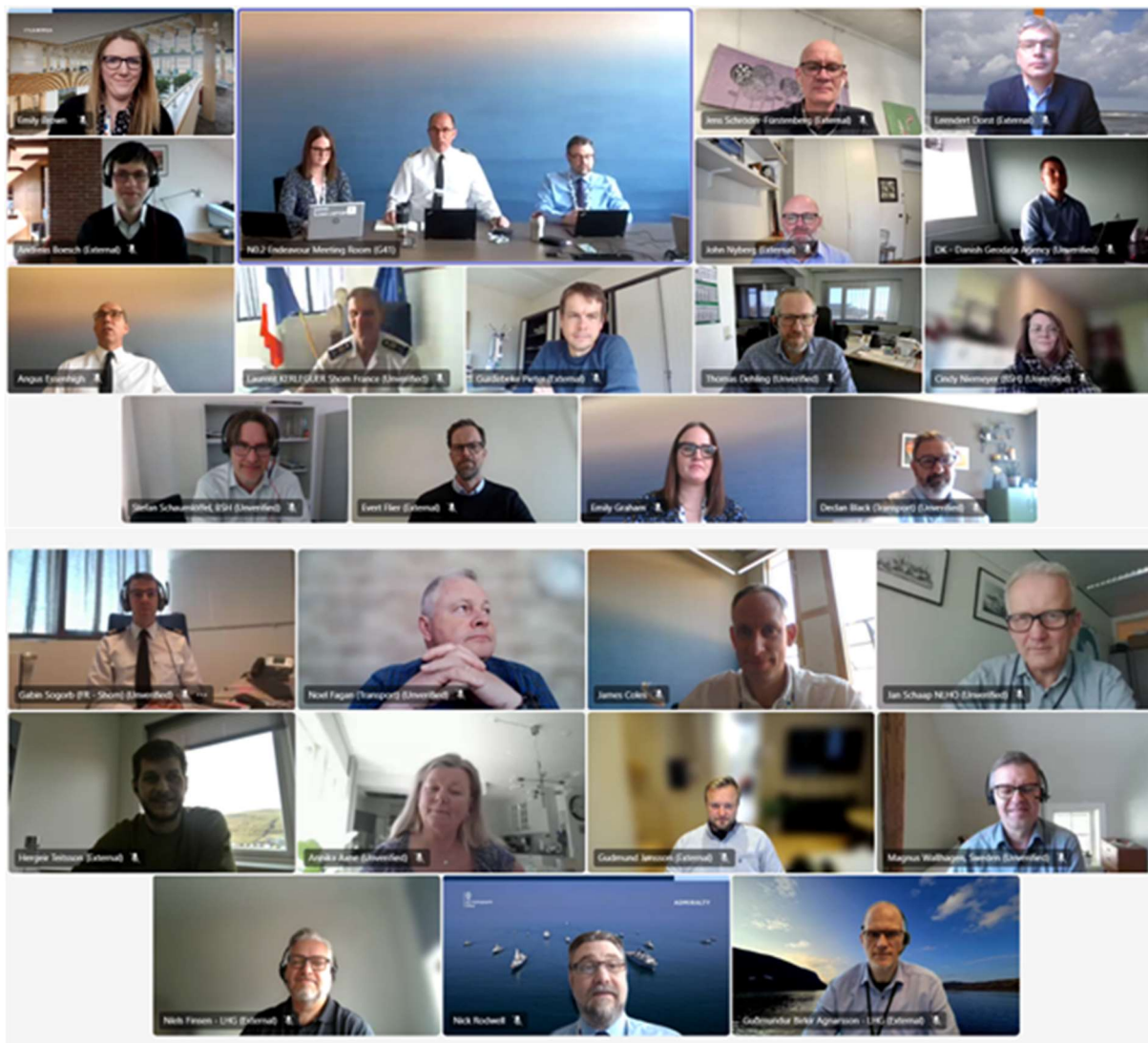


Draft Minutes

38th North Sea Hydrographic Commission

8-9 April 2025



Contents

Opening remarks and welcome	3
1.1 Approval of the Agenda	3
1.2 Matters arising from Minutes of NSHC37	3
1.3 Review of NSHC37 Actions list.....	3
1.4 NSHC Statutes review	4
2.1 IHO Secretariat Report.....	4
2.2 Progress and Plan IHO Portal.....	4
2.3 Council 8 Report.....	5
3.1 HSSCI 6 Report.....	5
3.2 Centre for Seabed Mapping.....	5
3.3 Status and Continuation of the Re-Survey Working Group	6
3.4 Ocean Observation Initiative	6
Resurvey Discussion	6
3.5 Advancements in Satellite Aided Mapping.....	6
3.6 Report of the Tidal Working Group.....	7
3.7 Sample Production of S-127 Data Set	7
4.1 Actions Requested of IRCC	7
4.2 NHSC Input to the IHO Strategic Plan.....	7
4.3 IHO-EU Network Report.....	8
MSDI Ambassador Update.....	8
4.4 Report of the North Sea MSI Working Group	8
4.5 Report of the NSHC representative to WENDWG	8
4.6 Report of the North Sea INT Charting Coordination Working Group.....	9
4.7 Report of the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee, including report of EWH ..	9
4.8 Sea Ranger Service.....	9
4.9 Status CSB/GEBCO/Seabed 2030	10
4.10 EMODNet Bathymetry Report	10
4.11 NSHC Website	10
4.12 Report of Baltic Sea e-Nav project	10
4.13 NSHC IHR Report	11
4.14 ECS PT Update.....	11
5.0 S-100 Trials Update	11
AOB.....	11
6.0 Summary of Actions from NSHC38	12
Details of NSHC39.....	12
Annex A – NSHC38 Actions and Decisions.....	13

NSHC38 Day 1 - Tuesday 8 April 2025

Opening remarks and welcome

Chair, RAdm Angus Essenhigh OBE (UK) welcomed attendees to the virtual 38th meeting of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission, his first as Chair. He thanked Magnus Wallhagen (SE) as previous Chair. He noted the long history of the commission, established in 1962, and its role as one of the most mature regional hydrographic commissions. The chair expressed high expectations for a fruitful and stimulating conversation, acknowledging the excellent standards set by previous hosts, Sweden, and the unique position of the commission members as leaders in the S-100 space. He welcomed new attendees and asked all to introduce themselves.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

