



IRCC8-06F

**Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)
BSHC Report to the IRCC 8 Meeting
29-31 May 2016, Abu Dhabi, UAE**



**The BSHC Chair
Sergey Travin
(May 2016)**

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.

The BSHC Chair since September 2015 is Captain Sergey Travin (Russian Federation), replacing Mr. Jānis Krastiņš (Latvia).

Vice-Chair is Mr. Viktoras Liulys (Lithuania).

The 20th BSHC Conference was held on 16-18 September 2015 in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Altogether 30 participants from all Member States except Lithuania participated to the Conference. In addition Admiral Mustafa Iptes from IHB participated.



IRCC8-06F

The main issues of the 20th BSHC Conference were:

- outcome of IRCC 7 Meeting;
- National Reports;
- report of the IHO-EU Network Working Group;
- Baltic Sea Sub Navarea1b MSI Report;
- selection of BSHC representatives to the IHO Council;
- reports and further guidance for work of the BSHC Working Groups (see Chapter 2);
- report on the harmonization of depth information in ENCs and paper charts;
- customized ENC service for pilots and VTS applications;
- FAMOS project general report;
- FAMOS gravity measurements in 2015;
- new Danish national ENC service for leisure craft users;
- Smart Marine Fairway - information paper of studies implementing services for e-Navigation in Finland;
- ENSI-project, test-bed for the exchange of Route plans in Gulf of Finland;
- WEND WG report;
- Baltic Sea International Charting Coordination Working Group (BSICCWG) report;
- maintenance of the BSHC Internet domain;
- the status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting (the status of updating C-55).

2. Status of work of the BSHC Working Groups

2.1. Working Group for Monitoring the Implementation of the Harmonized Re-survey Scheme (MWG).

The development and implementation of the Baltic Sea Harmonized Re-survey Scheme is monitored through the BSHC monitoring Working Group. Overview of the Working Group was provided. The main tasks for the MWG are to continue the development of the Re-Survey database and to encourage the member states to continue the up-to-date surveys of their waters.

The Re-Survey database is under renewal for more capabilities.

BSHC approved MWG work program for period 2015-2016.

The re-survey scheme can be browsed via <https://helcomresurvey.sjofartsverket.se/helcomresurveysite> or 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 harmonized 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 CDWG ToRs and CDWG Work Program for 2015-2016 as a basis for Work Program for 2016-2017.

It was noted that item 1a has been done in WP 2015-, supported CDWG proposal for displaying the name Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 in ENC's and paper and gave further guidance to CDWG.

The 8-th CDWG Meeting took place in Helsinki, Finland on 23-24 February 2016. The CDWG 8 Meeting pointed out the importance of the CDWG work on harmonizing the vertical reference systems in the Baltic Sea region and benefits of harmonized vertical reference systems for many user groups in different countries. Also the CDWG 8 Meeting noted that the harmonized vertical reference will benefit the usage of digital services and upcoming IHO S-100 based standards.

The CDWG 8 Meeting reviewed the draft definition for the Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 and national implementation plans and status.

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

Commission approved the need to develop the database of bathymetric data for the Baltic Sea Area.

At the same time the Commission pointed out that the Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database portal has been up and running without any downtime on the viewing services and the bathymetric model at present time is the same as the version published in December 2013 because of problem using the WCS services via some GIS software.

The portal address is still data.bshc.pro.

The site is fairly widely used and the number of visits on the portal between the first of July 2014 and the first of July 2015 is 12 546 visits made by 10 014 unique visitors.

Commission also endorsed the cooperation with GEBCO and EMODNET.

2.4. The Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (BSMSDIWG).



IRCC8-06F

The BSMSDIWG is seen as an appropriate Working Group to deal with the opportunities delivered by the MSDI from a regional approach.

The Commission reviewed the working group's findings, status and the planned next steps.

The implication of MSDI from a HO perspective and how MS can benefit from a regional approach were discussed by the Commission.

The Draft BSMSDIWG work program was approved.

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.

The Commission reviewed updated Regional INT Chart Catalogue and updated ENC Catalogue relevant to the Region, changes made to the scheme of INT Charts for the Region and changes made to the small/medium scale ENC scheme for the Region, updated Work Plan.

The Baltic Sea (Region E) is one of the testing areas for S-11 Part B GIS experimentation to move from the current S-11 Part B "paper-like" database, to a GIS environment ("INToGIS" project).

The further guidance to the BSICCWG was given by the Commission.

2.6. The BSHC WEND WG representative.

WEND WG is a working group under the IRCC Committee. The purpose of the WEND Working Group is to advise IRCC and to assist in facilitating a world-wide consistent level of high-quality, updated official ENCs through integrated services that support chart carriage requirements of SOLAS Chapter V, and the requirements of the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS.

The Commission noted the report and gave further guidance to the BSHC WEND WG representative.

3. Status of IRCC 7 actions.

In the table below is shown the status of IRCC 7 actions relevant to BSHC.



