



To: NSHC members
CC: Director IHB Mr. Gilles Bessero

NSHC Letter 03/2016
11-03-2016

Subject: Way forward for the conclusions of the NSHC

Dear Colleagues,

In preparation for the 32nd NSHC conference, I studied our conclusion list consisting of 115 items spanning 53 years. I noticed that the conclusions are a mixture of decisions and actions. This makes it difficult to monitor the status. In theory, a decision is active indefinitely. This would promote a perpetual growth of our conclusion list. Even if the decision itself is overtaken by events. In order to focus our managerial attention, I propose to introduce a mechanism to liberate the conclusions of all that has become irrelevant. The basic idea is that the list of conclusions should not be an archive, but a guide to our current and future activities.

There are currently no established definitions of the status indicators. I propose the following set.

- Active. This conclusion focuses on a concrete deliverable in the future.
- Effected. This conclusion has had a result in the past but is still relevant to NSHC activities and/or still requires continuous attention at commission level.
- Obsolete. This conclusion is no longer relevant, has been completed and/or taken over by events or other initiatives, or is outside the remit of the NSHC

As a consequence a number of current 'active' and 'effected' conclusions no longer merit this status and can be reassessed as 'obsolete'. These 'obsolete' conclusions can be removed from the list.

This approach still does not solve the mix of decisions and actions. An alternative is to limit the conclusions to action items only. Decisions can be part of the regular conference reports/minutes. Status indicators could then be the following.

- Open action items. These action items focus on concrete deliverables.
- Continuous action items. These action items are standing activities/responsibilities that are not inherent to the standing responsibilities of the (NSHC) Working Groups.
- Completed or closed action items. These action items do not need individual review at Commission level. Either they are completed, taken over by events, or do not require further action as they are inherent to the standing responsibilities of the (NSHC) Working Groups.

This has the added benefit that 'continuous action' more accurately describes the status than 'effected'.

In the Annex to his letter I have provided a table with a list of the current 'active' conclusions at the start of the 32nd NSHC Conference with a proposed way ahead using the definitions for active, effected and obsolete. Moreover, I have provided a column with the alternative status indicators: open, continuous action and completed or closed. The current 'effected' conclusions all merit a status 'obsolete'. At each NSHC conference a list with extant conclusions and proposed ways ahead can thus be prepared to facilitate our discussions.

I invite you to study my proposal for a way ahead with the conclusions with the aim to make a decision at the upcoming NSHC meeting. In preparation for the 33th NSHC conference the table can consequently be vetted for 'obsolete' conclusions (or 'closed and completed' action items) so that only 'active' and 'effected' conclusions (or 'open' and 'continuous' action items) remain listed. This will lead to a much reduced table and thus an improved focus of our managerial efforts.

Lastly, I intent to discuss only the 'active/open' and 'effected/continuous' conclusions in accordance with Annex A at the 32nd NSHC conference. The column 'Proposed way ahead' also offers status updates on the conclusions.

Yours sincerely,



Captain RNLN Marc C. J. van der Donck
Director Netherlands Hydrographic Office
Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy
Chairman, NorthSea Hydrographic Commission

List of active conclusions at start of 32nd NSHC Conference with proposed way ahead

Legend		
White	Proposed way ahead: Active	Open (action) item (white)
Light grey	Proposed way ahead: Effectuated	Continuous (action) item (light grey)
Light green	Proposed way ahead: Obsolete	Completed or closed (action) item (light green)

Number/ year	Subject	Actions	Proposed Way ahead	Alternative
5/1963	Amendment of Statutes	New article 19	Obsolete. Statutes have been amended.	Completed
11/1968	Amendment of Statutes	New paragraph to article 19	Obsolete. Statutes have been amended.	Completed
15/1968	Submarine Cables in Fisheries Charts	<p>Requests the Royal Danish Hydrographic Office, being the coordinator for the Cartographic Rules for Fisheries Charts,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to suggest a new wording for Rule 10 to effect that the existing symbol for submarine cables shall be printed in a bolder line on fisheries charts and that the word "cable" be more frequently repeated; to suggest a new wording for Rule 11 making optional the charting of fishery limits on fisheries charts; <p>Requests the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau to take up contact with the International Cable Protection Committee in order to acquire accurate positions of submarine cables from them, for dissemination amongst Member States in a form considering most suitable by the Bureau.</p>	Obsolete. Is over taken by event (IHO M-4 and INT 1).	Closed
17/1970	Joint use of electronic position fixing transmitters	Various cooperative actions (planning of locations, co-use, easy procedures, frequency planning, lease constructions)	Obsolete. Is over taken by events (GNSS and various commercial calibration signals).	Closed
28/1973	Resurveying of critical areas	Recommends to its Members to resurvey the critical areas of those lanes as frequently as necessary.	Obsolete Is taken over by decision 89 for RWG.	Closed

