

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC  
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE**

IHB File No. S3/0117

**CIRCULAR LETTER 09/2007  
25 January 2007**

**HELCOM/BSHC HARMONIZATION RE-SURVEY PLAN**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The IHB is pleased to forward the attached letter from Mr Juha Korhonen, Chairman of the Monitoring Working Group of the HELCOM/BSHC Re-Survey Plan, for your information. Of special interest is the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission's decision to make available the database containing metadata for re-survey information produced by the Swedish Hydrographic Office, to other Hydrographic Commissions with similar tasks.

2 The Bureau has provided links to the reference sites on the IHB web site [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int)> Commissions>BSHC and is investigating the possible linking from within the S-55 database.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
President

Enclosure: Letter from Juha KORHONEN dated 18 January 2007



# Finnish Maritime Administration

## Hydrographic Department

Helsinki, 18 January 2007

Rear Admiral Alexandros Maratos  
International Hydrographic Bureau  
4 quai Antoine 1er  
MC 98011 MONACO CEDEX

Dear Admiral,

As you may recall, the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (HELCOM) adopted on 10 September 2001 in Copenhagen a Declaration [1] which stated i.a.

*“by requesting the Governments of the Contracting Parties to develop a scheme for systematic re-surveying of major shipping routes and ports in order to ensure that safety of navigation is not endangered by inadequate source information. The survey shall be carried out to a standard not inferior to the latest edition of IHO S-44. The scheme shall be elaborated jointly by the hydrographic services responsible for the areas in question not later than by the end of 2002 with the aim to begin implementation by 2003,”*

The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) has developed a Harmonised Re-survey Plan for these surveys [2]. This plan includes the main routes, their current re-survey status and estimated time schedule for re-surveys. This plan was adopted by the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission in December 2002. The implementation of re-surveys is going on by each Hydrographic Office on the Baltic Sea. The BSHC established also a Monitoring Working Group to follow up the implementation of re-surveys and developing of the Re-survey Plan.

A database containing metadata for the re-survey information has been developed by the Hydrographic Office of Sweden. All participating Hydrographic Offices are updating the database directly. A public link of the HELCOM/BSHC Harmonised Re-survey Plan has been implemented to the HELCOM Web site [3]. Through this link it is possible to view the status of the re-surveys of main routes.

During the discussions at the BSHC 11<sup>th</sup> Conference in June 2005 [4] and the NHC 50<sup>th</sup> Conference in April 2006 [5] it was pointed out that this database should be made available as an input to other Regional Hydrographic Commissions which are in progress with a corresponding task. It was also expressed that it might be useful to link this database to the S-55 database.

/...

---

Address  
Porkkalankatu 5  
FI-00180 Helsinki

Postal address  
PO Box 171  
FI-00181 Helsinki

Phone /Fax  
+358 (0) 204 481  
+358 (0) 204 48 4620

[www.fma.fi](http://www.fma.fi)  
[firstname.lastname@fma.fi](mailto:firstname.lastname@fma.fi)

According to the discussions above the IHB is asked to take appropriate actions to make this database available to other RHCs (e.g. by adding a link on the IHO web site and inform IHO Members States accordingly).

If more detailed information or any clarification is needed, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Juha Korhonen,  
Chairman of the Monitoring Working Group  
of HELCOM/BSHC Re-Survey Plan

References:

- [1] HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration 10 September 2001.  
<http://www.helcom.fi/stc/files/MinisterialDeclarations/Copenhagen2001.pdf>
- [2] Harmonised re-survey Plan.  
[http://www.iho.shom.fr/REG\\_HYD\\_COM/BSHC/Draft\\_Survey\\_Plan-Version\\_1\\_03\\_1.pdf](http://www.iho.shom.fr/REG_HYD_COM/BSHC/Draft_Survey_Plan-Version_1_03_1.pdf)
- [3] Re-survey database and information sheet.  
<http://helcomresurvey.sjofartsverket.se/helcomresurveysite/FramesSetup.html>  
[http://www.helcom.fi/stc/files/shipping/Info\\_MWG\\_database.pdf](http://www.helcom.fi/stc/files/shipping/Info_MWG_database.pdf)
- [4] Minutes of BSHC 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on 14 – 17 June, 2005 and  
MWG Work Plan Version 3.0 Task 3.6.
- [5] Minutes of NHC 50<sup>th</sup> Conference on 26 – 28 of April, 2006.