

12th BALTIC SEA HYDROGRAPHIC
COMMISSION CONFERENCE
Klaipeda, LITHUANIA-12-14 June, 2007

A Opening formalities

A1 Opening of the Conference

The Chairman Mr. Janis Krastins pointed out the events that have taken place in hydrography during the period between 11th and 12th Conferences. According to the Statutes there was a quorum and the Conference is eligible. There were eight Member States represented in the BSHCC12 – Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden. The IHB was represented by its President V-adm. Alexandros Maratos. Chairman informed participants about received letter from Russian HO with apologies for not attending BSHCC12 due to unforeseen business. Chairman on behalf of all participants thanked Hosts for excellent reception organized on the day of arrival.

A2 Welcome from the Host Country

A3 Adoption of Agenda

[Doc. BSHCC12_Agenda.pdf](#)

The agenda of the Conference was adopted with additional items:

- Finland informed that the item E5 – CHRIS/CSPCWG will deal only status of Fairway symbology
- Revision of Statutes proposed by Chairman
- Reconsideration of interval between two consecutive meetings – proposed by IHB

A4 Minutes and Actions of the 11th Conference

[Doc. BSHC11_Minutes.pdf](#)

[Doc.Updated List of Actions_BSHCC11.pdf](#)

The Minutes of the 11th Conference were accepted without any comments.

Reviewing the List of Actions from the 11th Conference Chairman proposed and it was agreed to have a continuous action – Update of S-55 – in the Action List of the 12th Conference. Most of the Actions from the previous Conference were considered as done. Chairman made a remark that there was very little input to the CBC from the region.

Action 1 S-55 update

B Strategic aspects of the development of IHO

B1 Outcomes from the XVII IHC

The President of the IHB V-adm. Alexandros Maratos gave a report on the major conclusions of the XVII International Hydrographic Conference (IHC). The report of the IHC will be made available soon. The President reported that actions have been initiated by the IHB for the establishments of the WGs that have been decided by the Conference. A Circular Letter has been sent to Member States and Chairs of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions for their participation to the WG that will consider the Strategic Plan (ISPWG) and the selection of the representatives of the Commissions.

Discussions are progressing with the Chair for the WG that will consider the Staff Regulations and with CHRIS for the establishment of the WGs under CHRIS on Hydrography and Cartography of Inland Waters and the SDI.

Information was also provided for the IHO submissions to next meeting of NAV, that will take place in London at the end of July. The President informed also the participants on the celebrations for the WHD and the discussions at the Conference for the IHB to propose the themes of the celebrations for the next two years.

B2 Information from HOs on ratification process

All members informed the Conference regarding the status of ratification process of the Protocol of Amendments to IHO Convention. The president of IHB Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos informed that there are 14 MS so far officially ratified the Protocol of Amendments. As from the information of participants following Countries have ratified the Protocol – Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, and Sweden. Finland informed that the ratification is ongoing, Poland also reported that the process has been started and might be expected to be finished at the end of autumn. Lithuania provided information that their Government has taken a positive decision to join IHO and expect to have Convention ratified during the next year.

B3 Election of the Regional Representative to the Council

Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos passed to the MS of the BSHC formal request to start a discussion on the election of representatives to the Council. It was reminded that IHB seeks information on procedures selected but not for the Names of representatives.

Germany during the discussion indicated on the overlap of other two RHC in close areas – NHC and NSHC, suggesting coordination of the election procedures among three RHCs. This proposal was supported by all MS and decided to find out which country is eligible to which RHC.

Action 2 To contact NHC and NSHC chairmen to initiate discussion on representation in Council from the region (who is eligible for what commission to achieve the largest representation)

B4 Designation of the representative to WG to improve the Strategic Plan of the IHO

The president of IHB Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos recalling on the CL52/2007 kindly invited BSHC to nominate a representative to WG to review IHO Strategic Plan. He also reminded that the deadline is 31st July to inform the IHB.

Germany proposed Finnish delegate Mr. Juha Korhonen to continue his excellent work representing BSHC in SPWG. As Finnish delegation and Mr. Juha Korhonen agreed to the proposal all represented MS fully supported nomination.

