
**53rd NHC Meeting
21-23 April 2009
Helsinki, Finland**

Final Minutes

[7 May 2009]

Venue: Finnish Maritime Administration, Meeting room Kabinetti 3.
Chair: Mr. *Jukka Varonen*
Secretary: Mr. *Juha Korhonen*
Participants: Together 15 persons from all NHC HOs and IHB, see Doc. **NHC/53/1B**

1. Opening of the Meeting

The NHC Chair, Mr. *Jukka Varonen* opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He clarified the program and gave information on practical arrangements.

The Chair welcomed Mr. *Noralf Slotsvik* as a new person to the NHC.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The draft Agenda was approved without amendments.

3. Minutes of the 52th NHC Meeting

The Minutes of the previous NHC/52 meeting were approved without amendments [*NHC52 Minutes*].

The Status of Actions [*NHC52 List of Actions*] was reviewed and updated. It was noted that most of the actions were completed, some of them were left pending to the list of NHC/53 actions (Actions **NHC53/1**, **NHC53/2**, **NHC53/3**, **NHC53/4** and **NHC53/5**) and some of them were deleted as being not valid any more. [*NHC53 List of Actions*].

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

Especially all were invited to present their current organisational status and plans.

4.1 Report of Denmark

Denmark highlighted some main issues in their national report [*NHC/53/4.1A*]. In addition to its Report Denmark informed on organisation changes within DAMSA, quality management statistics, AIS data management, the new project to

produce charts together with land mapping, and agreement with Germany on production of overview cells.

4.2 Report of Finland

Finland highlighted some main issues in their national report [NHC/53/4.2A]. In addition to the Report more details were given on the forthcoming new Transport safety and Transport infrastructure organisations which enter in force by 1 January 2009 and also ongoing evaluations for possible de-centralising some parts of the FMA. It was decided that Finland will keep the others updated when decisions are made (Action **NHC53/6**). Finland also informed on the updated Hydrographic Programme, on discussions with Russian HO, on the goal for ENC coverage by 2010, status of its process to outsource hydrographic surveys and its willingness to share others' experiences. It was noted that the hydrographic expertise may be loosed within the organisational changes.

4.3 Report of Iceland

Iceland highlighted some main issues in their national report [NHC/53/4.3A]. Iceland reported that they have no funding for doing hydrographic surveys in 2009, but they place emphasis on charting and charts update. It was noted that all should confirm the data in S-55 even if there are only minor or no changes, otherwise the data in S-55 will appear to be out of date. Especially Iceland was asked to provide input to the IHB because the latest recorded input was for 2003 (Action **NHC53/7**).

4.4 Report of Norway

Norway highlighted some main issues in their national report [NHC/53/4.4A]. In addition to the Report Norway informed on the status of enhanced ENC production, Primar issues, Quality Management System, BLAST project, introduction of tracings for updating paper charts from late 2009, maintenance of the survey vessel and on possible joint surveys on Artic areas (the Mareano project).

4.5 Report of Sweden

Sweden highlighted some main issues in their national report [NHC/53/4.5A]. In addition to the Report Sweden informed on organisational status, on extra funding for ScanDIS project, resources for hydrographic surveys and on the status of NAVTEX.

There were discussions on possibilities to harmonise the distribution of information on nautical publications. It was agreed that this issue should be studied further on and Sweden volunteered to draft TORs for a regional WG to specify guidelines for that (Action **NHC53/8**).

5. Reporting of joint projects

It was noted that currently there are no joint projects.

6. Reporting of Working Groups etc.

6.1 Report of Paper Chart Production Group (PCPG)

Finland presented the Paper Chart Production Group report [NHC/53/6.1A] and the proposed future TORs [NHC/53/6.1B]. It was agreed that the continuation of this kind of working Group is useful. The group was renamed as Nordic Chart Production Expert Group (NCPEG). The TORs for the NCPEG were approved as in [NHC/53/6.1BRev.1]. Finland will host the next meeting in October 2010.

6.2 Report of Improved Data Exchange Working Group (IDEWG)

Sweden introduced the work of the Improved Data Exchange Working Group (IDEWG) [NHC/53/6.2A] and its recommendations [NHC/53/6.2B]. All the nine recommendations were approved. It was agreed that Sweden will administrate the paper Chart Source Information List (recommendation 5).

All were invited to follow these recommendations (Action **NHC53/9**) and to report the status of the implementing of these recommendations at the next NHC meeting (Action **NHC53/10**). It was agreed that Sweden will report of the findings of the IDEWG to the CSPCWG and to the HSSC-1 as requested by the CHRIS20 Action 10 (Action **NHC53/11**). It was agreed to dissolve the IDEWG.

6.3 Report of Nordic Data Quality Sub Working Group (NordicDQSubWG) and HSSC Data Quality Working Group

Finland reported the work of Nordic Data Quality Sub Working Group and it proposed TORs [NHC/53/6.3A]. The report and the nomination of the Chair Mr. *Mikko Hovi* were approved. After discussions the TORs were slightly clarified and amended, and the WG was renamed as Nordic Data Quality Working Group (NordicDQWG). The main purpose is to forward joint Nordic input to the HSSC DQWG, see [NHC/53/6.3BRev.1].

