



62nd NHC Conference
10-12 April 2018
Arkö, Sweden

Agenda Item B.7
Review of the NHC Statutes ver 2
Sweden

Review of the NHC statutes

The new structure of IHO came into force 2017 and as a consequence the NHC Statutes should be amended. The adjustments are mainly editorial except for an additional text in “Article 8 Participation to the IHO Council”, which should state the procedure for selecting the NHC representative to the Council. The procedure was drafted and presented already at the NHC60 meeting in Stavanger 2016 but has not yet been included as stated in the minutes from the NHC60:

“B.7 NHC representation in the Council. Rules of procedures

...

A Drafting group was established with the purpose of presenting a proposal for procedures for selection of the representative the following morning. After some discussions, a final version of the procedures was presented. This version was endorsed and will be annexed to the Statutes of NHC.

....”

A proposal (draft) of amended statutes is presented in Annex A in this paper.

Actions required of NHC62

The NHC62 is invited to:

- a) Review the draft statutes
- b) Take any necessary actions needed for the amended statutes to come into force



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Annex A

Statutes of the Nordic Hydrographic Commission (NHC)



Revised ~~October 2014~~ April 2018



—Note:

~~This version contains some references to the amended IHO Convention which was approved in 2005. The relevant provisions will be specified more exactly when more information on the status of approval and more guidance from MB will be available.~~

Article 1. Preamble

Considering that the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is a competent international organization recognized in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

Considering that the IHO has a consultative and technical nature;

Considering that the IHO aims at coordinating on a worldwide basis the setting of standards for the production of hydrographic data and the provision of hydrographic services as well as facilitating capacity building of national hydrographic services; ~~**Considering** that the IHO has approved its amended Convention in 2005, and when this enters into force it has implications to Regional Hydrographic Commissions;~~

Considering the guidance in the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended regarding the Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions;

Considering that the Nordic Hydrographic Commission (NHC) has been established in 1929, and has worked actively and successfully since that;

The Hydrographic Offices of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have agreed to continue the existence of the NHC and to review and update these NHC Statutes.

Article 2. Interpretation

- a) These Statutes are not binding under international law. Activities by Members and Observers under the Statutes are undertaken voluntarily, on a consultative basis, and are subject to the availability of funds. The NHC has no authority over Members.

Article 3. Objectives of the NHC

The NHC has the following objectives:

- a) To promote technical cooperation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography and nautical information;
- b) To facilitate the exchange of information concerning surveys, research or scientific and technical developments and hydrographic activities;



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and

- c) To contribute to the work of the IHO, as found feasible.

Article 4. Membership

- a) Members are the Hydrographic Offices of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Article 5. Chairmanship and Secretary

- a) The NHC Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected at NHC Ordinary meetings.
- b) The Chair should preferably be the head of a Member's Hydrographic Office. The Vice-Chair is normally the deputy of the Chair.
- c) The Chair and Vice-Chair assume their responsibilities from the closing of the Meeting where elected to the closing of the next Ordinary Meeting.
- d) The order of the Chairmanship is Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland.
- e) The Chair is responsible of the Secretary services for the NHC and its Meetings.

Article 6. Meetings

- a) Normally, only Members may participate to the Meetings.
- b) A representative of the ~~IHO Secretariat~~ [International Hydrographic Bureau \(IHB\)](#) shall be invited to Meetings. ~~Note: when the 2005 approved amended IHO Convention enters into force "International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)" will be replaced with "IHO Secretariat".~~
- c) Observers or Stakeholders may participate on Chair's approval, according to the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended.
- d) Ordinary meetings should be held at least twice between IHO ~~Conferences~~ [Assemblies](#). ~~Note: When the 2005 approved amended IHO Convention enters into force Ordinary Meetings should be held at least once between Assemblies.~~
- e) In exceptional cases, the Chair may invite Extra_ordinary meetings.
- f) The Chair is responsible for organising and preparing the Meetings. The Chair conducting a Meeting is responsible for the Minutes of that Meeting.
- g) Working language of the NHC is English.



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- h) In connection to NHC Meetings there may be open forums where Observers or Stakeholders may be invited by the Chair.

Article 7. Decisions and Resolutions

- a) Decisions and Resolutions should be approved as far as possible by consensus amongst the Members.
- b) If voting is needed, each Member has one vote and the decisions will be made by simple majority of votes of all Members.

Article 8. Participation to the IHO Council

- a) The selection of a NHC representative to the IHO Council shall follow the procedures endorsed at the 60th NHC meeting, as stated in Annex A to the NHC Statutes.

Article 9. Working Groups

- a) NHC may establish Working Groups when found feasible.

Article 10. Expenses

- a) All expenses connected to meetings or working groups shall be defrayed by the participants.

Article 11. Enter into force, amendments and abrogation

- a) These Statutes enter into force when signed by all Members.
- b) These Statutes replace all previous NHC statutes.
- c) These Statutes may be amended by consensus decision of the Members.
- d) These Statutes may be dissolved by consensus decision of the Members.
- e) The ~~International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)~~ IHO Secretariat is the repository of these Statutes. ~~Note: when the 2005 approved amended IHO Convention enters into force "International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)" will be replaced with "IHO Secretariat".~~



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Signatures

Monaco, 6 October 2014 xxx, xxXX, xxx.

Member State	Duly authorized representative	Signature
Denmark	Mrs Anne-Sofie Jensen	
Finland	Mr Rainer Mustaniemi	
Iceland	Mr Georg Kr. Lárusson	
Norway	Mr Evert Flier	
Sweden	Mr Patrik Wiberg	

Member State	Duly authorized representative	Signature
Denmark		
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