Number/ year	Subject	Actions	Proposed Way ahead	Alternative
31/1975	Deep draught shipping versus seabed exploitation activities	Strongly recommends that the interest of this (deep draught) shipping should take precedence over those of seabed exploitation in those parts of the route where they conflict.	Obsolete. Traffic management regulations are in place and not within the remit of the NSHC.	Closed
45/1983	Exploration drilling in the area of the Texel Traffic Separation Scheme	Strongly recommends the establishment and charting of fairway or routing systems through the areas, as recommended in IMO Res A 379 from which oil installations will be excluded.	Obsolete. Traffic management regulations are in place and not within the remit of the NSHC.	Closed
50/1988	Underkeel allowance for deep draught vessels in the Dover Straits and approaches	Recommends that all appropriate Departmental of Transport should urgently provide, for publication by the national Hydrographic Officers, agreed values for UKAs throughout this important area.	Obsolete. Values for UKA not within the remit of the NSHC.	Closed
56/1989	NSHC ad hoc Working group on INT charts and NSHC ECDB	Decides that having completed their work in other respects, the ad hoc working group and its two subgroups shall be disbanded	Obsolete. Now integral to the NSEHWG and Region D ICCWG.	Completed
59/1989	INT Chart Specifications: National Symbology on INT Charts	Requests the IHB to provide impartial monitoring of all printed INT charts and provide Member States with comments of any points of non-compliance in order that a closer compliance may be achieved in future products.	Obsolete. Is over taken by IRRC 7 action 27 and is integral to the work of Region D ICCWG.	Closed
65/1993	Reliability of Charts	Recommends that the IHB address CSC to look into the terms mentioned and to ask CSC to investigate how the source/reliability diagrams best can provide an indication of the reliability of the charts	Obsolete. Is now integral to the work of the Data Quality WG.	Closed
66/1993	Training	Recommends that IHB should act as coordinator for all future assistance to the Baltic States, working closely with BSHC	Obsolete. BSHC is up and running. Mutual assistance is 'natural' through cross membership.	Closed
69/1994	Copyright matters relating to commercial publishers	Resolved to establish before the end of 1994 a harmonised NSHC approach with private companies to utilize similarly structured and worded agreements, embracing the same principles, and to administer dealings with private companies, including the use of the chart publisher as the point of contract.	Obsolete. Is overtaken by RENC's, various licencing arrangements and PSI (depending on the product).	Closed
70/1996	Working group on Copyright and pricing related matters	Implement findings of a report from the Working group on Copyright and pricing related matters and institutionalize it by a TOR.	Obsolete. Is overtaken by RENC's, various licencing arrangements and PSI (depending on the product).	Closed
72/1996	Report of Tidal Working Group	To adopt Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) for Chart Datum in the NSHC region and to encourage its members to implement this adoption at the earliest practicable opportunity and To continue the activities of the TWG	Obsolete. Taken over by conclusion 87.	Closed