IRCC8-06F

No	Action (Agenda Item)	Resp.	Deadline	Status
IRCC 7/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	According to the IHO home page BSHC MS have provided the support
IRCC 7/02	Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	All IHO MS from BSHC have ratified Amendments to the convention
IRCC 7/03	Consider the participation of stakeholders at the RHC conferences	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	Each request subject to receive the acceptance from MS
IRCC 7/05	Provide the IRCC Chair with progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Program	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	Jan 2016	No action taken
IRCC 7/07	Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2015 and target values for 31 December 2017, complemented by the comments on the difficulties encountered and suggestions for a way forward	RHC Chairs	Jan 2016	No action taken
IRCC 7/08	Invite GEBCO Guiding Committee /	RHCs/ GEBCO	Report to IRCC Chair	GEBCO and Baltic Sea Bathymetric



IRCC8-06F

No	Action (Agenda Item)	Resp.	Deadline	Status
	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		Dec 2015	Database Working Group (BSDBWG) are tightly collaborating on the item
IRCC 7/09	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	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	No action taken
IRCC 7/15	Provide material to the IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies	RHC Chairs and subsidiary bodies	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	GEBCO is promoted by their logo under "relations" on http://www.bshc.pro
IRCC 7/17	Encourage National Hydrographers to invest	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	Permanent



IRCC8-06F

No	Action (Agenda Item)	Resp.	Deadline	Status
	in English language training in order to increase the chances of their candidates being selected to Cat A and Cat B training courses delivered in English			
IRCC 7/18	Facilitate resolution of important inconsistencies between paper charts and ENC's and between ENC's from different producers as identified by the RENCs or otherwise	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	Permanent
IRCC 7/19	Encourage MSs in their respective regions to use the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priorities	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	Permanent
IRCC 7/26	Report to IRCC on the status of the RHC procedures for selecting their respective representatives to the Council	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	Input from MS is expected to the BSHC 21 Conference (Sept. 2016)
IRCC 7/27	To task:	RHC Chairs	October 2015	Permanent



No	Action (Agenda Item)	Resp.	Deadline	Status
	<p>a) New INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition INT chart to Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) for review as soon as convenient during the production cycle;</p> <p>b) INT Chart Coordinators/ICCWGs to manage the review of the first edition INT charts produced by new INT Chart Producer Nations to check their compliance with IHO standards, provide feedback to the Producer and to report progress to the next RHC meeting;</p> <p>c) All INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition and new edition INT charts to Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) 3 months prior to every RHC meeting to enable Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) to validate current INT chart Scheme;</p>			



IRCC8-06F

No	Action (Agenda Item)	Resp.	Deadline	Status
	<p>d) All editions of INT charts submitted under action 27 a) and b) to be subsequently transferred to the IHB to be included in the IHB reference collection for internal use;</p> <p>e) Member States to provide an update of the list of on-line chart catalogues, either directly or systematically when updating the Yearbook</p>			
IRCC 7/28	Implement procedures approved by Decision 3 and to report their processes for the review of first edition INT Charts produced by new Producer Nations to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8	On going
IRCC 7/33	Instruct the ICCWG Coordinators to investigate ways to improve communication across the regions and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	On going
IRCC 7/41	Consider incorporating hydrography in more comprehensive maritime projects as a way of raising awareness and funds from Donor agencies and to report progress to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8	Permanent



IRCC8-06F

No	Action (Agenda Item)	Resp.	Deadline	Status
IRCC 7/42	Invite Member States to update C-55 annually including reports of “no changes”)	RHCs	July 2015	Input from MS is expected
IRCC 7/43	Provide access to the IHB to any of their relevant promotional material on CB and to consider using the posters displayed at the EIHC 5 CB exhibition	RHCs	August 2015	Input from MS is expected
IRCC 7/44	Provide: a) an initial summary report on Technical Visits (TV) within two weeks of the visit; b) full reports are expected within three months of completion of a TV	RHC Chairs and CB Coordinators	a) two weeks after the TV b) three months after the TV	Permanent
IRCC7/44bis	Provide full reports for those TVs undertaken in 2014 that have not yet been submitted to the IHB	RHC Chairs and CB Coordinators	July 2015	On going
IRCC 7/48	Consider nominating regional representatives on the MSDIWG	RHCs	December 2015	Input from MS is expected
IRCC 7/52	Continue supporting GEBCO regional projects and report back to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8	Permanent



No	Action (Agenda Item)	Resp.	Deadline	Status
IRCC 7/53	Remind HOs of the standing request to provide GEBCO with access to existing shallow water bathymetric data, at whatever resolution is permissible by the country and to report progress to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8	Permanent
IRCC 7/56	provide comments on doc. WENDWG5-04B (Relevance of information overlay services and their status in the global IHO ENC program) to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8	MS comments are expected via Action WEND WG 5/01
IRCC 7/62	Consider providing representatives of the IHO at the international meetings listed in doc. IRCC-10B on relations with stakeholders and to inform the IHB	RHCs	as soon as volunteers are identified	Input from MS is expected

4. The BSHC cooperation with other organizations.

The BSHC cooperates with at least the following organizations:

- 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.



IRCC8-06F

5. Proposals.

No formal proposals have been made.
The IRCC 8 is invited to note this report.
