

**FIRST MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC1  
Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco, 05 June 2009**

**Report of the work of  
the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)**

(29 April 2009)

The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) consists of the 8 Member States: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden and the associate Member Lithuania. BSHC works on the basis of annual meetings. The 13<sup>th</sup> BSHC Meeting was held in Rostock, Germany, 19 – 21 August 2008. The 14<sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference will take place in Denmark in September 2009. BSHC Chair is currently held by Germany, represented by Dr. Mathias Jonas.

Based on a standing agenda, the BSHC regularly deals with IHO themes and hydrographic matters of regional importance.

The most important IHO issues that are currently being dealt with are:

- Strategic aspects of the development of IHO, addressed by activities of IHO Strategic Plan WG (ISPWG), the Hydrography in Inland Waters WG (HCIWWG), and Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure WG (MSDIWG).
- Discussion on status and progress of updating of IHO S-23;
- Status of approval process of the protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention;
- Capacity building.

Matters belonging to co-operative aspects and practical questions of hydrography in the waters of the Baltic Sea are:

- The development of an harmonised Re-survey scheme based on the request of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM). A revision of the scheme and database is going on.
- The coordination of INT charts on M-11 Region E "Baltic Sea". The status of production nations and production schemes has been kept updated.
- Investigations on harmonising vertical datums around the Baltic Sea.
- Set up of recommendations for Baltic Sea ENC harmonisation based on the findings of a working group composed by BSHC members. IHO recommends these as a model for other regions.
- Establishment of a working group to evaluate possibilities to harmonise depiction of depth information on nautical products.
- Information about planned new routing measures and other related activities of IMO.
- Completion of ENC on Baltic Sea.

For the time being there are no CBC Proposals within the BSHC. BSHC will rather assist within the region or apply for funding by the EU.