The Chair commented that the draft agenda had been circulated prior to NSHC38, and all requests and comments had been incorporated. The Chair invited any additional comments, inputs, questions for the agenda.

Thomas Dehling (DE): Requested to provide an update on MSDI, as Germany is the MSDI Ambassador for NSHC. This was added to the agenda.

Following these comments the agenda was approved.

Decision 1: Approval of the NSHC38 agenda

Document: Agenda

1.2 Matters arising from Minutes of NSHC37

The NSHC37 minutes had been shared after NSHC37 by previous Chair Magnus Wallhagen (SE). These were recirculated by the NSHC Secretary in advance of NSHC38. No correspondence had been received prior to NSHC38 and there were no comments from the floor.

Decision 2: Approval of NSHC37 Minutes as final.

Document: NSHC37 Minutes

1.3 Review of NSHC37 Actions list

Emily Graham (UK), NSHC Secretary, gave an overview of the actions from NSHC37, that were circulated to NSHC Members in advance of NSHC38. Several actions had been updated by members in advance. Emily outlined that the UK as Chair proposed that the continuous actions are moved to an Annex of the NSHC Statutes. A proposal for this would be shared in advance of NSHC39.

Action 1: NSHC Secretary to share draft proposal regarding continuous actions moving to an annex of the statutes. To be shared prior to NSHC39, to be voted on at NSHC39.

Document: NSHC37 Actions Updated

1.4 NSHC Statutes review

The NSHC statutes were circulated in advance of NSHC38 to invite comments or amendments. No comments were received in advance or during this agenda item. The 2024 Statutes remained unchanged. The Chair reiterated the intention to amend them at NSHC39.

Decision 3: NSHC Statutes are approved.

