

35TH MEETING OF THE NORTH SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NSHC35)

Reykjavik, Iceland, 5 & 6 April

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022

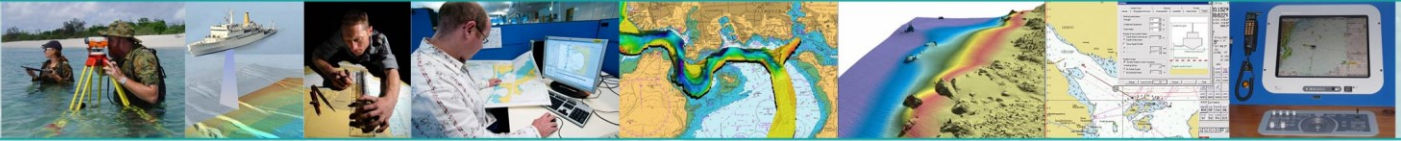
Task 3.2.1.	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: NSHC
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The 35th Meeting of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC35), initially planned to be held in March 2020, then partly substituted by VTC meetings in the interim because of COVID, was finally held on 5 to 6 April 2022 in Reykjavik, Iceland.

The meeting was chaired by Árni Þór Vésteinsson (Iceland). Twenty-seven delegates from ten Member States (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherland, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom) participated in the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Secretary-General Dr Mathias Jonas.



Group photo of the participants at the NSHC35 Meeting



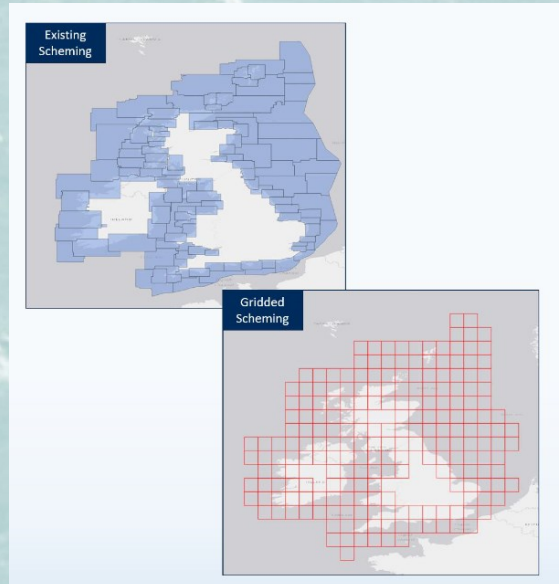
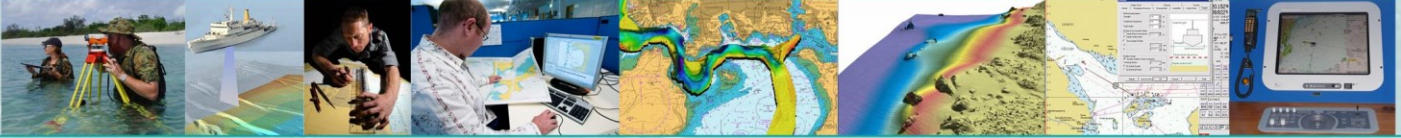
The meeting commenced with welcome words by Georg Lárusson, Director General of the Icelandic Coast Guard and the IHO Secretary-General provided his opening remarks. The meeting proceeded with the approval of the agenda and the matters arising from the previous NSHC34 Meeting and the respective list of actions.

Secretary-General Dr Jonas reported on the general arrangements of the IHO and operations of the IHO Secretariat. He continued with some statistics on Member States participation to IHO subordinate bodies during the pandemic lock down and the resulting progression made in terms of the IHO Work Plan with an impact on Regional Hydrographic Commissions. He reminded the main goals of the IHO Strategic Plan and S-100 Roadmap and the task set on the Member States to proceed with their implementation. The Secretary-General also invited the NSHC to examine its respective instruments to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2.

The Commission devoted a good amount of time on the first day to discuss “what does the future have in store for hydrography and where do MS wish to see IHO in few years’ time”. Based on a presentation given by the Secretary-General, the commission agreed that new technology in data acquisition and management, in combination with an ever growing request for customized hydrographic information, will leverage the need for new data services under the data centricity paradigm. As a result of this discussion and the associated Agenda items the Commission expressed its commitment to be ambitious in developing regional data services based on matured IHO S-1xx data product specifications for navigational use. The targeted launch date will be mid-2025. The NSHC also confirmed to strive for harmonisation across the package of S-1xx products to support the increased use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society. These will be distributed, where appropriate, through navigational service channels or other appropriate regional data service providers.

As an amending action, NSHC, coordinated through Belgium, will launch a questionnaire to identify, in addition to S-101 by 2025, which other S-1xx products can be available for production, maintenance, and service provision by MS as part of a regional package. The questionnaire will help to identify the scope of the initial package (e.g., S-101, S-104, S-111, etc.) and, in the best case, a regionally aligned delivery timeline. The outcome of the questionnaire will be shared for consideration by NSHC Member States to finally form a proposal if and how data services for the named S-1xx products can be installed for the region.

The Commission noted and discussed numerous reports of subordinate regional bodies such as the North Sea International Chart Committee, Tidal Working group, Resurvey Working group, the Baltic Sea North Sea MSDI WG and the North Sea WEND WG. A notable implementation of the suggestions of the overarching IHO WEND WG was the implementation of a gridded ENC scheme in German and British waters which may serve as best practice example for other regions.



Planned rescheming of ENCs covering British territorial waters

The Commission finally endorsed the proposal for establishment of a Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Working Group becoming part the NSHC portfolio of subordinate bodies to address the substantial changes in terms of transmission technology information packaging these services are currently facing.

At the end of the meeting Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden) took over the role of Chair from Árni Þór Vésteinsson (Iceland).

According to the new regime of the Commission approved by the previous meeting (NSHC34), the next NSHC meeting will be conducted as VTC and is scheduled to 29-30 March 2023.