hanne Berg* informed that she will step down from her position later this year and new Head of division, Jens Peter Hartmann, will be appointed by 1st of August 2006.

Mr. *Arne Nielsen* informed that he will retire by 31st of August. So far no one has been appointed to succeed him.

A multibeam echo sounder system will be mounted on the naval vessel "Galathea 3" on the world tour to collect data 24 hours a day during the mission.

Captain *Mike Barritt* asked if Denmark would provide information of countries which will be visited.

Action: Denmark

National Report of Finland (NHC/50/4B).

Ms. *Tiina Turnuula* reported; a new re-organizing will take place in FMA, but the Hydrographic department will remain the same.

Finland has for the first time outsourced survey activities, OSAE won the international bid to survey in the Gulf of Finland. Norway was thanked for good support in the process. The chart production will most probably be done in-house, the printing is already outsourced.

Mr. *Frode Klepshvik* commented that Norway had gained a good balance between internal and external survey and chart production, and asked if Finland would go for the same?

Finland responded positive to that.

Captain *Mike Barritt* asked if Finland had a National Hydrographic Committee.

Finland responded negative.

Mr. *Jukka Varonen* reported that the Finnish report lacks some minor information, and a new report will be distributed.

Action: Finland

National Report of Iceland (NHC/50/4C).

Mr. *Hilmar Helgason* reported; In addition to the National report Iceland informed that the Charting of Lake Malawi project is drawing to a close.

A joint mission with Mozambique to survey the eastern part of Lake Malawi (Logo Niassa in Mozambique) is being done using multibeam echo sounder.

One person from Malawi is expected to be in Iceland for two weeks for CARIS training ultimo April.

Captain *Mike Barritt* informed that the Malawian government had organised a meeting with the SAIHC Technical Visit Team at which the Icelandic Ambassador also had been present. The ministry stressed on the importance of Iceland's contribution in Malawi. Malawi will also try to become a member of the IHO.

National Report of Norway (NHC/50/4D).

Mr. *Frode Klepshvik* reported; The Surveying has been more efficient during the last years, and the progress is going well. The co-operation with NDRE to use the H.U. "Sverdrup" for 6-8 weeks at Svalbard has proven to be successful.

The enhanced project has been prolonged to mid 2008, by then all main and secondary fairways will be fully covered by modern ENC's.

NHS is in dialog with Ministry of Foreign Affairs to create criteria how funds for a CBC can be administrated. NHS can coordinate such funds.

Norway will support travel and accommodation for delegates from developing countries to attend the CBC meeting in Maputo in June. The support is primarily given to countries within Norway's aid programme.

Quality management system: NHS renewed its ISO 9001:2000 certificate in March 2006. There is a good quality culture within all parts of the Service.

Norway digital: Finland asked about the pricing of this service. All the members put their data in to an agreed cost, a defined calculator is established to calculate the price to the individual member. The MAREANO project is finally in operation, for 2006 NOK 7.5 mill will be used for multibeam survey. A total of NOK 250 mill is allocated to the project for Phase one from 2006-2009. Mr. *Frode Klepshvik* informed that NHS in co operation with private industry is discussing a print on demand service, NHS will provide information. Rear Adm. *Kenneth Barbor* will provide information on ongoing print on demand development from NOAA

Action: Norway, IHB

National Report of Sweden (NHC/50/4E).

Mr. *Åke Magnusson* reported; HELCOM has been the main focus for survey activities the past years. All survey vessels are now equipped with multibeam echo sounders. One vessel is still equipped with bar-sweeping equipment. Due to limited finances, only four crews have been operated last year, two on each ship.

148 new ENC cells were released last year, and all Swedish waters are now covered with ENCs. SMA, together with the Geological Survey of Sweden was given the task to an inventory of the needs for hydrographic, geological and other marine information within national as well as private interests in Sweden. The study was delivered March 31st.

For more information, please study the report from the individual country.

5. Reporting of joint projects

Report of the NHC Ad-hoc WG on renewing of the S-44. (NHC/50/5A).

Mr. *Jukka Varonen* reported on the progress in the working group. Four meetings have been held, and a Nordic proposal is sent to the Chairman of the IHO working group. So far no comments have been received.

A revised mandate for the Ad-hoc group was produced during the meeting, and Mr. *Jukka Varonen* will continue to chair the meeting.

Report from the HELCOM Monitoring WG, (NHC/50/5B)

Mr. *Juha Korhonen* gave a brief introduction to the co-operation within the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) regarding the re-surveys in the Baltic Sea, and that Sweden had volunteered to develop and maintain a database of the plan. He then reported that a new Web interface to the database had been developed, and that updating is available.