Document: Statutes

2.1 IHO Secretariat Report

John Nyberg (IHO) provided an update from the IHO Secretariat. He highlighted the progress on S-100 standards, noting that most phase one standards; S-101, S-102, S-104, S-111, S-124, S-128, S-129 and S-158 had successfully been progressed to operational versions. He thanked members for their swift voting and emphasised the importance of continuing to vote swiftly and responding to Circular Letters as Phase Two begins.

John discussed IHO and IMO collaboration. He highlighted the upcoming workshop with the IMO in May ahead of NCSR. This workshop was seeking to bring together a diverse group, including industry representatives. The focus would be on explaining distribution aspects and facilitating discussions among experts. If successful, this approach could be continued in the future to improve stakeholder engagement.

John mentioned various capacity-building opportunities and encouraged members to share these opportunities with others around the world, highlighting the importance of training and development in hydrography.

John provided details about the upcoming UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France, and encouraged members to work with their national delegations to attend and promote hydrography at the event.

John gave an update on the development of the IHO Infrastructure Centre, including the selection of a new office building in Busan, Republic of Korea, and the ongoing work to establish the centre and its funding mechanisms.

The presentation highlighted that the new IHO portal was now live. John outlined how all documents were being migrated to the portal. He encouraged users to send any questions or suggestions for improvements, referencing Circular Letter 44 of 2024 for submitting comments.

Actions requested of NSHC: Note the report and consider recommendations.

Action 2: Member States to consider submitting feedback to the IHO on the Portal.

Documents: IHO Report Presentation

[CL44](#)

2.2 Progress and Plan IHO Portal

This was included in the IHO Secretariat Presentation.

2.3 Council 8 Report

The Council 8 report presentation was delivered by Thomas Dehling (DE.)

Council 8 took place in Monaco, 15 – 17 October 2024.

Thomas noted that Council was well-attended demonstrating the maturity of the Council's work. He highlighted the Strategic Plan Review, noting the tight timeline and the good representation from the North Sea Hydrographic Commission within the Strategic Plan Review Working Group. He discussed the importance of the UN Ocean Conference and the decision to move the IRCC meeting to coincide with the conference, providing an opportunity for high-level engagement and promotion of hydrography. He mentioned the first Ex Abyssis ad Alta Award, presented to Yves Guillam for his significant contributions to hydrography.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the report.

Document: Council 8

3.1 HSSC I 6 Report

Magnus Wallhagen (SE), HSSC Chair, provided an update on the upcoming HSSC I 7 scheduled for May 2–8 in Stavanger, Norway. Magnus discussed the progress on S–I 00 standards, noting that phase one standards were ready for production. He then highlighted the ongoing work on phase two standards including: Marine Protected Areas, radio services, traffic management, and harbour information. Magnus emphasised the importance of discussing the establishment of the IHO Infrastructure Centre at HSSC I 7, encouraging members to provide their input and support for the initiative. Magnus highlighted the collaboration with the IMO on data distribution and global IP-based connectivity for S–I 00 products, noting the approval of the work item by MSC I 09 and the upcoming discussions at NCSR I 2. Magnus mentioned the development of future standards, including the S–I 30 standard for sea areas, and encouraged members to support the endorsement of these standards at HSSC I 7.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the report.

Document: HSSC Presentation

3.2 Centre for Seabed Mapping

Nick Rodwell (UK) presented on the UK's Centre for Seabed Mapping's Planning Information Portal (PIP), which had been created to promote collaboration amongst members of the CSM. The PIP tool showed planned surveys with the contact details for those conducting the survey and proposed survey boundaries. The UK suggested that they could investigate the tool's utility for the NSHC region.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Action 3: UK to investigate the Centre for Seabed Mapping Planning Information Portal as an option for survey planning in the NSHC region.

Document: CSM Presentation

3.3 Status and Continuation of the Re-Survey Working Group

Leendert Dorst (NL) provided a chronological history of the Re-Survey Working Group. He then presented a matrix of possible outcomes for the future of the re-survey working group ranging from disbandment, dormancy and re-starting. This was then discussed under re-survey discussions.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Action 4: NL and UK to evaluate potential tools for coordinating re-survey work in the NSHC region.

