

Terms of Reference for the Baltic Sea ENC Harmonisation Working Group (BSEHWG)

(14 June 2007)

With referencing to

- IHO Work Programme 2008 – 2012: Task 3.3.4 ENC Production, Distribution and Update,
- IHO CL 32/2007: Recommendations for Consistent ENC Data Encoding,
- WEND Report to the XVII IH Conference [CONF.17/WP.3 Page 6] and
- WEND principle 2.8,

the BSHC at its 12th Conference recognised the need to study the harmonisation of the ENCs in the Baltic sea in order to ensure ENC consistency and a common level of IHO data quality.

Therefore the BSHC 12th Conference established the BSEHWG with the task to study the level of harmonisation of the ENCs in the Baltic Sea.

The Working Group should

- Identify and analyse existing inconsistencies within ENCs on the Baltic Sea.
- Propose solutions and measures to avoid inconsistencies in the future.
- Arrange a harmonisation workshop by end 2007 with the aim to develop concrete actions to Member States for harmonising the ENCs.
- If necessary, to propose amendments to the IHO and RENC recommendations.
- To present a Final report to the BSHC by Mid 2008. This should include an Action plan with specified time schedule for future ENC harmonisation actions.
- The BSEHWG should monitor the progress of the Baltic Sea ENC harmonisation actions.
- If deemed appropriate, to send reports to relevant IHO and IMO bodies.

Rules of procedures

- All BSHC Members and Associate Members are strongly encouraged to participate to the BSEHWG and to contribute to the work of the BSEHWG.
 - The BSEHWG should be chaired by one of the Member State elected at the BSHC Conference.
 - The BSEHWG should work as far as possible in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations issued by the IHO and the RENCs.
 - The BSEHWG should consult the WEND Task Group, CHRIS Committee and its Working Groups or other relevant bodies, as deemed necessary.
 - The BSEHWG should inform the NSHC and the NHC to harmonize with the North Sea ENCs as far as possible.
 - The members of the BSEHWG should have access to unencrypted ENCs.
 - The work of the BSEHWG will be carried out primarily by correspondence (via e-mails). The members are strongly encouraged to reply without unnecessary delay.
 - The BSEHWG should provide a Progress Report to the BSHC 13th Conference.
-