Mr. *Arne Nilsen* congratulated the chairman with the result the working group had achieved. From the IHO point of view Rear Adm. *Kenneth Barbor* also expressed satisfaction with the result. Captain *Mike Barritt* asked whether the database could be made available as an input to other Regional Hydrographic Commissions which are in progress with a corresponding task. He also was of the opinion that it might be useful to link this database to the S-55 database.

Mr. *Frode Klepshvik* replied that it should be left to the IHO to decide the best way for giving necessary information about the database.

Mr. *Åke Magnusson* will check if the software can be made available for IHO and for other Member States

Power Point presentation will be enclosed in the final report.

Action: Sweden and Finland.

6. Reporting of Working Groups etc.

No reports received.

7. The IHO Work

Report of the IHB to the 50th NHC. (NHC/50/7A and /D).

Rear Adm. *Kenneth Barbor* reported:

3rd EIHC and SPWG:

Shortly after the 49th meeting of the NHC, the culmination of three years' effort by the SPWG was the approval of the protocol of the amendments to the Convention of the IHO at the 3rd EIHC. The Protocol was conveyed to Member States governments for ratification. To date, five Member States have ratified the protocols, including Denmark and Norway from this commission.

Capacity Building:

The capacity building program of the IHO has continued to focus on priority areas as identified by Member States. It is noted with appreciation, the unilateral assistance provided by Norway to assist attendance in IHO activities by countries that may otherwise not have resources to participate. The next IHOCBC meeting is scheduled to take place 7th and 8th June 2006 in Maputo, Mozambique.

Budget & Work Program:

The Directing Committee has recommended no increase in contributions for 2006. In the 2005 budget the increase was 2 %.

IMO:

The relationship with IMO over the past year has been very active and productive. Revising the ECDIS Performance Standard has been carried out through a Correspondence Group of NAV with close IHO/IHB support. The result will be presented to NAV 52. The IHO has also been asked by NAV to develop an online catalogue of ENC's, RNC's where ENC's are unavailable, and paper charts required as back up by national maritime authorities.

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* informed that Denmark, Sweden, UK and Norway have forwarded a report on "Safety Assessment of ECDIS" to IMO. The report will be put on the agenda for the next NAV meeting. Also important for the spreading of ENC's World Wide that the IMO is coming up with a plan for mandatory carriage requirement for ECDIS.

CHRIS:

CHRIS continues to maintain existing standards. CHRIS is very sensitive to the concerns of HOs, ECDIS OEMs, IMO and the mariner in formulating a way ahead for the new standards. Next meeting in CHRIS is scheduled 25th - 29th September in Sydney, Australia.

WEND:

Next meeting is scheduled 11th - 15th September 2006 in Monaco. A Stakeholders' Forum will be held in conjunction with the meeting.

Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI):

Member States, individually, have a significant role to play in the development of the spatial data structure (SDI). A seminar was arranged in November 2005 hosted by the IHO and the German Hydrographic Service (BSH). A brief summary from the meeting was given.

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* informed that NHS is involved in several SDI projects as MAREANO, INMAT and Norge Digital (Norway Digital).

RHC input to the IHOCBC. (NHC/50/7B).

Captain *Mike Barrit* presented a Power Point presentation brief on:

- Outcome of the 3rd meeting (about 80% of the available budget for 2006 allocated)
- Preparation for the 4th meeting in Maputo 7th – 8th June 2006
- The CBC Management Plan and the CB Work Programme for 2006 – 2008
- Thoughts for CB content of the IHO 5-year WP
- Areas where the expertise and ideas of the NHC countries are invaluable to the CBC

Revision and update of S-55. (NHC/50/7C).

Captain *Mike Barrit* presented a Power Point presentation on:

- Current status of S-55
- Importance of update
- Some editorial issues
- Way ahead for exploitation of the data-base

High profile in the UN as an authoritative source of facts with respect to surveying and charting. IHO CL 10/2006 deals with a proposal to use S-55 within the IMO Voluntary Audit Scheme. As of April 2006 87% data coverage, but still some gaps in the data. The on-line database now allows regular updates. Amongst the editorial issues are the development of more detailed regional layers below S-55, e.g in polar areas. A prototype being developed by the IHB and HCA from S-59. However, other RHCs are encouraged to examine means of building up a more detailed picture for their region.

Responses to the S-55 questionnaire are a major tool for IHOCBC assesment of regional priorities within the IHO CB Work Programme. Seeks support for new ideas in CBC. e.g deployable teams.

Mr. *Frode Klepssvik* agreed that it is a challenge to identify good projects, but one should not just ask for money and then not spend them.