Action 3 To inform the IHB on representative in SP overview WG

C Aspects related to technical issues of the HOs activities

C1 PSSA areas on the Baltic Sea nautical charts.

Doc. BSHC12_C1_FIN_PSSA areas on the charts.pdf

IMO has approved Baltic Sea (except Russian waters) as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA). The brief report with proposals regarding displaying PSSA information on Baltic Sea nautical charts was given by the representative of Finland Mr. Jarmo Mäkinen. Finland proposes that the BSHC decides on common recommendations how these areas should be shown on Baltic Sea nautical charts and publications:

- On printed charts;
- On notice to Mariners;
- In ENC.

Germany supported proposal in principle, saying that note must be harmonized, but additionally proposed to contact HELCOM to consult on the text of the Note and on specific regulations that may apply in the Baltic Sea.

Denmark supported the proposal, indicating their view that it is enough with a note on charts and not needed in NtMs.

Sweden pointed out some considerations, reminding that PSSA is not entire Baltic Sea (Russia not included), advising for careful consideration before putting a note on the charts. Sweden suggested to put a note in NtMs only.

Estonia supported Finnish proposal in principle and also supported Swedish proposal to have a note in NtMs only.

Latvia supported proposal in principle, but also expressed support to address HELCOM.

IHB suggested to put more detailed information in the Sailing Directions.

Finally it was decided to take further steps, as everybody agreed that information on PSSA must be delivered to sailors.

Action 4 To contact HELCOM investigating whether there are any special conditions and regulations of PSSA in Baltic Sea (with a purpose to display PSSA on charts or NtM)

D Promulgation of maritime safety information in the Baltic Sea

Doc. BSHCC12_D_MSI.pdf

Doc. BSHCC12_D_Firing.pdf

Sweden presented a report on MSI. Germany additionally informed about a change in policy distributing low water warnings. It was decided to pass this information to the next BALTICO meeting.

Action 5 Request BALTICO meeting to include into the Agenda the item on low water warnings

Sweden continued with a presentation of an issue on firing exercises. The main problem that was outlined by Sweden is that messages of firing exercise are too long and therefore difficultly understandable for mariners. The list of recommendations was included in the document.

Poland supported proposals and already tried to act according similar principles.

Finland also is almost in line with the proposed.

Estonia has no officially designated military exercise areas, but the research has been started to set two to four areas.

Denmark informs mariners one month before, NtM contains information on firing exercises only in Danish, at the same time there are specially designated areas numbered accordingly. Latvia also has specially designated areas (not numbered). Maritime Administration of Latvia and Latvian Military Forces have agreed on instruction how to disseminate information on firing exercises both in designated areas and outside of such areas.

Germany is following proposed guidelines.

Denmark also indicated that NAVTEX is very important to deliver MSI to mariners, what is not always the case with NtMs.

The President of the IHB suggested that this issue it will be appropriate to be examined by the CPRNW which will meet in September at the Bureau. A letter must be sent to the Chair of this Commission Mr. Peter Doherty from USA.

Action 6 To raise an item on promulgation of Firing exercises via NAVTEX in next CPRNW meeting in September 2007

E Reports of WG

E1 HELCOM Monitoring Working group

[Doc. BSHC12_E1_MWG Report with Annexes.pdf](#)

The report of the HELCOM Monitoring Working Group (MWG) was given by Mr. Juha Korhonen from Finland. Actions required by the 12th BSHC Conference:

- To endorse this report
- To approve the MWG Work program Version 4.1.

The report and Work program Version 4.1 of the Monitoring Working group were accepted.

E2 Baltic Vertical Reference System WG

[Doc. BSHCC12_CDWG_Report.pdf](#)

[Doc. BSHC12_E2_FIN_Vertical reference.pdf](#)

The BSHC11th Conference decided that the current status of vertical reference system and chart datums around the Baltic Sea have to be analyzed. A Working Group was established with Dr. Vaido Kraav (Estonia) as the chairman. Dr. Vaido Kraav presented a report of the WG. Dr. Kraav also indicated that the WG should continue to work and proposed to elect new chairman - Jukka Varonen.

Responding to the proposal Mr. Jukka Varonen reported regarding Harmonization of Vertical Reference on the Baltic Sea. New adjusted Terms of Reference were added in the Annex of the report.

