



## Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)

### BSHC Report to the IRCC7 meeting

1-3 June 2015, Mexico City, Mexico



The Chair of BSHC  
Jānis Krastiņš  
[May 2015]

#### 1. General

BSHC Members are: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russian Federation and Sweden. Associate member is Lithuania. Information on BSHC activities is available at [www.bshc.pro](http://www.bshc.pro)

The BSHC Chair since June 2014 is Mr Jānis Krastiņš (LAT), replacing Mr Taivo Kivimäe (EST). Vice-Chair is Captain Sergei Travin (RUS)

The BSHC 19<sup>th</sup> Conference was held on 10-12 June 2014 in Riga, Latvia. Altogether 23 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 19<sup>th</sup> Conference were:

- outcome of IRCC6;
- National Reports;
- reports and further guidance for work of the BSHC Working Groups (see Chapter 2);
- overview about IHO-EU Network
- report on harmonization of depth information on ENCs;
- discussion on e-Navigation;
- update on FAMOS project;
- info paper on cost efficient surveying techniques in costal waters;
- information regarding LIDAR Bathymetry Seminar;
- report on WEND-WG
- to review the status of updating C-55;
- to review the status of BSHC internet domain;
- status report on IHR Articles



Next BSHC 20<sup>th</sup> Conference will be held in Sait-Petersburg, Russia September 2015.

## 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.

Overview of the WG was provided. Renewal of HELCOM Resurvey webpage was planned.

Re-Survey database is under renewal for more capabilities.

BSHC approved MWG work program for period 2014-2016 and endorsed new chairman Seppo Makinen.

The re-survey scheme can be browsed via <http://www.sjofartsverket.se/helcom> or [data.bshc.pro](http://data.bshc.pro)

### 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.

Commission approved updated ToR, WP 2014-2016, Road-map and Time-line for transition to common chart datum. The name "Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000" was approved by the Commission as the common vertical reference in the region.

It was also decided to sign MoU between BOOS and BSHC as a letter.

### 2.3. Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database Working Group (BSBDWG)

BSHC recognized the need to study and develop the possibility to establish a common set or database of bathymetric data for the Baltic Sea Area, as a consequence BSBDWG was established. It was decided to collect the bathymetric data from Memberstates and set up a portal.

Since the last conference the portal was up and running and a bathymetric model is available on the web. Release was successful with a large number of visitors and the number of links to the site exceed 100.

The portal is permanently available at [data.bshc.pro](http://data.bshc.pro).

Commission endorsed the cooperation with GEBCO and EMODNET

### 2.4. 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.



Implications of MSDI from a HO perspective and how MS can benefit from a regional approach was one of the items discussed at the Conference.

Work program for 2014-2015 was approved by the Commission.

## 2.5. 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.

BSICCWG has unanimously approved the Baltic Sea sub-area boundaries and names. BSHC19 agreed with BSICCWG recommendation to use 15m depth contour on charts.

Baltic Sea is one of testing areas for S-11 Part B GIS experimentation during 2015.

## 2.6. The FAMOS project

The aim of the project is to speed up surveys and chart production for HELCOM Cat I and CAT II areas and applies to get co-financed by EU Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) program. FAMOS comprises of 4 activities : Hydrographic survey, Harmonizing vertical datum , Equipment purchase to increase survey efficiency and Increasing data work-flow efficiency (Ping to Chart). Estimated co-financing is 30% for activities like surveying and 50% for studies (possibly activity 2-4). The project is submitted. Involved countries - Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Denmark, Germany.

## 3. Status of IRCC5 actions

In the table below is shown the status of IRCC6 actions relevant to BSHC.

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC6/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	According to IHO home page BSHC MS have provided the support
IRCC6/02	Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	All IHO MS from BSHC have ratified Amendments to the convention
IRCC6/03	Consider the participation of stakeholders at the RHC conferences	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	Each request subject to receive the acceptance from MS



No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC6/05	Provide the IRCC Chair with progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2014 Work Programme (10)	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	Jan 2015	No action taken
IRCC6/07	Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2014 and target values for 31 December 2017, complemented by the comments on the difficulties encountered and suggestions for a way forward	RHC Chairs	Jan 2015	No action taken
IRCC6/08	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	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	GEBCO and Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database Working Group (BSDBWG) are tightly collaborating on the item
IRCC6/09	Encourage MSs 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	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	No action taken
IRCC6/15	Provide material to the IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies including CBSC, GEBCO	RHC Chairs and subsidiary bodies	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	GEBCO is promoted by their logo under "relations" on <a href="http://www.bshc.pro">http://www.bshc.pro</a>
IRCC6/41	Consider opportunities to interact with stakeholders in 2014 and encourage participation in the relevant events	RHC	December 2014	No action taken



No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC6/42	Notify Member States in their regions of opportunities for interaction and encourage participation with relevant stakeholders in accordance with CL 8/2014	RHC Chairs	December 2014	No action taken
IRCC6/46	Encourage MSs in their respective regions to use the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priorities	RHC Chairs		Baltic Sea Harmonised Re-survey Scheme is implemented

#### 4. The BSHC cooperation with other organisations:

The BSHC cooperates with at least the following organisations:

- Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) within the Baltic Sea Action Plan;
- The EU, in particular with the European Commission is working out the EU Baltic Sea Strategy;
- BOOS and National Geodetic Institutes within the work of the Chart Datum Working Group.

#### 5. Proposals

No formal proposals have been made.  
The IRCC7 is invited to note this report.