



## Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)

BSHC Report to the IRCC5 meeting

3-4 June 2013, Wollongong, Australia



The Chair of BSHC  
Jukka Varonen

[11 April 2013]

### 1. General

BSHC Members are Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russian Federation and Sweden. Associate member is Lithuania.

Chairperson is *Mr Jukka Varonen* (FI) since September 2012, replacing *Mr Patrik Wiberg* (SE). Vice-Chairperson is *Mr Taivo Kivimäe* (EE) since September 2012.

The BSHC 17<sup>th</sup> Conference was held on 20-21 September 2012 in Helsinki, Finland. Altogether 26 participants from all Member states except Lithuania were participating. In addition there were *Captain Mustafa Iptes* from IHB and *Ms Kerrie Howard* from UKHO as an observer.

The main issues of the BSHC 17<sup>th</sup> Conference were:

- to review the outcome of IRCC4 and the status of IRCC4 actions
- to agree on reporting to WEND-WG2 meeting
- to review the National Reports
- to review and give guidance for further work of the BSHC Working Groups (see *below Chapter 2*)
- to agree to establish a pilot project targeted to leisure craft users
- to agree on a pilot project between Finland and Sweden to harmonise depth presentations on printed charts and ENCs
- to review the status of updating C-55
- to agree to establish a BSHC internet domain and to develop a BSHC logotype
- to give information e.g. on CHEMSEA project

Next BSHC 18<sup>th</sup> Conference will be held in Estonia 16-18 September 2013.



## 2. Status of work of the BSHC Working Groups:

### Baltic Sea INT Chart Coordination Working Group (BSICCWG)

The tasks of the BSICCWG are to coordinate the publication of international (INT) charts and the small and medium scale ENC scheme in the Baltic Sea Region.

- Baltic Sea INT chart Scheme S-11 Part B Region E has been updated.
- There is adequate ENC coverage of the Baltic Sea, in appropriate scale bands. Some extensions to that are planned.
- Harmonisation rules for Baltic Sea ENCs have been established and the implementation will be monitored by BSICCWG and reported to BSHC Conferences.
- Work is on-going on harmonising of the sub-areas and names of the Baltic Sea.

### Chart Datum Working Group (CDWG)

The tasks for the Chart Datum Working Group are to prepare the implementation of the harmonised European Vertical Reference System (EVRS) in the Baltic Sea, to forward to the IHO Tidal and Water Levelling Working Group (TWLWG) more specific Mean Sea Level definitions and recommendations (especially for non-tidal areas), to study the validation, interpolation, prediction and distribution of water level information, and to cooperate with relevant other international bodies.

- One CDWG meeting was held in 2012, where also BOOS and some other relevant Institutes participated.
- BSHC 17<sup>th</sup> Conference agreed that there is now sufficient basis for the transition to a harmonised vertical reference in the Baltic Sea and asked BSHC Members to forward their written commitment and plans to this transition.
- The CDWG has forwarded to the TWLWG proposals to amend IHO resolutions related to vertical datum, especially for non-tidal areas.
- The CDWG has forwarded comments to the INSPIRE coordinate specifications

### Working Group for Monitoring the Implementation of the Harmonised Re-survey Scheme (MWG)

The development and implementation of the Baltic Sea Harmonised Re-survey Scheme is monitored through the BSHC Monitoring Working Group.

- At BSHC 17<sup>th</sup> Conference it was estimated that the Re-survey Scheme is almost completed and fulfil the requirements of the HELCOM Moscow 2010 Ministerial Declaration. It was agreed that this will be reported to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting on 3 October 2013.
- The Re-survey Scheme can be browsed via <https://helcomresurvey.sjofartsverket.se/helcomresurveysite/>



### Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database Working Group (BSBDWG)

The BSBDWG works for the creation of a harmonised bathymetry model for the Baltic Sea. The activities of BSBDWG (with some extensions) are also included as sub-tasks into EU TEN-T project *MonaLisa*.

- BSBDWG had one meeting in 2012
- BSHC 17<sup>th</sup> Conference endorsed some future actions

### Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (BSMSDIWG)

BSMSDIWG is coordinating and studying in cooperation with the HSSC MSDIWG maritime spatial data issues within the Baltic Sea.

- *Mr. Jens Peter Hartmann* is chairing both BSMSDIWG and HSSC MSDIWG and the Work Programmes of these Working Groups have been harmonised.

### 3. Status of IRCC4 actions (relevant for the BSHC)

In the table below is shown the status of IRCC4 actions relevant to BSHC.

No	ACTION	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS - BSHC
IRCC4/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.	RHCs	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2012	Discussed at BSHC 17 <sup>th</sup> Conference. Lithuania has discussion of seeking IHO membership.
IRCC4/06	Comply with the CBSC Procedures and ensure the timely provision of the appropriate documentation that justify expenses associated to CB projects, and to demand refund, if needed, not later than one month after the event has finalized.	RHC	Permanent.	No BSHC CB projects for the time being.
IRCC4/07	Invite GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs to attend corresponding RHCs meetings, aiming at strengthening collaboration with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level.	RHCs / GEBCO	Permanent.	GEBCO representative has been invited to BSHC16. To be considered for BSHC18.
IRCC4/08	a) Circulate draft C-55 framework developed by Australia. b) RHCs to provide comments to Chair. c) Chair to provide final version to IHB	a) Chair b) RHCs c) Chair	a) 15 June b) end June c) 15 July	Input forwarded to IHB.
IRCC4/09	Consider amending Statutes of the RHCs in order to allow non-IHO MSs to host RHCs conferences, when and if applicable.	RHCs	As soon as applicable	Already as a practice within all Baltic Sea countries.
IRCC4/13	Provide written feedback on Annexes B and C of WEND Principles (CONF.18/WP3) according to 18 <sup>th</sup> IHC Decision 13	RHCs	?	Done via WEND-WG.



IRCC4/17	Circulate the paper “ <i>A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability</i> ” to RHCs to be used as a raising awareness tool.	Chair RHCs	As soon as practicable	Circulated.
IRCC4/18	Provide the IRCC Chair with their report on the progress of the relevant tasks of the IHO 2012 Work Programme.	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	by the end of Jan 2013	Normal progress - no special issues to be reported.
IRCC4/20	Review the relevant tasks of the IHO 2013 Work Programme in their respective work plans and report on suggested updates, if any, to the IRCC Chair	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	by the end of Oct 2012	Done.
IRCC4/27	Inform MSs of the IMO's transition to and the implication of the mandatory IMO Member States Audit Scheme from 2015	RHC Chairs	As soon as possible	Done at BSHC17.
IRCC4/30	Consider the participation of the stakeholders at the RHC conferences	RHC Chairs	?	To be considered for BSHC18.
IRCC4/32	Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2012 and target values for 31 December 2017	RHC Chairs	by the end of Jan 2013	Done.

4. BSHC cooperation with other organisations:

BSHC cooperates with at least the following organisations:

- Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) within Baltic Sea Action Plan
- EU, in particular with the European Commission in working out the EU Baltic Sea Strategy;
- Finland and Sweden are actively participating in the EU TEN-T *MonaLisa* project.
- EU *BaltSeaPlan* Maritime Spatial Planning, with Germany being a Lead Partner;
- BOOS and National Geodetic Institutes within the work of Chart Datum Working Group

5. Proposals

No formal proposals have been made.

The IRCC5 is invited to note this report.

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