

## ENC Harmonisation on the Baltic Sea area

(29 May 2007)

### Introduction/References:

Based on the references below, there is a strong need for harmonising the ENCs.

[1] IHO Work Programme 2008 – 2012:

#### **Task 3.3.4 ENC Production, Distribution and Update.**

- RHCs to work to ensure ENC consistency and a common level of IHO data quality.
- To encourage MS to work together on achieving ENC consistency across national boundaries.
- To audit the state of consistency in their regions and to report to WEND. (2008-2012)

[2] IHO CL 32/2007:

#### **Recommendations for Consistent ENC Data Encoding.**

- "Hydrographic Offices producing ENCs are again urged to adopt these procedures and to grasp opportunities as they arise to update previously issued ENCs".

[3] WEND Report to the XVII IH Conference:

"The IHO's efforts towards resolving inconsistencies between adjoining ENC cells, disconnecting to the mariner, will need to be pursued." [CONF.17/WP.3 Page 6]

[4] WEND principle 2.8:

"Member state responsible for originating the data is also responsible for its validation in terms of content, conformance to standards and consistency across cell boundaries"

### Proposals for harmonising the ENCs on the Baltic Sea:

For ensuring as far as possible uniform Baltic Sea regional implementation of the IHO recommendations for consistent ENC data encoding [in Ref. 2], Finland proposes the following actions:

#### **1. Harmonising of the scales used in ENCs on the Baltic Sea**

- To review the scales used in ENCs on the Baltic Sea
- To propose measures to harmonise the Baltic Sea ENC scales

#### **2. Analysis of inconsistencies on the ENCs in the Baltic Sea**

- Finland is aware that many harmonisation actions have been done by the RENCs (IC-ENC and Primar Stavanger). However, it is proposed that an independent study will be made for collecting and analysing existing inconsistencies on the ENCs in the Baltic Sea. Also recommendations to harmonise found inconsistencies are expected. Perhaps some independent body or organisation or some private

company (e.g. IIC Technologies) may be hired to do this in summer/autumn 2007.

- The BSHC countries are asked to give a permission to use their unencrypted ENC data for this kind of study. The data itself can be delivered by a RENC.
- The costs of this kind of study are expected to be quite low. Finland is prepared to cover them.

### 3. Harmonising of found inconsistencies

When the results of the study above are available, it may be feasible to arrange an **ENC Harmonisation Workshop** within the Baltic Sea countries. The workshop may be organised late 2007. It is estimated that one or two experts from each country may attend the proposed 1 or 2 days workshop.

Preliminary the Workshop may deal with the following issues:

- To make proposals to resolve the found inconsistencies
- To make proposals to harmonise the ENC scales on the Baltic Sea
- To develop an Action plan for resolving found inconsistencies and for common BSHC regional implementation of the recommendations for consistent ENC data encoding [Ref. 2]
- To make (possible) proposals to the TSMADWG or to the CHRIS, e.g. for S-101 development
- To draft a Report to be sent to the WEND Committee (with possible proposals) [as requested by Ref. 1]

### **Actions required from the BSHC 12<sup>th</sup> Conference:**

The BSHC 12<sup>th</sup> Conference is requested to consider this issue and to take appropriate actions.

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