

Terms of Reference for the Baltic Sea and North Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Working Group (BS-NSMSDIWG)

(Approved by the BSHC 15th Conference 21 - 23 September 2010)
(Adjusted by the BSHC 20th Conference 16 – 18 September 2015)

With referencing to

- IHO Resolution 5 - 2009 on MSDI policy, adopted by the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in June 2009
- 1st HSSC Meeting (Singapore, October 2009)
- Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)
- Guidance for Hydrographic Offices IHO Publication C-17 - Edition 1.0
- EU INSPIRE Directive and respective national contributions of the MS

The BSHC at its 15th Conference recognised the need to initiate a study of MSDI in the Baltic Sea in order to identify areas where maritime SDI implementation is underway and where problems can be foreseen and how the Baltic member states see the future development of MSDI in the region.

The BSHC at its 20th Conference approved a request from NSHC to expand the BSMSDIWG to also include the NSHC in a dual MSDI WG.

Therefore the BSHC 20th Conference approved to expand the BSMSDIWG to the BS-NSMSDIWG with the task to study MSDI in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea.

The Working Group should:

- Identify and analyse the current status of individual MS MSDI implementation.
- Consider MSDI policies within the related international project e.g. e-navigation, ICZM, INSPIRE, MSP, EU Integrated Maritime Strategy, the Marine Strategy Framework and EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.
- Analyse how maritime authorities can contribute their spatial information and the necessary updates, so information can easily be collated with other information to a current overall picture for the region.
- Focus on how BSHC in the future can benefit from a regional approach.
- Monitor the development of SDI that could be relevant for the Baltic Sea.
- To present a yearly report to the BSHC and a report to NSHC every second year at their meeting. This report should include a description on the current status, recommendations on how to proceed with the MSDI implementation and if deemed necessary an action plan with specified time schedule for future BSHC and-NSHCMSDI actions.

Rules of procedures:

- All BSHC and NSHC Members and Associate Members are encouraged to participate to the BS-NSMSDIWG and to contribute to the work of the BS-NSMSDIWG.
- The BS-NSMSDIWG should be chaired by one of the Member States elected by the BSHC and NSHC MS.
- The BS-NSMSDIWG should work as far as possible in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations issued by the IHO, IMO and EU.
- The BS-NSMSDIWG should consult Task Groups, Committees and Working Groups or other relevant bodies, as deemed necessary.
- The BS-NSMSDIWG should inform relevant RHC's with the aim to coordinate within the other regions as far as possible.

- The work of the BS-NSMSDIWG will be carried out primarily by correspondence (via e-mails). The members are encouraged to reply without unnecessary delay.
- The BS-NSMSDIWG Chair can on request coordinate BSHC and NSHC MS views on MSDI topics and present them at the IHO MSDIWG