Number/ year	Subject	Actions	Proposed Way ahead	Alternative
73/1996	Adoption of WGS84 as a new horizontal datum for horizontal charts in the NSHC-area	To adopt WGS84 as the uniform horizontal reference system for nautical charts with the NSHC area	Obsolete. Has been achieved (mixture of WGS84 and ETRS89).	Completed
75/1998	Co-operation Strategy for European HO's	Recognising that the EU is involving itself in maritime related matters to a greater extent than before, resolve to establish a working group on a co-operation strategy	Obsolete. Taken over by the IENWG.	Closed
76/2000	Report on the Working Group on Copyright and Pricing related Matters	Accepts the report the Copyright Working Group and following the recommendations of the group concludes various action.	Obsolete. Is taken over by RENC's, various licencing arrangements and PSI (depending on the product).	Closed
77/2000	Small craft safety	Conclude to investigate the possibilities for further joint initiatives to meet the demands of the small craft for navigational and information services. Germany is to act as coordinator for this investigation.	Obsolete . [Unclear what the deliverable is . Is there still a problem?]	Closed
78/2002	Digital equivalents meeting SOLAS chapter V carriage requirements	Recommends the HO's of each MS to arrange for their Maritime Administration to notify the IMO of any digital nautical publication they accept as meeting SOALS chapter V carriage requirements and to inform the IHB accordingly.	Obsolete. Procedures for promulgation of digital products have been established.	Closed
80/2004	S-55 Database	Recommends that the IHB, assisted by the S-55 project co-ordinator, develop the IHO's strategy to overcome deficiencies in survey, charting and MSI coverage world-wide, using the S-55 data-base. Resolves that the Hydrographic Offices of the Member States: (1) Use the on-line data-base (www.iho.shom.fr) and draw it to the attention of appropriate national authorities; (2) Put in place a systematic process for regular update of national data in S-55.	Effected. The technical solution is partly taken by events however the intend is in line with action IRCC7/43. Member States are invited to update C-55 annually, even if no change.	Continuous action
82/2010	Amendment of Statutes	New paragraph 3 to article 19	Obsolete. Statutes have been amended.	Completed

Number/ year	Subject	Actions	Proposed Way ahead	Alternative
83/2010	North Sea ENC Harmonization WG	<p>The 29th NSHC Conference recognized the need to study the harmonization of the ENC's within the commission region (INT chart region D) in order to promote increased consistency, common encoding standards and an improved level of ENC quality to better satisfy the needs of the mariner.</p> <p>To progress this task the NSHC 29th Conference established the North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group hereafter referred to as NSEHWG</p>	Obsolete. The NSENCWG had been established and its report of is a standing agenda item at the NSHC conference.	Completed
84/2010	NSHC recommendations to the WEND WG	Various recommendations [<i>minutes are unclear to the extent of the conclusion</i>]	Obsolete. Recommendations have been passed on; are taken over by WEND WG work plan or IRCC action/decisions as appropriate.	Closed
85/2010	International charting coordination working group (ICCWG)	The NSHC members agreed to change the name of NW European charting WG in accordance with the regulations agreed in IHO S 11. The new "North Sea International Charting Coordination working group" will amend their TOR in accordance with S-11, Ed. 2.003, March 2010, Part A, Annex C1 to include the coordination of ENC's in addition to paper charts keeping IHB informed on the changes.	Obsolete. The NS ICCWG has been established and its report of is a standing agenda item at the NSHC conference.	Completed
86/2010	NSHC cooperation with Artic Regional	Decide on border of responsibilities: North border of NSHC and South Border of ARHC	Obsolete. Border is 69° North.	Completed
87/2010	North Sea Tidal WG	<p>NSHC tasked the NSHCTWG with the formulation of recommendations on the ways forward, to create common and unique reference surface for the full North Sea area relative to the ellipsoid, based on the information presented in the annex D to the report of the 17th TWG meeting in Copenhagen in May 2010.</p> <p>NSHC approved the NSHCTWG Terms Of Reference and Work Plan according to the recommendations.</p> <p>TWG are to act as an important stake holder in BLAST WP3.</p>	Active. Tasker to TWG on reference surfaces is still outstanding. An update is expected at the 32 nd NSHC Conference.	Open

