



Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)
BSHC Report to the IRCC6 meeting
19-20 May 2014, Paris, France



The Chair of BSHC Taivo Kivimäe (Estonia)

1. General

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

The BSHC Chair since September 2013 is Mr Taivo Kivimäe (EST), replacing Mr Jukka Varonen (FIN). Vice-Chair is Mr Janis Krastinš (LAT).

The BSHC 18th Conference was held on 16-18 September 2013 in Tallinn, Estonia. Altogether 25 participants from all Member states except Lithuania were participating. In addition Captain Mustafa Iptes from IHB and Mrs Kerrie Howard from UKHO as an observer were participating.

The main issues of the BSHC 18th Conference were:

- to review the outcome of IRCC5, the status of IRCC5 actions and WEND-WG issues;
- to review National Reports;
- to review and give guidance for further work of the BSHC Working Groups (see below Chapter 2);
- to review the status of updating C-55;
- to give information regarding the status of Harmonization Depth Information pilot project;
- to review the status of BSHC internet domain;
- to give information regarding EMODnet;
- to give information regarding the German LIDAR test project;
- to discuss about additional depth contours within ENCs;
- to propose articles from BSHC to IHR (special edition to EIHC5);
- to approve BSHC Logo.

Next BSHC 19th Conference will be held in Latvia 10-12 June 2014.

2. Status of work of the BSHC Working Groups

2.1. 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.

- 2.1.1. At the BSHC 18th Conference it was estimated that the Re-survey Scheme of the Baltic Sea is near completion and is in compliance with the requirements of the HELCOM Ministerial Declaration. The results were reported to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in October 2013.
- 2.1.2. The re-survey scheme can be browsed via <http://www.sjofartsverket.se/helcom>.
- 2.1.3. A new project (supported by EU in 2014-2020) regarding re-survey is under development and Sweden will act as the project leader.

2.2. 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 area, to study the validation, interpolation, prediction and distribution of water level information, and to cooperate with relevant other international bodies.

- 2.2.1. • The BSHC 18th Conference agreed that there is sufficient basis for the transition to a harmonised vertical reference in the Baltic Sea and asked the BSHC Members to forward their situation and plans to this transition.
- 2.2.2. • The CDWG forwarded to the TWLWG proposals to amend IHO resolutions related to vertical datum, especially for non-tidal areas. TWLWG5 meeting accepted and the HSSC5 approved the amendments.
- 2.2.3. • The cooperation with other relevant institutions (BOOS, GOOS etc) has been very fruitful.

2.3. The 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 but there are not enough INT numbers for the Region E.

There is adequate ENC coverage of the Baltic Sea, in appropriate scale bands. Some extensions to that are planned.

Harmonisation rules for the Baltic Sea ENCs have been established and the implementation will be monitored by the BSICCWG and reported to the BSHC Conferences.

Evaluation of the use of 15 m additional depth contour to ENCs and paper charts of the Baltic Sea areas.

Work is on-going on harmonising of the sub-areas and names of the Baltic Sea and a workshop to deal with these issues is planned.

2.4. The Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database Working Group (BSBDWG)

The BSBDWG works for the creation of a harmonised bathymetry model for the Baltic Sea.

- 2.4.1. The Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database (<http://data.bshc.pro>) was released 2013 (500 m resolution or better). The portal is administrated by Sweden.
- 2.4.2. An agreement between the BSHC (presented by the Swedish Maritime Administration) and the EU Commission regarding the provision of the bathymetric data covering the Baltic Sea area for public use is under the negotiation.
- 2.4.3. The BSHC 18th Conference endorsed some future actions.

2.5. The 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.

- 2.5.1. The Work Programmes of the BSMSDIWG and the HSSC MSDIWG have been harmonised.
- 2.5.2. A workshop was held in September 2013 in Copenhagen where regional cooperation within the EU infrastructure was discussed.



3. Status of IRCC5 actions

In the table below is shown the status of IRCC5 actions relevant to BSHC.

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS - BSHC
IRCC5/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHCs	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2013	According to IHO homepage information from 14. Feb 2014 Germany has not approved Vietnam; Germany and Latvia have not approved Brunei Darussalam; Poland, Russian Federation and Sweden not approved Georgia.
IRCC5/04	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 CB projects for the time being
IRCC5/06	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 (6)	RHCs / GEBCO	Permanent	GEBCO and Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database Working Group (BSDBWG) are tightly collaborating on the item
IRCC5/07	Consider the participation of the stakeholders at the RHC conferences	RHC Chairs	Before IRCC6	Under consideration at BSHC 19
IRCC5/10	Provide comments to the Chair on the draft IRCC5 Report	All	15 Jul 2013	Done
IRCC5/16	Provide the IRCC Chair with the reports on the progress of the relevant tasks of the IHO 2013 Work Programme (10)	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	by the end of Jan 2014	BSHC report provided February 2014
IRCC5/19	Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2013 and target values for 31 December 2017, complemented by the comments on the difficulties encountered and suggestions for the way forward	RHC Chairs	Permanent. Report to the Chair by the end of Jan 2014	Information provided February 2014
IRCC5/20	Consider proposing agenda items to the next EIHC5 (4)	RHC Chairs	Jan 2014	No proposals
IRCC5/28	Encourage RHCs to support GEBCO regional mapping projects and report back to IRCC (6)	RHC Chairs	IRCC6	BSHC supports GEBCO projects



IRCC5/29	Encourage participation of Stakeholders in the region on IFHSIHO Stakeholders Conference of October 2013 (7)	RHC Chairs	Before Oct 2013	Done
IRCC5/34	Encourage Member States and representatives of industry and academia to promote and to work together to ensure that the best possible use is made of Satellite Derived Bathymetry (11)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	No actions
IRCC5/35	Encourage discussions on how Crowd Source Bathymetry can be used in official navigational products and report back to IRCC6 (11)	RHC Chairs	IRCC6	No actions
IRCC5/36	Provide material to the IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC Bodies including CBSC, GEBCO,	RHC Chairs and subsidiary bodies	Permanent	GEBCO is promoted by their logo under "relations" on http://www.bshc.pro

4. The BSHC cooperation with other organisations:

The BSHC cooperates with at least the following organisations:

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

5. Proposals

No formal proposals have been made.

The IRCC6 is invited to note this report.