7.1 IHO Working Groups

Report from the IHO SPWG:

The Chairman of the IHO SPWG Mr. *Frode Klepssvik* informed: Last meeting in the working group was arranged in Mexico in December 2005. The next (8th) meeting will take place in Korea in the beginning of May. This meeting will probably be the last meeting before the Conference next year. There is consensus in the group with respect to the implementation strategy (2/3 of the Member States must endorse). The Council enters into force 3 months after ratification of the Convention. Basic documents straight forward, but some minor issues must be discussed with Legal Advisors in Monaco. One proposal of introducing a new article (article 6) in the new Convention received. Conditions for Member States not affiliated with an RHC must be clarified. Letter received from Argentina regarding this matter will be discussed by SPWG at its next meeting. Main Committees proposed implemented from 1. January 2009. Two comprehensive reports presented regarding the organisation of the Committees. Comments to the reports are desirable before the meeting in Korea. Mr. *Juha Korhonen* replied that Finland only had some minor comments to the reports, but that the reports are not clear regarding the handling of WEND in the new model. Mr. *Frode Klepssvik* replied that there is consensus within the SPWG that there will be no need for WEND in the future, as it is expected that WEND matters will be taken care of by the other groups. Also agreement within the SPWG that there is no need for a permanent Legal Advisor Group for dealing with ad-hoc matters. Finland has prepared a document regarding Performance Indicators.

WEND issues:

Mr. *Frode Klepssvik* proposed to discuss the Questionnaire annexed to WEND CL 01/06 in order to reach a common view in this matter.

Finland and Denmark informed that they already had completed the Questionnaire.

The Questionnaire was examined and commented.

Mr. *Kjell Olsen* will prepare an answer to IHO.

8. Other international activities regarding nautical charting and hydrographic surveying

Mr. *Frode Klepssvik* introduced the Report of the PRIMAR Stavanger (Doc: NHC/50/8A). Experience is still very good and the ENC pick up is increasing. The Primar Online remote updating service as part of the Primar Chart Catalogue was fully operating from February this year. Are in good dialogue with NOAA and Japan, and 1000 more ENCs will be added to the base shortly. The coverage of ENCs is the main and most critical issue for the user. FMA has signed an agreement for the supply of a mechanism for the distribution of its own ENCs to its VTS service. This mechanism can also supply data from other nations.

The Norwegian Coastal Directorate has an agreement with Primar Stavanger to supply 270 pilots with an 24 hours online service on ENCs including updates. This has proven to be an excellent service and is well recommended to others.

IMO and IALA issues:

Nothing to report.

Others:

Nothing to report.

9. Relations to other (private) nautical charting interests in the Nordic countries

Mr. *Åke Magnusson* informed of an ongoing discussion with Swedish authorities concerning data classification. NHC will be informed.

10. Discussions of general trends and policy questions within the area of nautical charting and hydrographic surveying

Captain *Mike Barritt* raised the question of navigation safety in remote areas, and mentioned specifically the areas in the South West Pacific and Arctic regions. An Arctic Shipping conference dealing with these issues will take place in St. Petersburg.

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* responded that Norway had the necessary focus on the safety of navigation for Norwegian waters; Denmark responded the same for Greenland.

Norway is also in dialogue with the Russians for the Barents region. The shipping activities in the region will increase and the main focus is to give more education and skills to navigators to navigate safe in these waters.

Mr. *Arne Nielsen* pointed out that the future transport of oil in waters between Iceland and Greenland is of greatest interest for the Government of Greenland, and that they now are carrying out a risk assessment. A report is expected by end of summer. The supposed result from the report is already included in the existing Surveying Schemes.

Mr. *Terje Brinck Løyning* mentioned that a main hazard to navigation in the Barents Sea is icing. Reliable weather forecasts for the region are therefore of great importance (especially with respect to Polar lows.) He raised the question whether this is a matter for the NHC. Captain *Mike Barritt* commented that the GDMSS system also includes elements of meteorology, and suggested that this matter could be input to forthcoming discussions in CPRNW and COMSAR of implementation in the Arctic regions.

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* was of the opinion that the NHC should be very careful about being involved in this kind of problem.

The outcome of the discussion was that NHC has noted the proposal, and will bring this matter up on the next meeting.

11. Status Reports and Technical Issues.

Nothing reported.

12. Next Chairman for NHC

Mr. *Svend Eskildsen* RDANH was unanimously elected as the next Chairman of the NHC.

13. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Copenhagen Denmark on (17th - 19th of April 2007) dates to be confirmed.

14. Any other business

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* asked for any news for new CEO at the UKHO.

Captain *Mike Barritt* answered that two persons, both from the industry, had been short-listed.

The new CEO should be in place by end of July.

15. Closing of the Meeting

Mr. *Svend Eskildsen* and Mr. *Arne Nielsen* welcomed all to the next meeting in Denmark.

Mr. *Frode Klepsvik* thanked the participants for the very good co-operation and contributions to the meeting.