Decision 4: The re-survey working group will remain dormant whilst potential options are explored by the UK and NL.

Document: Future of RWG

3.4 Ocean Observation Initiative

Andreea Strachinescu from the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries presented on the Ocean Observation Initiative. Andreea emphasised the need for better coordination among EU Member States to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of ocean observation. Andreea discussed the development of a platform for EU Member States to upload their observation plans, aiming to improve transparency, coordination, and synergies in ocean observation activities. Andreea mentioned the establishment of an expert group on ocean observation, which had held three meetings to date, to support the development and implementation of the platform and improve collaboration among Member States.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Resurvey Discussion

There were a range of opinions on the future of the re-survey working group. Several members suggested that whilst having these tools is excellent, without the Member States' buy in and willingness to use them, the utility is diminished. Several suggested the question should be 'do people have the capacity and energy to put into this group to reinvigorate it?' The discussion was left as follows: the UK would explore the PIP tool to check utility for the NSHC region and Leendert would continue to update the group on the EU's Ocean Observation Initiative tool progress.

3.5 Advancements in Satellite Aided Mapping

Lasse Mondberg Schwenger (DK) provided an update on the ongoing satellite-based mapping project in Greenland, focusing on coastline, intertidal areas, and shallow water mapping. He emphasised the importance of human verification and the use of ENC data as a reference. Lasse shared exploratory work on satellite-aided change detection, highlighting the use of the open EOAPI. Lasse mentioned the development of QGIS tools for mapping water extent in Lake Walter, Ghana, and the upcoming workshop to present the products and tools to the Ghana Maritime Authority.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Document: Advancements in Satellite-Aided Mapping

3.6 Report of the Tidal Working Group

Andreas Boesch (DE) Chair of the Tidal Working Group presented the report of the Tidal Working Group, covering topics such as LAT and geodetic reference systems, S-104 and S-111 implementation, tidal data archaeology / data rescue, and national presentations. The group plans to collect information on the implementation status of S-104 & S-111 through a questionnaire. Andreas proposed an amendment to the Tidal Working Group's terms of reference to invite meteorological, oceanographic, and geodetic experts as contributors. This amendment was endorsed by NSHC.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Document: Report of Tidal Working Group and minutes

3.7 Sample Production of S-127 Data Set

The report was presented by Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg (DE), and showed examples of how digital information for VTS services could be developed using S-127. The information was currently created using information in QGIS and compiled using Python scripts, but a higher degree of automation would be needed for the future and the information still needed to be manually analysed. BSH encouraged MS to present their national developments if scheduled, and/or liaise with BSH regarding S-127 production.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Document: Sample production of S-127 dataset by BSH and annexes

4.1 Actions Requested of IRCC

Laurent Kerléguer (FR) presented the actions and recommendations from the IRCC, highlighting the need for regional hydrographic commissions to support IHO initiatives, contribute to capacity building, and engage with crowdsourced bathymetry.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Decision 5: The Commission decided to consider all remaining open IRCC recommendations complete and reflect in the IRCC Report.

Document: IRCC

4.2 NHSC Input to the IHO Strategic Plan

Hendrick Justus Stang (DK) provided an overview of the Strategic Plan Review Working Group's activities, including the development of goals, targets, and SPIs. The group had added a section of narrative to provide further context and definition to each goal. He explained that the plan had now been submitted to HSSC and IRCC for discussion, but all documents were available on the IHO Portal for viewing.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Document: IHO Strategic Plan

4.3 IHO-EU Network Report

Thomas Dehling (DE) presented the IHO-EU Network report, which met in Svendborg 30-31 May 2024 back-to-back with European Maritime Day. He gave an update on two projects, MADAM and INSTALL.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Document: IENWG Report

