



56<sup>th</sup> NHC Meeting  
May 21-23, 2012  
Copenhagen, Denmark

## **Draft Minutes**

[May 23, 2012]

Venue: The Danish Royal Academy of Sciences and Letters, Klasseværelset  
Chair: Mr. Sigvard Stampe Villadsen  
Secretary: Ms. Suzanne Slarsky Dael  
Participants: Fourteen representatives from the NHC HOs and IHB, see Doc NHC/56/1B

### **1. Welcome**

The Chair of the meeting, Mr. Sigvard Stampe Villadsen, opened the meeting with a welcome to the Danish Royal Academy of Sciences and Letters.

### **2. Administrative issues**

An update was provided about logistic details.

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

Denmark proposed a reconsideration of the agenda format for future NHC meetings, as there are overlapping agenda items. It was agreed to evaluate the agenda format as an Action Item.

### **4. Status of Action Items decided at the 55<sup>th</sup> NHC Meeting**

The minutes from the 55<sup>th</sup> NHC Meeting were approved.

The Action Items were reviewed. NHC55/1, NHC55/2, NHC55/3, NHC55/7 and NCC55/10 are completed. NHC55/6 was completed during NHC56 proceedings. NHC55/4 and NHC55/5 are ongoing.

NHC55/8 is ongoing. There was a general consensus to delete the action point, and the focus to be placed on the HSSC Data Quality Working Group.

NHC55/9 is ongoing, and a new Action Item was added for a WG meeting to be arranged before the next NHC meeting. Sweden suggested holding the

meeting in January/February 2013, as relevant personnel will be at sea in the autumn months.

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

### 5.1A National Report of Denmark

Denmark described the reorganisation of Danish hydrographic responsibilities from the now closed DAMSA to four existing agencies within the Danish government. The changes were announced in October 2011 and took effect in January 2012. Finland inquired to Danish updates to HELCOM; Denmark described the plan for surveying through 2013.

### 5.1B National Report of Finland

Finland described plans for building a new coastal data layer to cover the Finnish coast; the process is expected to take several years. Similar challenges are being experienced in the Kattegat region between Sweden and Denmark, where Denmark does not have a coastal layer in ENCs. BSICCWG has given responsibility for this discussion onwards to the BSHC, and it was agreed that the BSHC may continue to be the proper venue for a continuation of this discussion. It was agreed that Sweden would prepare a report/request to the BSHC as an Action Item from this meeting.

### 5.1C National Report of Iceland

Iceland informed that survey activities will recommence this year following several years without. In the meantime, conversion of nearly all Icelandic charts to WGS-84 has been conducted. The production of all INT charts and corresponding ENCs has been completed, including three new charts.

### 5.1D National Report of Norway

Norway has launched the Mareano project to expand surveying. There are investigations into the possible launch of a coastal Mareano project to conduct higher quality surveys of parts the Norwegian coastline, 26% of which is covered by modern survey techniques.

Norway described its LEAN project initiative, in which the current data production flow is being analysed for improving efficiency. Work to re-establish contact to the leisure boat market is being undertaken, both in terms of making access to Notice to Mariners easier and of making the possibility of creating an app-based availability to leisure-market oriented ENCs. Denmark is researching the same possibility, and it was discussed whether the Nordic countries could work together to create a de facto standard for a digital product based on ENCs (possibly "official") for the leisure market.

There was a general discussion regarding private companies' launch of digital products for the leisure market, and the need for hydrographic offices to find compromises and pursue win-win solutions. The discussion resulted in an Action Point in which all NHC members will complete a questionnaire on the

development of charts for the leisure market. Denmark will prepare, distribute and collate the questionnaire results for the NHC 57<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 5.1E National Report of Sweden

The Swedish Maritime Agency underwent a major reorganisation in September 2011.

The Mona Lisa project will continue into the coming years, with plans to survey 14.000 km<sup>2</sup>. One of the Service's survey vessels has been sold, and there is an ongoing initiative to evaluate the costs and benefits of outsourcing survey activities to the private sector.

In the Swedish small-craft chart series, a new set of charts has been published for Sydskysten, covering the Swedish southwest coast; these include extracts from Danish charts. Relevant extracts from the Danish Chart Corrections are included in the Swedish Notices to Mariners to assist users in maintaining and updating their charts.