Number/ year	Subject	Actions	Proposed Way ahead	Alternative
88/2010	Dover Strait Survey Strategy WG	The NSHC agreed to task the Dover strait survey strategy WG. With the following list of actions : a) to discuss the results of the studies presented on the subject. (all) b) to adopt common dunes characterization criteria (all) c) to discuss on areas of responsibility for survey vs charting (all) d) to implement a survey strategy (each nation) UK call for a working group meeting in Brussels NLT January 2011 (Done. Cf. Email Nigel Sutton 8 Nov. 2010).	Obsolete. Taken over by conclusion 111.	Close
89/2010	NSHC Re-survey WG	NSHC decided to task the NSHC resurvey WG -to complete the overview where applicable. - to publish the scheme on the internet -to propose a way forward to harmonize the presentations of the resurvey schemes and of C55 -to include conclusion 28 "Resurveying of critical areas" in their work program. NSHC Re Survey WG to liaise with Dover Strait Strategy WG for coordination of effort.	Active. Taskers to RWG are still outstanding. An update is expected at the 32 ⁿ NSHC Conference.	Open
90/2010	National civilian hydrographic and charting Program	MS to share at next conference governance principles of their national civilian Hydrographic and charting program	Obsolete. One time event, now completed.	Completed
92/2010	MOU between EU and IHO	FR in cooperation with IHB to coordinate the preparation of the MOU signature meeting	Obsolete. MOU has been signed.	Completed
95/2012	Working Group on Copyright and Pricing related matters	Complements and goals of that working group must be redefined in order to clarify its framework.	Obsolete. Is over taken by RENC's, various licencing arrangements and PSI (depending on the product).	Closed
96/2012	ENCs/charts inconsistencies	Recognizing that it takes significant resources to resolve those issues and that member states needs to work in a common effort under a unique process; All NSHC members agreed on that WEND WG should be asked to elaborate an overall process in order to solve such consistencies, based on the review of the existing UK process.	Obsolete. WEND actions 02/06 and 03/08 apply. UK presented a paper on the evaluation criteria available to assist RHCs and Members States in resolving navigationally significant differences between paper charts and ENCs. Paper is available with WENDWG3 Report.	Completed

Number/ year	Subject	Actions	Proposed Way ahead	Alternative
97/2012	Resurvey Working Group	All NSHC Members was encouraged to participate and present input papers to the new agenda item and in general to contribute to the work with airborne and satellite bathymetry. All NSHC members decide: that satellite bathymetry should be added to the TOR of the Re-survey WG. to add a new agenda item to the standard NSHC agenda dealing with airborne and satellite bathymetry. at the next NSHC Conference in 2014 to discuss short and long term goals and to evaluate on how to proceed with airborne and satellite bathymetry.	Effected. A standing agenda item on airborne and satellite bathymetry is added. At 31th NSHC conference FR presented the status of a study to assess the quality of new approaches of SDB. The Coastal Mapping-project looks into a decision support algorithm for choosing the right survey technique for coastal areas.	Continuous action.
98/2012	Regional Hydrographic Commissions' best practices	NSHC members agreed on that a list of NSHC's best practices shall be provided to the IRCC	Obsolete. The Best Practices paper prepared by UK (doc. IRCC5-03C) with the revisions recommended by the Committee is acknowledged as an important document to guide the IRCC meetings. IHB is asked to incorporate the best practices to the Informal Guidelines for the preparation of IRCC meetings taking into account additional inputs from the meeting.	Completed
99/2012	NSHC work program tasks	The NSHC commission decided that a report progress of relevant tasks is to be provided to the IHO by NSHC Chair by beginning of 2013.	Obsolete. Is now part of yearly NSHC report to the IRCC by NSHC chair.	Completed
100/2012	Participation of industries to RHC	All NSHC members agreed on that industry stakeholders' participation to Regional Hydrographic Commissions is to be considered.	Obsolete. Industry is invited to the open session of NSHC conference as standing procedure.	Completed
101/2012	Revision and amplifications of WEND Principles	NSHC members agreed on to provide written comments concerning annexes B and C of the WEND PRO2 proposal.	Obsolete. Comments given by through UK as NSHC representative at the WEND WG and by individual action (see paper WENDWG 2-10).	Completed
102/2012	Dover Strait Survey Strategy Plan	All NSHC members recommend those member states should complete the annexes of the convention project.	Obsolete. Taken over by conclusion 111.	Close