MSDI Ambassador Update

Thomas Dehling (DE) provided the MSDI update. Kimberly Mason (DE) is MSDI ambassador and the MSDIWG met in Lisbon in March. At this meeting there was a suggestion that the UNGGIM working group on hydrography could merge with the MSDIWG, as the UNGGIM group was at risk of folding due to insufficient resources. This would also preserve IHO influence at the UN, but there were also some challenges. The next steps were for joint terms of reference to be drafted and for IRCC to discuss in June.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

4.4 Report of the North Sea MSI Working Group

Chris Gill (UK), Chair of the NSMSIWG provided an update on the MSI Working Group's activities, focusing on S-124 implementation, areas of responsibility for broadcasting MSI, and the upcoming joint meeting with the Baltic Sea MSI Working Group.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Document: Report of the North Sea MSI Working Group

4.5 Report of the NSHC representative to WENDWG

James Coles (UK) NSHC WENDWG Rep presented. The presentation included a review of matters raised by the RHCs via the S-100 coordinators and discussed the S-100 Readiness Questionnaire. He highlighted how the NSHC region had been categorised as low in S-100 readiness. The WENDWG Chair (Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg) however agreed to raise NSHCs score to Medium. James shared a recommendation, there was some discussion on refining this recommendation to incorporate all member state's individual production plans. This recommendation is shared below:

NSHC MS are recommended to produce an "operational stack" of Phase I S-100 products, focussed on the highest priority ports and the routes between them. with a particular emphasis on those ports and routes that are draught and tidally constrained. Then begin upscaling production of S-100 products between these ports and routes.

This recommendation should not preclude MS producing S-100 coverage based on their individual S-100 conversion/production strategies.

As S-100 Phase 1 products develop, the NSHC, BSHC, and USCaHC should investigate the production of a coherent S-100 offering, along a shipping route between these RHCs.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Action 5: WEND Rep to reword NSHC recommendations re S-100 production to incorporate all MS positions. (Complete, recommendation is included above.)

Document: WENDWG Report

4.6 Report of the North Sea INT Charting Coordination Working Group

Ashley Hawkins (UK) Chair of the INT Charting Coordination Working Group provided an update on the group's activities: including paper chart updates, S-57 ENC gridding, HD ENCs, and S-100 progress. He highlighted the challenges and plans for S-100 implementation in the region. He shared a summary of each Member States' response to the questionnaire highlighting their priorities.

Action 6: Chair to task the NSHC ICCWG Chair to rediscuss LAT/ALAT at next NSHC ICCWG meeting.

Document: Report of the North Sea INT Chart Coordination Working Group
NSHC ICCWG PPT

4.7 Report of the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee, including report of EWH

Evert Flier (NO) presented on the Capacity Building Sub-Committee and the Empowering Women in Hydrography project. He highlighted the various funding streams for capacity building projects including through the CBSC, Nippon Foundation, Member State contributions and RENC contributions.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Document: CBSC PPT
EWH Update PPT

4.8 Sea Ranger Service

Wietse van der Werf, founder and CEO of Sea Ranger Service, presented the organisation's mission to inspire young people into a maritime career. Providing them with maritime education and hands-on experience in offshore surveying, monitoring, and nature restoration. Young mariners were paid a living wage whilst undergoing their training and leave with in-demand skills to go into further employment in the maritime sector.

Action 7: Secretary to share Sea Ranger Service CEO's contact details with those that have requested. (Complete. T

hese details have been shared with those that requested during NSHC38, however please contact nshc.secretary@ukho.gov.uk for these details if you would like them.)

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

4.9 Status CSB/GEBCO/Seabed 2030

Evert Flier (NO) presented. He highlighted how GEBCO, despite having existed since 1903, had not had a strategy until now. The next step was to create an implementation plan. He provided an update from the CSB tools workshop in Wellington, New Zealand. Evert also highlighted that there was an action from a previous NSHC to explore the possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Seabed 2030, as the Nordic HC had done before. The NHC MOU was shared with colleagues to consider overnight and was discussed during AOB of NSHC38.