SMA has a remit for 2012-2013 to address the baselines and limits of Swedish maritime territorial boundaries. This may necessitate discussions with neighbouring countries.

It was agreed that, as an action item for NHC 57, Sweden and Finland would prepare reports on their operational and financial strategies for conducting surveys and related outsourcing opportunities.

## **6. Reporting of joint projects**

### 6.1A Status report on Improved Data Exchange Implementation

Sweden, Norway and Finland elaborated on their reports, with focus on the ongoing activities in their implementation plans. Denmark also provided a brief status on the inclusion of the data exchange methods in producing its charts.

Sweden presented the results of the questionnaire, which has indicated a general improvement in data quality in the charts of neighbouring countries. It was agreed as an Action Item that Sweden will draft an agenda for meetings among the members to address ongoing facilitation of data exchange and chart improvement.

It was mentioned that the most recent US-Canada Hydrographic Conference resulted in an agreement on a methodology for co-production of cross-boundary charts, despite the differing market environments in each country. More information can be found in the following online pdf:  
[http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/com\\_wg/IRCC/IRCC3/USCHC%20transboundary%20pacific%20pilot.pdf](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/IRCC/IRCC3/USCHC%20transboundary%20pacific%20pilot.pdf)

## **7. Reporting from working groups, etc.**

### 7.1 NNPWG

Denmark reviewed the results of a NNPWG workshop that was held in conjunction with the BSHC and ARHC in Rostock in December 2011. A survey of mariners and hydrographic offices was conducted for the meeting, and revealed a need for maintaining nautical publications in a more structured database format, and for making nautical publications available to users in more accessible formats.

The challenges in implementing the SNPWG data model approach were underlined at the workshop, and Finland subsequently reported back to SNPWG on the workshop results.

The NHC members agreed that the joint workshop approach should be continued, and an Action Item was added for Denmark to take the initiative in inviting the NHC, ARHC and BSHC members to the next workshop. The workshop should be held in Europe with the option of teleconference participation where necessary.

### 7.2 Chart Harmonisation

Norway and Finland described the work done to harmonise national symbology to INT S-4 standards.

The reports illustrate a high level of achievement, and the NHC members have agreed that reports will not be necessary at future NHC meetings.

## **8. The IHO Work**

As an introduction to this agenda point, there was a discussion and review of the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference and the perspectives for future development of the IHO. The President-Elect of the IHO said that this will include a new approach to growing the profile of the IHO internationally, and preparing easily accessible documentation that can be used in national political environments. It will also include an initiative to increase the IHO membership.

### 8.1 Status of individual working groups

The IHO President-Elect enquired as to the NHC members' interest in participating in the SRWG, in order to provide balance and a wide range of consideration of the issues.

Regarding the future development of ECDIS, the IMO's MSC is expected to take note of recently submitted papers on the display of ENC data. An IHO meeting of ECDIS stakeholders to coordinate submissions to NAV59 in 2013 will be arranged later in the year.

Recent discussions in TSMAD have acknowledged that the adoption of S-101 will not drive the ECDIS market because the new data format will not result in significant additional functions compared to S-57 ENCs. The incentive is

expected to be found in new, value-added layers and features that could be developed primarily by the private sector.

#### 8.2 The relations to other NSHC and BSHC countries

There were no discussions under this agenda point.

#### 8.3 IRCC issues

The chairmanship of the IRCC is currently open. The IHO President-Elect addressed whether any NHC members may be interested in sending a nomination for the position. The group's next meeting, IRCC04, will be held in June 2012.

The NHC's Danish representative to the next IRCC meeting presented the Action Items from the most recent IRCC meeting.

It was agreed NHC will not submit a WEND report to IRCC on ENC coverage, as the NHC area already is covered by other regional commissions.

#### 8.4 Naming way forward

As the Chair of the BSICCWG, Finland has developed an approach to naming regional waters in the Baltic; the members of the BSHC who were present at the NHC meeting supported Finland's approach. It was discussed whether the work could be presented to the North Sea Hydrographic Commission at its next meeting as a proposed way forward from a regional perspective. Sweden will present the item with Denmark's support; this was added as an Action Item from NHC 56.

### **9. Other international activities regarding nautical charting and hydrographic surveying.**

#### 9.1 PRIMAR

A new director has been recruited for Primar.