Number/ year	Subject	Actions	Proposed Way ahead	Alternative
103/2014	Disbanding the EU2MPWG	The Commission decided to: - disband the EU2MPWG - task the Chair of the EU2MPWG to organize a last meeting for winding up the activities and facilitating the transferring of duties to the IHO-EU Network WG	Obsolete. Done, activities taken over by IENWG	Completed
104/2014	Joint European Coastal Mapping Program	The Commission decided that: - The EU2MPWG to ask the IHO-EU Network WG to coordinate the response to the Call for Tender and keep the MS of NSHC informed about the progress.	Active. Will be part of back brief of the NSHC representative in the IENWG at the 32 ⁿ NSHC Conference.	Open
105/2014	The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)	The Commission expects: -that the IHO-EU-Network-WG will succeed to designate a Member State of one of the most active European RHCs as [Co-]leader of the Consortium to coordinate its establishment in cooperation with the commercial project management provider and to draft the response to the tender assisted by the regional coordinators if this necessity arises.	Active. Will be part of back brief of the NSHC representative in the IENWG at the 32 nd NSHC Conference.	Open
106/2014	Extended Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure WG	The Commission recognize a need for a coordinated approach for the North Sea area. As several MS are represented in either IHO MSDIWG or BSHC MSDIWG or both, the Commission concluded that to set up a separate MSDI WG under the NSHC was not expedient. To build on and benefit from the progress of the work done within BSHC would be favorable. The Commission decided that: - The Chair of NSHC to send a letter to the Chair of BSHC requesting to include participation from NSHC MS in the existing BSHC MSDI WG.	Obsolete. Letter CZSK/2015003590, BSHC/MSDIWG, dd 10 September 2015 refers (NOTAL). BSHC/NSHC Baltic Sea and North Sea MSDI Working Group (BSNSMSDIWG) chaired by DK has been established up by decision at BSHC20.	Completed
107/2014	INSPIRE	Members are invited to give a national status report on implementation along the lines of the following questions: <input type="checkbox"/> What do Members consider INSPIRE data? <input type="checkbox"/> Are web services available? <input type="checkbox"/> Are online metadata available already? <input type="checkbox"/> Other remarks	Active. Is now taken up as task 4 of the BSNS-MSDIWG work plan. Back brief to follow at the 32 nd NSHC Conference. .	Open
108/2014	Re-use of ENC information	Decision. To encourage the RENCs to propose technical and licensing solutions that support non-SOLAS users and non-navigational purposes.	Obsolete. Issue has been addressed at IC-ENC SC and PAC. Follow on action is within RENC's remit.	Completed
109/2014	RENC presentation at 5th EIHC	Decision. The Chairs of the two RENCs to be asked to give a joint presentation of the RENCs at the next EIHC.	Obsolete. Joint presentation has taken been given..	Closed

Number/ year	Subject	Actions	Proposed Way ahead	Alternative
110/2014	Presentations	Decision: The Commission encouraged everyone to submit presentations to the Chair in advance of a meeting in order to make them available for all participants.	Effected. Request will be part of the a the outline agenda for the 32th NSHC	Continuous action
111/2014	Merging of the Dover Strait Survey Strategy WG and the Re-survey WG	The Commission recommends a merging of the Dover Strait Survey Strategy WG and the Resurvey WG and task NL to lead the process.	Action. By letter CZSK/2015002956, NSHC Resurvey WG, dd. 15 July, the merge has been effected (NOTAL). The paperwork still needs to be fully aligned. Will be part of RWG feedback in 32 nd NSHC Conference	Open
112/2014	Risk assessment	Decision. The Re-survey WG to undertake a risk assessment analysis for the North Sea area, including the Dover Strait.	Active. Awaiting feedback from chair of RWG at 32 nd NSHC conference.	Open
113/2014	NSHC Website	Decision. Accept the offer from DE and create a website for NSHC, based on the available solution from BSHC.	Effected. Website is hosted by BSH. It now needs to be populated further with information, e.g. from the various NSHC WG's.	Continuous action
114/2014	NSHC meeting partly closed	Decision. The Chair to consider making a part of the NSHC Conference open to Member States only, depending of the agenda items	Obsolete. NSHC letter 01/2016 refers. First day of 32 nd NSHC is MS only.	Completed
115/2014	Contact person for the MSDI WG	Decision. Each Member State to inform the Chair/Vice-Chair of the IHO MSDI WG of a national contact person for MSDI matters.	Active. Back brief by the BSNSMSDIWG at the 32 nd NSHC conference.	Open