Action 8: Secretary to circulate draft NHC and Seabed 2030 MOU for members comments. (Complete)

Document: Status of GEBCO / SB2030 / CSB

NSHC38 Day 2 - Wednesday 9 April 2025

4.10 EMODNet Bathymetry Report

The report was presented by Thierry Schmitt (FR). The 2024 DTM was made public in March 2025. There were now 43000 Survey entries. He also shared the 2026 DTM production agenda, with data providers finalising their contributions by the end of 2025.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Document: EMODNet Bathymetry Report

4.11 NSHC Website

The decision was taken to close this item permanently.

Decision 6: This item is closed permanently.

4.12 Report of Baltic Sea e-Nav project

The report was presented by Magnus Wallhagen (SE). From the NSHC region Sweden, Denmark and Germany participate in the project that is funded by Interreg Baltic Sea Region. The S-100 projects are in four test areas where the waters are constrained. Results will be shared with the Baltic Sea ICCWG.

Action 9: NSICCWG to explore Baltic Sea E-Nav Project recommendations to harmonise S-1XX production in the NSHC Region.

Document: Baltic Sea E-Nav Project

4.13 NSHC IHR Report

Leendert Dorst (NL) as the NSHC representative for the IHR presented. There was a standing request for contributions of scientific articles, other articles, project reports and news.

Document: IHR Update

4.14 ECS PT Update

Andy Richardson (UK), ECS PT Chair, presented. The presentation outlined two years of work which had reached its conclusion. It highlighted the recommendations that would be presented to HSSC in May 2025. The activities of the group had included surveys, VTC and in-person meetings plus workshops. The conclusions included the requirement for an ECS digital standard to be confirmed. The complexity of the 3000 GT and below market segment meant it would not be a 'one size fits all' solution, noting the next chance to revise SOLAS was 2032. There were 8-9 National Hydrographic Offices who were keen to take these kinds of actions, and there were 4-5 who were keen to sponsor activity. The MCA had worked closely with the PT, for vessels below 24m, with the aim to support small craft mariners to navigate without paper. The group had been keen to ensure there was one standard so small craft have a common set of rules to follow rather than it changing at national maritime boundaries.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentation.

Document: NSHC ECS Update

5.0 S-I 00 Trials Update

Tom Mellor (UK) presented an update on the UKHO/SHOM Sea Trials project. He outlined the project aim which is to test and evaluate S-I 00 ECDIS. A route between Portsmouth/Southampton in the UK, transiting the Channel Islands and onwards through to St Malo in France had been selected. S-I 00 data covering the route had been created and a set of test scenarios developed. The goal was to demonstrate how S-I 00 ECDIS will improve Navigational Safety. The results of the trial would be used to support the required safety case for IMO adoption of S-I 00 ECDIS.

Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg (DE) then presented on the BSH's progress and plans for S-I 00. He highlighted the planned reduction of paper charts up to Q1 of 2026. He then provided updates on S-I 27 Marine Traffic Management; S-I 25 Marine Aids to Navigation; S-I 22 Marine Protected Areas and S-I 02 Bathymetric Surface.

Action requested of NSHC: Note the presentations.

Documents: S-I 00 ECDIS
NSHC S-I 00 Implementation Status

AOB

Two items were raised under AOB:

Council: Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg (DE) shared Germany's intention to put themselves forward as NSHC Council Rep for a further term. The Chair thanked Germany for sharing their intention. This would be followed up via the process detailed in Annex A of the statutes in advance of Assembly 4. Germany remain Rep for Council 9 in October 2025.

Seabed 2030 MOU: Member States shared their thoughts on the draft shared the previous evening. Many Members were supportive, others shared challenges they would have with an official signing. A suggestion was made that the NSHC Chair sign the MOU on behalf of NSHC thus reducing any national level issues.

Action 10: Member States to explore national conditions/ requirements for signing an MOU with Seabed 2030.

Action 11: NSHC Chair to follow up with members in advance of NSHC39 to seek agreement on Seabed 2030 MOU.

Action 12: Seabed 2030 to be added to NSHC39 Agenda with the intention, if possible, to sign an MOU.

Action 13: IHO to confirm tonnage rules for new IHO Members. *(Completed, IHO Secretariat have shared details with interested parties.)*

Action 14: Chair team to follow process detailed in Annex A of the Statutes to select next Council Representative. (Germany's interest in remaining rep has been noted.)

