

Third Meeting of the IHO Inter Regional Coordination Committee  
**IHO IRCC3**  
**Report of the Work of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)**  
(May 2011)

The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) was originally founded in 1983. The Commission consists of 8 Member States: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, and the associate Member Lithuania. It means that all states, surrounding The Baltic Sea, are members (or associate member) of BSHC.

IHB Representatives: Captain Robert Ward

**Meetings:**

The BSHC deals regularly with IHO themes and hydrographic matters of regional importance. This is reflected in the standing agenda. BSHC meets annually. The 15th meeting was held in Gdynia, Poland, 21-23 September 2010. The BSHC Chair is currently held by Poland, represented by Captain Henryk NITNER, Chief of the Hydrographic Office of the Polish Navy. Next meeting is planned to be held in Norrköping, Sweden, 20-21 September 2011.

**Current BSHC Working Groups (WG):**

1. Chart Datum WG (CDWG)
2. Baltic Sea INT Charting Coordination WG (BSICCWG)
3. BSHC Re-Survey Monitoring WG (MWG)
4. Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database WG (BSBDWG)
5. Baltic Sea Hydrographic Depth Information Harmonization WG (BSHDIHWG)
6. Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure WG (BSMSDIWG)

**Current work issues and activities:**

The most important IHO issues that are currently being addressed are:

- The Organization growth and the status of Amendments ratification – so far, all BSHC Member States, except for Russian Federation, have ratified the Protocol of Amendments;
- ENC's – coverage and other ENC-related issues, particularly, the raised in the light of the introduced ECDIS carriage requirement. Participating in both Regional Centres - Stavanger, Norway and Taunton, UK - BSHC Member States have achieved a high ENC coverage rate. For further details, see: WEND-WG Report (Questionnaires);
- IRCC2 Action 5a) – methodology used for displaying survey status – With regard to the Baltic Sea, BSHC has been comprehensively addressing this issue by establishing the MWG, which has already been working for many years, and by implementing decisions taken by the Helsinki Commission, which has set high requirements for resurveys being made in the shipping routes. For further details, see: the document submitted at an earlier date by the Chairman of MWG. This document gives some information on the Baltic Sea re-survey scheme as an example of a regional implementation for displaying survey status;
- The role played by HOs in the implementation of S-100 and other publications and in the implementation of the E-navigation concept;

- Every second year since 2004 national MSI authorities within the BSHC gather at *Baltico Meeting*, aiming to improve the quality of MSI within the area ([www.sjofartsverket.se/balticomeeting](http://www.sjofartsverket.se/balticomeeting)).

**The most important aspects concerning regional technical issues of the activities of the BSHC Members:**

- The current and future concept of implementation of S-100 within the BSHC Member States;
- Development and use of leisure craft charts;
- Specification and development of the Baltic Sea Depth database – WG has been established dedicated to the database;
- Coordination of Baltic Sea ENC Harmonization actions were moved to the Baltic Sea INT Charting Coordinating WG;
- Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure – new WG established;
- Chart Datum WG has made proposals to the HSSC TWLWG for amending the definitions of MSL and related IHO Resolutions.

**BSHC cooperation with other organizations:**

- BSHC cooperates with the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and EU, in particular, with the European Commission in working out the EU Baltic Sea Strategy;
- Finland and Sweden are actively participating in the TEN-T project “Mona Lisa”, but other BSHC Member States also contribute to achieve the project goals;
- Other area where BSHC cooperates with EU is the BaltSeaPlan Maritime Spatial Planning, with Germany being a Lead Partner;
- By establishing BSMSDIWG, BSHC has initiated its coordinated cooperation with IHO in studying MSDI in the Baltic Sea.