

Report of Nordic Chart Production Expert Group (NCPEG)

[14 March 2011]

Introduction

The NHC/53 established the Nordic Chart Production Expert Group (NCPEG) and approved the TORs for it. There has not been any activity on this group, except the meeting in Helsinki in December 2010.

The WG has no permanent members. Nordic HO's can select their representatives to the meetings depending on the agenda. The participants of the last meeting in Helsinki on December 2010 were:

Denmark: Berit Holse, Tine Fallemann Jensen
Iceland: Árni Þór Vésteinsson, Niels Bjarki Finsen
Norway: Kjetil Wirak
Sweden: Johan Riismark
Finland: Mika Ahvenainen, Outi Eskola, Risto Laiho, Jyrki Mononen,
Susanna Nordstén, Jenni Silvennoinen

NCPEG meeting in December 2010 in Helsinki

The meeting discussed on many important topics, which are briefed below. The Minutes of the meeting gives more details.

All the countries introduced their **chart production procedures**. There were discussions about many details related to chart production, e.g. showing CATZOC or source data diagrams on the charts, ways to process surveying data to the charts, depths and depth value selection.

Exchange of data between Nordic HO's. All Nordic countries have data exchange in some extent between the other Nordic countries, and also between UK and Germany. The exchange is working reasonable well, but there are also many challenges e.g. the different way of handling topology, matching and adjusting of the data and symbology on border areas, and the use of some file formats.

The status of **adopting charts from other Nordic HO's** was reviewed. Germany and UK have adapted charts from Finland. This far Finland hasn't adopted any charts from the other Nordic countries, but studying the possibility to adapt some charts from Sweden. Iceland doesn't adopt any charts from Nordic HO's. Most of their INT charts are adopted by UKHO. Sweden hasn't adopted any charts. They are now providing Tiff-files for UKHO and BSH for adoption. Norway is adopting one Danish chart. There are some challenges in updating of this chart. Germany and France are adopting Norwegian charts. UKHO is also adopting Norwegian charts but there are some difficulties in the format where the material is delivered. Denmark is not adopting any charts. They provide material as single PDF-files to Norway, UKHO and BSH.

Source data management in the Nordic HO's. Iceland's source data management system is manual. Sweden gets data from different sources. They use source data management system called ROS which they have developed themselves. Denmark doesn't have a source management system but they have some databases which help them to manage the data. Norway receives data from a lot of sources. All updates are done in the primary database. Finland gets data from different sources. Most of the workflow is done manually on paper. "Update charts" are in use where all of the changes are drawn by hand. There is a system called ATA to register most of the changes.

Use of tracings and block corrections. Finland and Sweden doesn't publish tracings or block corrections. Denmark doesn't use tracings but they publish block corrections. Norway does tracings but not block corrections. Iceland uses tracings and block corrections every now and then.

Print on demand. Norway started POD service in 2010. The full service of 143 charts (main chart series) will start in the beginning of 2011. Iceland prints harbour plans (A3) as a POD but no other charts. Denmark, Finland and Sweden don't produce POD-charts at the moment, but are studying possibilities to use the POD.

Product harmonization according to IHO S-4 and adaptation to changes in S-4 in the Nordic HO's. Finland has harmonized some of the products. There are some differences left for which there's no action plan. Sweden has changed almost every item on the list. Now they are working with red lights on masts and wrecks. Denmark follows S-4 but they have also some national symbols in use. The Faroese charts are new and made according to S-4. The Greenlandic charts use S-4 but they also have some national symbols. Norway hasn't done much with the harmonization. All new editions of Icelandic charts are following S-4. Norway and Iceland are making a new editions of their INT-1.

Quality management systems were reviewed. Norway and Sweden have their certificated QMSs since 2003. Certification has been very helpful for their work. Finland is aiming for a certificate for their quality management system by early 2011. Denmark and Iceland don't have certificate for their quality management system. They use check lists for their data control. They have made a self-developed quality assurance program.

Next meeting

The next meeting is planned to be held in Iceland in 2012.

Actions requested from NHC/55 Conference

The Conference is requested to

- take note on this report
- give guidance, if any, to the future work for the NCPEG.