With the addition of Lithuania to Primar, the Baltic Sea coverage has been expanded. Interest has been expressed in dual membership in both IC-ENC and Primar, which has ramifications for Primar members' dues.

There has not yet been an increase in demand for ENCs as expected due to the requirement for ECDIS that comes into effect in July 2012.

Primar and IC-ENC have worked to find synergies in their activities, which are expected to reinforce RENC harmonisation and to ultimately benefit mariners.

Denmark informed the NHC that it is about to launch an analysis of future options for ENC distribution.

#### 9.2 IMO and IALA

The IHO President-Elect described current IHO-related developments in IALA. He also detailed how the linkages between the IMO and IHO have grown stronger as a result of recent cooperative initiatives through the work of Member States.

#### 9.3 Experiences with the Norwegian Print on Demand solution

Norway provided a detailed update on the implementation of its Print-on-Demand service. The service was tested in 2010 in conjunction with selected distributors. All charts in Norway's main chart series were offered as Print-on-Demand in 2011; the Harbour Charts were added to the service in 2012. There was a discussion about availability and quality assurance of the Print-on-Demand charts.

#### 9.4 New production system for production of Greenlandic charts

Denmark provided a description of its current initiative to launch a new production system for Greenlandic charts. By 2018, the initiative will have resulted in the release of new charts covering the most highly trafficked southwest Greenlandic waters. Implementation of Nautical Solution has proven a challenge, but slow progress is being achieved through close cooperation with ESRI's Danish and global offices. There were comments about the ESRI/Caris decision that Denmark and many other hydrographic offices continue to face. There was also an ensuing discussion about the expected future value of satellite bathymetry. It was agreed that there will be a permanent Action Point on the NHC agenda to follow up on the developments in the field of bathymetric data collection and to consider preparing an input paper on the issue to the next NSHC conference. The IHO President-Elect recommended that the participants consider participating in the annual LiDAR conference at <http://www.conference.co.nz/shallowsurvey>.

#### 9.5 Others

There was no discussion under this agenda item.

### **10. Relations to other (private) nautical charting interests in the Nordic countries**

#### 10.1 Information about lawsuit concerning copying of charts in Denmark

Denmark informed the NHC about the findings of a recent high court trial, the finding of which were announced in April 2012, on a private chart producer's unlicensed use of official chart data. The findings were largely in favour of the Danish national chart producer (KMS), and an appeal has been filed that will result in a trial in autumn 2013.

### **11. Discussion of general trends and policy questions within the area of nautical charting and hydrographic surveying.**

#### 11.1 National policies on restricted access to high resolution bathymetric data

Norway informed the members of challenges regarding access to high-quality bathymetric data. A new Norwegian law has placed responsibility for coastal planning out to 1 nM from the baseline on the coastal communities; this has

placed new requirements on access to classified bathymetric data. The coastal communities, which are unable to access existing high-quality bathymetric data, are instead conducting new, alternative surveys to meet their needs.

Similar challenges are being experienced by all the NHC members.

#### 11.2 Implication for Coastal Zone Management projects

Discussion of this point was included under agenda point 11.1.

#### 11.3 Restrictions experienced in the Nordic countries

Discussion of this point was included under agenda point 11.1.

#### 11.4 Coordination of plans for acquiring hydrographic surveys

Discussion of this point was included under agenda point 11.1.

#### 11.5 Harmonisation of bilateral arrangements with UKHO

Norway addressed current negotiations with the UKHO on royalty rates. Denmark has developed a new royalty model and is negotiating bilaterally with the UKHO. Norway, Sweden and Finland have continued with the existing model, though the negotiations are ongoing regarding the royalty rates.

## **12. Any other business**

### 12.1 MSDI

Denmark reviewed its current approach to MSDI, which is seen as a critical element in improving efficiency among public sector agencies and pursuing marine spatial planning. A business case for MSDI is currently being developed; the business case will examine the potential benefits among public sector agencies due that would result from access to shared maritime according to the INSPIRE principles.

## **13. Next Chairman for NHC. Time, place and preliminary agenda issues for the next annual meeting**

Sweden as the Chairman for the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NHC. Proposed dates of April 15 – 17 2013 will be sent to all members by email.

## **14. Closing of the meeting**

The chair thanked all NHC members for their participation in the 56<sup>th</sup> NHC meeting.