

### **MSI. Report by Baltic Sea Sub-area Co-ordinator**

Sweden is Baltic Sea Sub-area Co-ordinator within the international Navigational Warning Service as well as NAVTEX co-ordinator within the Baltic Sea area. In the latter capacity the Baltico office receives navigational warnings from the other Baltic Sea nations and transmit relevant warnings on Navtex via transmitters in Sweden or Estonia.

#### **Navtex statistics 2006**

<b>Originating country</b>	<b>Number of warnings received at the Baltico Office</b>	<b>Number of warnings transmitted on Navtex</b>	<b>% of received warnings transmitted on Navtex</b>
Sweden	479	75	16
Finland	33	29	88
Russia, Petersburg	18	14	78
Russia, Kaliningrad	57	55	96
Estonia	31	29	94
Latvia	20	17	85
Lithuania	26	22	85
Poland	106	90	85
Germany	63	54	86
Denmark	275	89	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1108</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>43</b>

In September 2006 the Royal Danish Administration of Navigation and Hydrography hosted the 2:nd "Baltico Meeting" regarding Maritime Safety Information (MSI) within the Baltic Sea Sub-area. 10 nations were represented as well as the NAVAREA I Co-ordinator and the secretary of the IMO NAVTEX Co-ordinating panel.

The 3:rd Baltico Meeting will be held in Hamburg in April 2008.

A new Navtex station has been established in Pinneburg near Hamburg. The station, which is operated by the German Weather Service (DWD), is transmitting (MSI) for the German bight on the international frequency 518 kHz. The station is also transmitting MSI in German language for German bight and SW Baltic on the national frequency 490 kHz.

A new network based system for compiling, editing, scheduling, transmitting and monitoring of NAVTEX was purchased and installed in the winter 2006-2007. The system is operating following five Navtex stations: Bjuröklubb, Härnösand (spare), Tingstäde (spare), Gislövshammar and Grimeton.

It has been experienced that navigational warnings concerning "low water levels" very seldom are issued. For this reason the Baltic Sea Sub-area Co-ordinator and the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) have been studying the issue, initially with focus on the Belts, the Sound, Western and Southern Baltic. The criterion for promulgating a "low water warnings" for this area has been 100 cm below MSL. After discussions with colleagues at HO in Denmark and Germany the criterion for issuing a navigational warning regarding low water has been changed to 60 cm below MSL. This is estimated to result in approximately 8 navigational warnings/year in total for the above stated areas.

The criterion for other sea areas will be studied later on.