



To: NSHC members

NSHC Letter 05/2016  
26-04-2016

**Subject: Preparation for IRCC8**

Dear colleagues,

I am currently preparing to represent our region during IRCC8 in Abu Dhabi, 29 to 31 May. The meeting documents are/will be available at [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int). I invite you to provide me with your thoughts on those if so desired, keeping each other abreast. In paragraph 5 of the NSHC report to IRCC8 I have already formulated the actions taken by the NSHC in response to the IRRC actions that are applicable to our region (enclosed for your convenience).

There is one new document that especially deserves our attention. It concerns a paper submitted by the Japanese Hydrographic Office on behalf of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC). It invites IRCC8 to request IBSC to reconsider the Cat. A syllabus for Hydrographic Surveyors that already hold a Cat. B certification. Japan sent out an email with their paper to all chairs of regional hydrographic commissions and asks for support. I am currently inclined to provide such support on behalf of our region.

The FIG/IHO/ICA Standards of Competence are an important element to build and maintain our hydrographic capacities. The IBSC certification program contributes to the attraction of our profession. The future of all our hydrographic offices depends on our ability to attract talented staff and to stimulate their continuous growth, for example from Cat. B to Cat. A surveyor. I agree with EAHC that the current Cat. B/Cat. A structure potentially creates unnecessary obstacles for Cat. B surveyors to reach Cat. A status. Their proposal still aims for the same professional standards (end terms), but offers a more flexible and efficient way to reach them. In that sense, it complements the current structure nicely.

Please find attached the paper as an enclosure to this letter. Could you study the paper and give me feedback on it, if any? I will include your feedback in my contributions to IRCC8.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Marc C. J. van der Donck'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

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

CC: Mr. Gilles Bessero (Director IHB)  
Mr. David Wyatt (Assistant Director IHB)

## North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC) report to IRCC8-2016

Submitted by the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy, 8 February 2016

### 1. chair and vice-chair:

chair: Marc van der Donck (NL) from September 2014

vice-chair: Declan Black (IE) from June 2014

### 2. membership:

BE, DE, DK, FR, IE, IS, NL, NO, SE, UK

### 3. meetings:

32nd Conference: Dublin (IE), 21-23 June 2016

### 4. Working Groups:

- North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group (NSEHWG, chaired by UK) and Region D International Chart Coordination Working Group (ICCWG, chaired by UK)
- BSHC/NSHC Baltic Sea and North Sea MSDI Working Group (BSNSMSDIWG, chaired by DK):  
At BSHC20 it was decided to expand the BSHC MSDIWG to also include MS from the NSHC and as a consequence the name was changed to Baltic Sea and North Sea MSDIWG.
- Resurvey Working Group (RWG, chaired by NL), including the former Dover Straight Survey Policy Working Group (DSSPWG of BE, FR, NL, UK):  
NSHC agreed by correspondence to transfer the work of the Dover Straight Survey Policy Agreement to the RWG.
- Tidal Working Group (TWG, rotating chair, currently NL)

### 5. Status of relevant IRCC actions

In order to identify the NSHC actions to be taken, they are marked with a colour code.

- Open action items: These action items focus on concrete deliverables.
- Continuous action items: These action items are standing activities/responsibilities not inherent to the responsibilities of the Working Groups (Terms of reference).
- 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 responsibilities of the Working Groups (Terms of Reference).

| legend  |
|---|
| open action item (white)                      |
| continuous action item (light grey)           |
| completed or closed action item (light green) |