Discussing the issue Denmark offered to adjust ToR and also pointed out necessity to study how the data is displayed and presented on board of vessels.

Germany strongly supported continuation of the WG and harmonization of Vertical Reference Datum (VRD). The harmonization of VRD becomes even more essential as SDI increases its importance. Germany also requested to include ENCs in the last bullet point of the first part of ToR. Germany supported Denmark requesting to adjust ToR.

Sweden admitted this issue as very important and supported both continuation of WG and nominated Chairman, at the same time Denmark and Germany.

Finland informed that water level information was broadcasted in AIS, but it was interrupted due to technical problems, nevertheless it will be continued ASAP.

Germany suggested to have a report by Finland on methods and equipment for distribution of real time sea level data (to the Mariners, AIS, VTS, etc.)

Agreed: to support WG to continue the work with a new appointed chairman Mr. Jukka Varonen (Finland).

The President of the IHB suggested that this issue can be passed to the Tidal Committee to examine and provide their views.

Action 7 To refer to the Tidal Committee an issue of methods and equipment for distribution of real time sea level data (to the Mariners, AIS, VTS, etc.)

Action 8 To provide the members of BSHC with a report on activities providing real time sea level data for mariners and VTS or other authorities

E3 Motorways of the Baltic Sea Pilot Survey Project

[Doc. BSHC12_E3_FIN_BSM_Pilot_Project.pdf](#)

Finnish Maritime Administration has completed a pilot study project together with Estonian and Swedish Maritime Administrations.

The main issues of the Pilot project were introduced by Mr. Jukka Varonen from Finland. It's a part of EU project and the final report will be ready at the end of June, 2007. The BSHC 12th Conference noted this information.

E4 Revision of IHO S-44

The report regarding revision of IHO S-44 was given by the representative of Finland Mr. Jukka Varonen.

IHB indicated on the valuable input from the NHC to the S-44WG. It is planned to finalize the work at the September of this year.

E5 Report of CHRIS/CSPCWG – Status of Fairway area symbology

[Doc. BSHC12_E5_FIN_Fairway_area.pdf](#)

The report was given by Mr. Jarmo Mäkinen. Finland informed at the BSHC 10th Conference on the proposal to define an INT symbology for fairways areas. This issue was referred to the CHRIS/CSPCWG for future evaluation. The CSPCWG has developed a

symbology for different areas. The new symbology has been sent to the IHO Member States for approval.

The information was noted by the Conference.

F Progress in creation of the International Charts for the Baltic Sea

F1 Report on work carried out by the Baltic Sea International Chart Committee (BSICC)

[Doc. BSHCC12_Report_BSICC.pdf](#)

Mrs. Hanne Berg, chairperson of BSICC, introduced the report of Committee and invited to take a note of it.

F2 Appointment of a new chairperson of the BSICC

[Doc. BSHCC12_chair_BSICC.pdf](#)

As Mrs. Hanne Berg is retiring later this year, new chairperson of BSICC had to be elected. As a candidate was proposed Mr. Jarmo Mäkinen from Finland. Mr. Jarmo Mäkinen received full support from all the participating MSs and was appointed as a new Chairperson.

BSHC would like to thank Mrs. Hanne Berg for excellent chairmanship and all the efforts spent.

F3 ENC harmonization

[Doc. BSHC12_F3_FIN_ENC Harmonisation.pdf](#)

[Doc. BSEHWG.pdf](#)

[Doc. BSHC ENC HarmonisationWG TORs.pdf](#)

Mr. Juha Korhonen presented Finland's considerations on ENCs harmonisation process. Some actions have been proposed:

1. Harmonizing of compilation scales of Baltic Sea ENCs (every country can make corrections).
2. Analysis of inconsistencies on Baltic Sea ENCs.
3. Workshop to agree on harmonization actions.

Finland proposed to attract private company for analysis of inconsistencies.

Starting a discussion on this matter Germany raised a question how does it all align with PRIMAR Stavanger and IC-ENC JTEWG (Joint Technical Experts Working Group).

Denmark proposed the document presented by Finland to forward to JTEWG.

Continuing discussion Finland proposed to take a common decision for all proposals.