6.0 Summary of Actions from NSHC38

The Secretary ran through the captured actions from NSHC38. These were refined by members during the meeting and the redrafted wording has been included in these minutes and at Annex A.

Details of NSHC39

The Chair shared that NSHC39 will be held in Aberdeen, the dates of 8/9 April or W/C 13 April 2026 were suggested. The additional date of W/C 16 March was requested to be considered.

Action 15: Chair Team to finalise dates for NSHC39 and share with membership.

Annex A – NSHC38 Actions and Decisions

Legend
White: Open
Green: Completed or Closed

No.	Ref	Actions	Responsible	Due date	Status
1.	NSHC38 – 1.3	NSHC Secretary to share draft proposal regarding continuous actions to be moved to an annex of the statutes. To be shared prior to NSHC39, to be voted on at NSHC39.	NSHC Secretary	NSHC39	Open
2.	NSHC38 – 2.1	Member States to consider submitting feedback to the IHO on the Portal.	Member States	NSHC39	Open
3	NSHC38 – 3.2	UK to investigate the Centre for Seabed Mapping Planning Information Portal as an option for survey planning in the NSHC region.	UK	NSHC39	Open
4.	NSHC38 – 3.3	NL and UK to evaluate potential tools for coordinating re-survey work in the NSHC region.	UK and NL	NSHC39	Open
5.	NSHC38 – 4.5	WEND Rep to reword NSHC recommendations re S-100 production to incorporate all MS positions.	WENDWG Rep	-	Complete
6.	NSHC38 – 4.6	Chair to task the NSHC ICCWG Chair to rediscuss LAT/ALAT at next NSHC ICCWG meeting	NSICCWG Chair	Next NSICCWG Meeting	Open
7.	NSHC38 – 4.8	Secretary to share Sea Ranger Service CEO's contact details with those that have requested.	NSHC Secretary	-	Complete
8.	NSHC38.- 4.9	Secretary to circulate draft NHC and Seabed 2030 MOU for members comments.	NSHC Secretary		Complete

No.	Ref	Actions	Responsible	Due date	Status
9.	NSHC38 – 4.12	NSICCCWG to explore Baltic Sea E-Nav Project recommendations to harmonise S-1XX production in the NSHC Region.	NSICCCWG Chair	Next NSICCCWG Meeting	Open
10.	NSHC38 – AOB	Member States to explore national conditions/ requirements for signing an MOU with Seabed 2030.	Member States	As soon as possible.	Open
11.	NSHC38 – AOB	NSHC Chair to follow up with members in advance of NSHC39 to seek agreement on Seabed 2030 MOU.	NSHC Chair	End of 2025	Open
12.	NSHC38 – AOB	Seabed 2030 to be added to NSHC39 Agenda with the intention if possible, to sign an MOU.	NSHC Secretary	Advance of NSHC39	Open
13	NSHC38 – AOB	IHO to confirm tonnage rules for new IHO Members.	IHO Director John Nyberg	N/A	Complete
14	NSHC38 – AOB	Chair team to follow process detailed in Annex A of the Statutes to select next Council Representative. (Germany's interest in remaining rep has been noted.)	NSHC Secretary	When relevant IHO CL is issued.	Open
15	NSHC38 – AOB	Chair Team to finalise dates for NSHC39 and share with membership.	NSHC Secretary	ASAP	Complete

Decisions

No.	Ref	Decisions
1.	NSHC38 - I.1	Approval of the NSHC38 agenda.
2.	NSHC38 - I.2	Approval of NSHC38 Minutes as final.
3.	NSHC38 - I.4	NSHC Statutes are approved.
4.	NSHC38 - 3.3	The re-survey working group will remain dormant whilst potential options are explored by the UK and NL.
5.	NSHC38 - 4.1	The Commission decided to consider all remaining open IRCC Recommendations complete and reflect in the IRCC Report.
6.	NSHC38 - 4.1 I	Close this item permanently.