| Action identifier | IRCC action description <sup>1</sup>  | IRCC status    | Actions taken by NHSC   |
|-------------------|---|----------------|---|
| IRCC7/01          | Pending applications for IHO membership   | permanent      | Not applicable, all relevant HOs are a member.  |
| IRCC7/02          | Ratification of the IHO Convention by pending applicants  | permanent      | Not applicable, all MS have ratified. (BE has in September 2015 submitted the approval at the embassy of Monaco in Paris. BE is waiting on a receipt by the depositary of Monaco.)  |
| IRCC7/03          | Participation of stakeholders   | permanent      | Stakeholders participate on a regular basis. The next Conference will consist of an open and a closed session, to accommodate the various needs.  |
| IRCC7/05          | Progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme                                   | permanent      | See separate document " <i>North Sea Hydrographic Commission report to IRCC8-2016 on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme</i> ".   |
| IRCC7/07          | Estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators     | permanent      | Estimated values as of 31 December 2015 and target values for 31 December 2017 are given in the separate document " <i>North Sea Hydrographic Commission report on estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators for the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015</i> ". The indicators are complemented by comments on the difficulties encountered and suggestions for a way forward. |
| IRCC7/08          | Attendance of GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs                             | permanent      | Cooperation takes place through the Bathymetry Lot of the EMODNet project. GEBCO will be invited to NHSC32.   |
| IRCC7/09          | Promotion and cooperation relating to Satellite Derived Bathymetry                                      | permanent      | The NSHC Resurvey Working Group is monitoring developments, and it is a regular agenda item for NSHC Conferences.   |
| IRCC7/15          | Material provided to IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies                                     | permanent      | MS are encouraged to provide materials.   |
| IRCC7/17          | Encourage English language training   | permanent      | Not applicable, staff at all HOs is able to speak English   |
| IRCC7/18          | Facilitate resolution of inconsistencies between charts   | permanent      | Is part of standing NSEHWG and ICCWG activities   |
| IRCC7/19          | Encourage using risk assessments to establish survey priorities   | permanent      | Facilitated by the RWG  |
| IRCC7/20          | Provide input on possible sources of CB funding   | input expected | To be discussed at NSHC32   |
| IRCC7/26          | Report on status of procedures to select representatives to the Council                                 | ongoing        | To be discussed at NSHC32   |
| IRCC7/27a         | Task new INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition of first INT Chart to ICCWG                | ongoing        | Not applicable, no new INT Chart Producer Nations   |
| IRCC7/27b         | Task ICCWG to manage the review of first edition of first INT Chart of a new INT Chart Producer Nations | ongoing        | Not applicable, no new INT Chart Producer Nations   |

<sup>1</sup> The action descriptors were shortened for ease of reading. For the full description, reference is made to the IRCC Action list.



| Action identifier | IRCC action description <sup>1</sup>   | IRCC status                    | Actions taken by NHSC  |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| IRCC7/27c         | Task INT Chart Producer to provide first and new editions of INT Charts to ICCWG 3 months prior to NSHC Conference   | ongoing                        | Facilitated by ICCWG   |
| IRCC7/27d         | Task ICCWG to transfer submitted INT charts to IHB   | ongoing                        | Facilitated by ICCWG   |
| IRCC7/27e         | Task MS to update list of online chart catalogues  | ongoing                        | Facilitated by ICCWG   |
| IRCC7/28          | Implement procedure for new editions of INT Charts and report review processes for review of first edition of first INT Chart of a new INT Chart Producer Nation |                                | Not applicable, no new INT Chart Producer Nations  |
| IRCC7/33          | Instruct ICCWG to investigate improved communication across the regions  |                                | Facilitated by ICCWG   |
| IRCC7/41          | Consider incorporating hydrography in more comprehensive maritime projects   |                                | MS are encouraged to incorporate hydrography in more comprehensive maritime projects.  |
| IRCC7/42          | Invite MS to update C-55 annually  | input expected                 | MS are invited to update C-55 annually.  |
| IRCC7/43          | Provide access to IHB to CB promotional material   | input expected                 | MS are invited to share CB promotional material to the IHB as displayed at the EIHC 5 CB exhibition.                                       |
| IRCC7/44a         | Provide technical visits summary reports   | permanent                      | Not applicable, no technical visits  |
| IRCC7/44b         | Provide technical visits full reports  | permanent                      | Not applicable, no technical visits  |
| IRCC7/44 bis      | Provide technical visits full reports for 2014   | ongoing                        | Not applicable, no technical visits  |
| IRCC7/48          | Consider nominating regional MSDIWG representatives  | input expected                 | To be discussed at NSHC32.   |
| IRCC7/52          | Continue supporting GEBCO regional projects  | permanent                      | Cooperation takes place through the Bathymetry Lot of the EMODNet project.   |
| IRCC7/53          | Remind HOs of request to give GEBCO access to shallow water bathymetric data   |                                | HOs are reminded to give GEBCO access to bathymetric data.   |
| IRCC7/56          | Provide comments on relevance of information overlay services  | expected via Action WENDWG5/01 | Action is paused as the issue is still under consideration of the WEND WG (overlay services as AIO). See also decision 27 agreed at IRRC7. |
| IRCC7/62          | Consider providing IHO representatives at international meetings   | input expected                 | MS are encouraged to provide IHO representatives at international meetings.  |

## 6. Agenda items

Some relevant items of NSHC31-2014 are:

### WP1 - Corporate affairs

ratification of the protocol of amendments to the IHO; European Union (JECMaP, EMODNet, PSI Directive); EIHC5

### WP2 - Hydrographic Services and Standards

vertical references (Tidal WG); airborne and satellite bathymetry; crowd-sourced bathymetry; MSDI (BSNSMSDIWG); INSPIRE; S-100 series

WP3 - Interregional Coordination and Support  
Capacity Building; WEND and RENCs; Region D ICCWG and ENC Harmonization WG;  
C-55; Dover Straight Survey WG and Resurvey WG; data acquisition and processing;  
NSHC internet site

#### 7. cooperation with other organizations

See Element 1.1 in separate document "*North Sea Hydrographic Commission report to IRCC8-2016 on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme*".