7. The IHO Work

7.1 IHO Issues

Director Robert Ward gave a short status Report on IHO and IHB issues. He noted that the response rate to IHO Circular Letters has been increasing. He informed on the status of the progress of the approval process of the amendments to the IHO Convention and the approval of new IHO Member States. It was noted that Iceland is the only NHC Member yet to approve the amendments to the IHO Convention.

It was agreed that the NHC Chair will be the NHC representative on the IHR Editorial Board, as requested by the IHO CL 15/2009.

Finland reported briefly on the first meeting of the HSSC Tidal and Water Level Working Group (TWLWG-1) held a few weeks ago in Brazil.

There were discussions on the newly established S-23 WG as indicated on *IHO CL 22/2009Rev*. It was noted that Mr. *Jan Skovgaard* from Denmark is a member of the S-23 WG. It was agreed that he will keep the other Nordic States updated on the progress of the work of the S-23 WG.

7.2 4EIHC Issues

Director Robert Ward introduced and provided some background on the 4EIHC Conference proposals *[Doc. CCL 6]*.

Director Robert Ward introduced the issues to be covered on 4 June 2009 as part of the ENC discussion in the 4EIHC. There will be an IHB presentation on ENC coverage, consistency, availability, pricing and licensing. Also a brief status report on S-100/S-101 developments and the status of mandatory ECDIS carriage requirement.

It was proposed that Primar and IC-ENC should together give a presentation on the benefits of existing RENCs and how they could help States to join them or to establish additional RENCs.

It was noted that Norway will raise at the HSSC-1 the question if SENC distribution is any more needed.

7.3 IRCC issues

It was noted that the IRCC-1 will be the first IRRC meeting and that the eligibility rules for the IRCC Chair, IRCC Work Program and Standing Agenda will need to be developed at this first meeting.

It was noted that for the time being there were no NHC Capacity building proposals.

It was agreed that Finland will draft the NHC progress report to IRCC-1, distribute it to NHC members for quick comments, and send the report to IRCC by end of April 2009. (Action **NHC53/12**). The next NHC Chair will present the Report at the IRCC-1 meeting.

Discussion on the feasibility of establishing a Nordic Panel for evaluation of competence of hydrographic surveyors was agreed to be postponed until the next NHC meeting.

8. Other international activities regarding nautical charting and hydrographic surveying

8.1 PRIMAR Issues

Norway introduced the Primar Report 2009 *[NHC/53/8.1A]*.

Norway briefly mentioned their Proposal on establishment of additional RENCs *[NHC/53/8.1B]*. This was introduced in more details at the Primar Advisory Committee meeting on previous week.

Norway told about their communications in relation to UKHO with regard to AVCS/BA charts *[NHC/53/8.1C]*. There are inconsistencies on the NtM updates between national charts and BA charts. It was agreed that Norway will draft suggestions for changes to Bilateral Agreements between Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and UKHO regarding to the updates on BA charts (Action **NHC53/13**). If needed, a meeting may be arranged in Copenhagen to finalise these proposals. It was noted that Adm. *Ian Morcreeff* from UKHO will visit Finland and Sweden early May and these issues may be discussed then.

8.2 IMO and IALA issues

Sweden raised the issue of AIS as an Aid to Navigation [[NHC/53/8.2A](#), [NHC/53/8.2B](#)]. During the discussions it was noted that if IHO work or consideration was required, then this subject would come under the work programme of the HSSC, but at present there is no Work Item on this issue. The Secretariats of IHO and IALA have recently discussed this issue and a combined IHO/IALA intervention will be made at IMO MSC/86 highlighting the need to identify and confirm a real users' requirements to virtual AIS symbols before any practical work is undertaken. It was agreed to wait until IMO has made any action for this issue. It was noted that perhaps the HOs should advise their Maritime Administrations not to support the Japanese proposal at MSC/86.

8.3 Other issues

None.

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

Finland reported briefly on a case where a private company has published nautical charts with non-updated hydrographic information.

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

There were discussions on the status of implementation of EU INSPIRE Directive. Quite general Geodata laws are in process in Finland, Norway and Sweden. Denmark has already implemented. Iceland had no exact information on its status.

There were also some discussions on the resolution of depth data distributed within INSPIRE Directive.

11. Status Reports and Technical Issues

It was noted that Finland and Sweden had agreed on the change of production nation of INT 1025 from Finland to Sweden. This will be reported by BSICC together with other updates in due course to the IHB.

12. Next Chairman for NHC

According to the NHC Statutes it was agreed that Mr. *Georg Kr. Lárusson* will be the next Chair of NHC. Iceland proposed to have the next meeting in Iceland from 13 – 15 April 2010.

13. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The agreed Actions were reviewed, see [[NHC/53 Actions](#)].

14. Any other business

None.

15. Closing of the Meeting

The NHC/53 Chair thanked all on their active participation to the NHC work since last meeting and during this meeting, and closed the meeting.

Technical Excursion 22 April 2009

During the meeting there were a Technical Excursion to *Vuosaari* harbour where the harbour authorities described the construction and operation of the harbour followed by a guided tour in the harbour. Then the participants transferred by a boat along the *Vuosaari* fairway to *Suomenlinna* fortress for a guided historical tour and dinner.
