

Progress report to the 31st conference of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission of the NSHC Re-Survey Working Group

Meetings since NSHC30

The NSHC Resurvey Working Group convened twice. The 3rd meeting happened in November 2012, directly after the conference Hydro12 (Rotterdam). The 4th meeting happened in March 2014, directly before the conference Oceanology International 2014 (London). The two meetings were attended by four and six MS respectively, and by one observer. The formal activities of the WG are listed in Annex 1.

At the end of the 3rd meeting, DE stepped down as the chair of the WG, and NL accepted the chair. NL thanked Thomas Dehling for chairing the WG. DE wished Leendert Dorst success in chairing the WG. The WG does not have a vice-chair or a secretary.

The WG was represented by its chair at the 4th (Brussels, October 2013), 5th (Ostend, February 2014) and 6th (Amsterdam, June 2014) meetings of the EU/IHO WG. The past and present chair cooperated to present the activities of the WG at the 4th Marine sand waves and River Dune Dynamics (MARID) conference, April 2013 in Bruges.

Formal aspects

The WG has considerable overlap with the BE/FR/NL/UK Dover Straight Survey Policy Working Group. The WG recommends merging the activities of the two groups, as soon as the current action items of the DSSP WG allow for this.

The WG is not aware of any Terms Of Reference or Rules of Procedure for its conduct, and requests such Terms and Rules to allow for a more structured business. In order to facilitate this process, the WG created a draft, presented in Annex 2.

Progress

The WG produced a map with bathymetric survey plans and performances for BE, DE, DK, FR, NL and UK, which will be presented during the conference. DE maintains this map, and intends to split the information into a past performance overview (quality of achieved surveys) and a structured planning overview (resurvey policy per area). DE also intends to publish this information online.

NSHC30 tasked the WG to study the current state of optical and radar remote sensing techniques for depth measurement in the North Sea. The WG presents its findings on this topic in a separate paper to NSHC31.

Several MS presented new approaches for their national resurvey policy. BE identified two options to assign resurvey frequencies to their entire CS, based on several parameters, developed in cooperation with Eurosense. NL is starting the SMARTSEA project with such an aim, in cooperation with the Universities of Twente and Delft, Deltares, and Rijkswaterstaat. UK is in contact with the University of New Hampshire to specify a risk of grounding for the CS.

The WG is in contact with the BSHC Resurvey Monitoring WG through DE and DK, which are represented in both groups. The WG also follows progress on the new approach to IHO document C-55.

Planned activities

The WG continues to work on its Action Items, and plans to meet directly before or after the conference Shallow Survey 2015 (Plymouth, September 2015).

Requested actions from NSHC31

The WG requests the 31st conference of the NSHC to:

1. note this progress report, and comment the report as appropriate;
2. decide on the combined or separate future of the Resurvey and Dover Straight Survey Policy WGs;
3. give guidance on the drafting of Terms of Reference.

Annex 1: Action list

Number	Action Item	Responsible	Deadline
1	Provide updated input to the overview of resurvey schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none">- resurvey plan- quality	MS	ongoing
2	Collect the information from MS and build the GIS-files and process combined overviews based on ArcGIS. The updated scheme will be handed over to all MS.	GE	ongoing
3	Provide the data for a publication of the overview on the internet.	GE	Depending on 1
4	Each MS implements a link to the overview or publishes the overview on their website.	MS	Depending on 3
5	Draft terms of reference.	DK	Before the next NSHC meeting (June 2014)
6	Draft answer to NSHC about the applicability of alternative survey techniques.	Chairman	Before the next NSHC meeting (June 2014)

Annex 2: draft Terms of References and Rules of procedure for NSHC Resurvey Working Group

Scope

With reference to NSHC conclusions nos. 28, 89 and 97, and considering the need to monitor the implementation of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission's Member States re-survey plans, the North Sea hydrographic Commission has established the **NSHC Resurvey Working Group (RWG)** with the following terms of Reference and Rules of procedure.

1. Terms of Reference

The NSHC Resurvey Working Group is tasked:

- 1.1 To maintain and develop the North Sea Resurvey Scheme and present it on the internet.
- 1.2 To maintain a resurvey metadata database where applicable.
- 1.3 To follow up the implementation of the Resurvey Scheme.
- 1.4 To identify possible problems and propose solutions or workarounds to them.
- 1.5 To specify and propose updates and changes to the Resurvey Scheme.
- 1.6 To liaise with national Maritime Administrations and other relevant organisations and groups regarding the North Sea Resurvey Scheme.
- 1.7 To monitor and report on the development of aerial and satellite bathymetry.
- 1.8 To report to the NSHC at the conferences, and whenever found necessary.

2. Rules of Procedure

- 2.1 Each member state of NSHC shall nominate a representative to the RWG, if relevant to the scope and terms of reference. The representatives should be experts in the field of hydrographic survey planning.
- 2.2 The RWG shall work mainly by correspondence, preferably by e-mail.
- 2.3 Meetings shall be arranged when found feasible and at least once between two consecutive NSHC conferences. Hosting of the meetings takes turn between the members of the RWG.
- 2.4 The RWG has a Chair and possibly a Vice-Chair.
- 2.5 The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be members of the RWG and are nominated by the NSHC.
- 2.5 With the Chair's approval non-members may attend the MWG meetings.
- 2.6 Decisions should be made by consensus.