#### 8. Conclusions

NSHC focuses on the following topics:

1. shared progress to reach an up to date bathymetric coverage of the North Sea, taking into account resurvey strategies for dynamic areas and emerging survey methods (LIDAR, SDB, CSB);
2. shared experiences relating to Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures, notably through establishing a BSHC/NSHC MSDI Working Group;
3. shared progress on the establishment of vertical reference frames, including national Chart Datums, references suitable for the coastal zone, and Ellipsoidally Referenced Surveying.
4. The online publication of the North Sea Bathymetry Database at the new web site of NSHC, in order to (a) contribute to the further development of EMODNet, (b) assist in survey prioritization, and (c) make data available to society in line with the PSI Directive.

#### 9. Achievements and lessons learned

The level of cooperation is excellent and progress on the three topics of the Conclusion is satisfactory, although the region needs to accept a limited survey capacity (topic 1), and lacks an international initiative to establish a consistent set of vertical references for the entire North Sea area (topic 3).

#### 10. Actions required from IRCC

- a. note the report, including the status of the relevant action items;
- b. discuss interregional solutions to mitigate the limited survey capacity;
- c. discuss interregional solutions to establish a consistent set of vertical references for entire sea areas.

#### 11. Acknowledgements

DE, DK, FR, IE and UK are kindly acknowledged for their useful feedback.

Marc van der Donck, Captain RNLN  
NSHC Chair

**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC8),  
Abu Dhabi, UAE, 29 - 31 May 2016**

**Paper for Consideration by IRCC8**

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Submitted by :</b>     | Japan   |
| <b>Executed Summary:</b>  | This paper invites a consideration by IRCC8 to request IBSC to discuss syllabus of Cat. A for Hydrographic Surveyors for the Cat. B holder. |
| <b>Related Documents:</b> | IHO Publication S-5, Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors   |
| <b>Related Project:</b>   | IBSC  |

**Introduction**

1. Syllabus of the Category A and B for Hydrographic Surveyors has been discussed and reviewed by FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC). The recommended syllabus by IBSC has been published as the IHO Publication S-5, Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors.
2. IBSC has been reviewing a proposed training program and scheme submitted by Hydrographic Offices, institutions and learned bodies to recognize it Category A or B. As of October 2015, there are 30 training programmes have been recognized in 26 countries as Category B for Hydrographic Surveyors and 21 training programmes for Category A in 16 countries.
3. Minimum duration of certifying programme for the IBSC Categories are presently requested as below;

**Category B** should be in the order of twenty four (24) weeks (without exemptions sought). In case exemptions are sought, this period can be reduced accordingly, but no less than sixteen (16) weeks.

**Category A** should be one (1) year: two full semesters plus field training.

**Discussion**

4. IBSC doesn't consider at present that Category B is as a pre-requisite for Category A. But, in cases where a Category A programme is preceded immediately prior by a Category B programme then time frames for the Category A programme may take into account the time devoted to the Category B programme.
5. In the present IBSC scheme, every applicant, even if he/she has the certification of Category B, should finish all curriculum of the Category A programme with other applicants who might not have any knowledge and skill on hydrographic survey. Normally, the Category B holder is a leading surveyor in each organization. Therefore it can be hard for applying organization to send him/her to the Category A programme for 1 year or longer, thought there is a need to foster him/her as the Category A hydrographic surveyor.

**Conclusion and Recommendation**

6. In this context, it should be proposed to develop a Syllabus of Category A for Category B holder with shorter period than the present Category A programme possibly for twenty four weeks as its minimum duration.
7. Field work experience for more than two or three years could be requested to applicant for this proposed programme. Having this requirement for applicant, it would be expected another advantage that hydrographic surveyor who has completed this training programme would be one with the same practical ability as other surveyor who has completed a normal Category A

programme has.

**Justification and Impacts**

8. The 3<sup>rd</sup> East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) Steering Committee Meeting, Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, 24-26 February reviewed and discussed the necessity to create syllabus of Cat. A for Hydrographic Surveyors for the Cat. B holder and agreed to submit this proposal to the next meeting of Inter-Regional Coordination Committee in Abu Dhabi, UAE, 29 - 31 May 2016.

**Action required of IRCC8**

9. The IRCC8 is invited to:
  - a. Note this paper,
  - b. Discuss a necessity to create syllabus of Cat. A for Hydrographic Surveyors for the Cat. B holder by IBSC and,
  - c. Agree to request IBSC of the discussion on this issue.

-----