Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (BSMSDIWG) - status report.

At its 15th Conference, the BSHC recognised the need to initiate a study of MSDI in the Baltic Sea in order to identify areas where maritime SDI implementation is underway. This includes identification of problems that can be foreseen and how the Baltic member states see the future development of MSDI in the region.

Therefore, the BSHC 15th Conference established the BSMSDIWG with the task of studying MSDI in the Baltic Sea.

A two-day Baltic MSDI workshop was held in Copenhagen on September 11-12, 2012.

The first day of the workshop was intended to be a general presentation of the key elements of SDI, MSDI and INSPIRE. (See appendix A for the detailed schedule).

The second day of the workshop was intended to focus on the current status of individual countries' MSDI and INSPIRE implementation. This assists the working group members to address how BSHC can benefit from a regional approach to MSDI in the future. Each participating country had the opportunity to give a short presentation on its national MSDI and INSPIRE implementation. To use during the workshop, we prepared a short questionnaire. The results were discussed during the meeting.

Future initiatives

The most important issues and challenges for future development of MSDI (from national and regional perspective) are considered to be:

- Lack of awareness of MSDI's importance (and its linkages to INSPIRE) among potential MSDI stakeholders
- Lack of geo-related competence among potential users of an MSDI
- Determining what stakeholders there are for MSDI and assessing their requirements related to MSDI
- Producing adequate governance and agreements for MSDI development
- Lack of funding and human resources necessary for qualified MSDI development
- Finding consensus about which data should be fundamental to MSDI
- Organising and streamlining data sources between the contributors to an MSDI
- Lack of a clear strategy
- Ensuring existing initiatives aren't duplicated
- Where to get started?!

The Baltic region hydrographic offices can address these issues and challenges by:

- Fully supporting and prioritising the MSDI working group
- Scheduling regular meetings on an annual basis in the working group, plus an annual teleconference
- Willingness to share experiences and insights among MS
- Possibly through a sharepoint or community network through which expertise can be shared
- As a means to make MSDI development more efficient and cost-effective
- To address MSDI development challenges piecemeal
- To assess the MSDI best practice among the BSHC member states
- To conduct a pilot project for various MSDI elements – for example, a metadatabase
- To support the use of open source solutions wherever possible, to support and encourage sharing across agencies, countries and regions

The WG will:
- For the next MSDI meeting, focusing on metadata?
- Creating a conceptual model and definition of MSDI for the region
- Investigating the possibility for establishing a BSHC metadatabase based on open-source, INSPIRE-compliant and ISO-compliant technology
- Reviewing existing metadata catalogues and possibly adjusting to marine-related requirements
- Identifying relevant data that could be integrated into MSDI
- Starting an MSDI user group among the MS

Next meeting
A teleconference will be planned for the weeks subsequent to the BSHC meeting.

The next meeting will be held in mid-2013. Latvia will investigate the possibility for holding the meeting at the premises of their Hydrographic Office.

There was general consensus that the S-100 requirements for metadata should be compared to the requirements under the INSPIRE directive at the next meeting.

Conclusions and Recommended Actions
At the 17th BSHC Conference the conference endorsed the report and the work plan for the WG. It was agreed that the Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group and The Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database Working Group should coordinate in the future.

Actions for the ARHC 3 Conference:
The ARHC 3 Conference is requested to note this Report and to take appropriate actions.