Germany emphasizing the importance of the issue and reminding that WEND has tasked RHCs to overcome inconsistency problems and proposed to create a WG. The main tasks of WG would be to deal with all three proposals mentioned above.

Participating representatives of MS made a common decision to create a WG, not to attract a private company. The name of the WG – Baltic Sea ENC Harmonization WG (BSEHWG). Mr. Jens Peter Hartmann was nominated and elected as a chair of the WG. Denmark, Finland and Germany volunteered to prepare Terms of Reference for the WG. Terms of Reference were discussed and approved by the Commission.

Mr. Jens Peter Hartmann presented his considerations on the items WG should address.

Action 9 Appoint members for the BSEHWG

Action 10 BSEHWG to prepare a final report

Action 11 BSEHWG to provide a Progress report

F4 Obtaining of INT status for the paper version of the HELCOM Transit Guide for the Baltic Sea

Doc. BSHC12_F4_MRG INT status.pdf

Finland (Mr. Jarmo Mäkinen) presented a paper on obtaining INT status for paper version of the HELCOM Transit Guide for the Baltic Sea.

Germany indicated that there is lot of support from shipping industry to assign INT status to the HELCOM Transit Guide. At the same time Germany with all respect reminded that S-49 might be out of date and not only because of this issue. Germany proposed to address IHB to study whether S-49 is updated and what is present status of the publication.

Sweden agreed with others that the HELCOM Transit Guide is very good and useful publication. Sweden also expressed their view that if INT status is assigned, it should be left to each country itself to decide whether it should be included in carriage requirements.

Mrs. Hanne berg (Denmark) as chair of BSICC informed participants that IHB has been informed on the issue, but so far there have not been any response.

IHB proposed to put it as an action for IHB to investigate whether S-49 still exists and if yes then update it.

Action 12 To address IHB requesting to investigate Status of S-49 inclusion of MRG into the publication

G IHO special publication S-55

The Chairman Mr. Janis Krastins noted importance of publication S-55 and invited Member States to update it once a year. The Conference also acknowledged and thanked Capt. Mike Barritt for enormous and valuable work he has put into S-55 and CBC matters. Member States were also informed that HELCOM database is also linked to S-55.

G1 Reports from HOs according to form

The Conference took note of the written reports presented by all members attending..

H Establishment of an IHO Capacity Building Fund

H1 Information on CBC activities

Chairman of the BSHCC12 informed all the participating Member States on the latest CBC activities from the last CBC meeting that took place week before in Riga, Latvia.

H2 Customized Hydrographic course for Baltic Sea countries

Doc. BSHC12_H2_Hydrographic Course.pdf

The representative of Finland Mr. Jukka Varonen introduced the idea to arrange a customized Hydrographic course. Each Baltic State Hydrographic office is invited to look

upon the necessity of this kind of education, possibly a tailored course starting in 2008. Also possible financial grants should be studied as well as the number of students that would be interested in the course. At the present there is not any information about costs. Latvia said that there might be an interest, but it depends on the costs of the course. IHB proposed to write a Circular letter to get filling of empty spaces.

Action 13 To poll the possibilities of the BSHC members to participate to a customised Hydrographic course starting autumn 2008.

I Spatial Data Infrastructure

Germany informed participants on the activities concerning SDI, providing with the information on seminars and workshops organised, projects involved, major issues and problems. One of the conclusions is that most of all EU actions in SDI do not involve Hydrography at a satisfying level. Germany invited all Member States to establish the links with authorities driving SDI development and also actively participate in WG under CHRIS on SDI.

Finland supported Germany and encouraged to use tools and systems that already are in place and exist and not to spend too much effort on creating new ones.

IHB informed that it is planned to have information and documents on SDI on IHO webpage (iho.org). All the IHO community must realise that SDI is becoming more and more important and we must act.

J Miscellaneous

J1 Latvian HO web ATON IS

Mr. Aigaras Gailis from Latvia gave a short presentation on information system that provides free of charge information on Aids to Navigation – present status of those connected to real time monitoring system, also to web base application similar to List of Lights, data base of NtM.

J2 Promotion the use of ECDIS on the Baltic Sea *[Doc. BSHC12_J2_ECDIS Promotion.pdf](#)*

The report was given by Mr. Juha Korhonen from Finland. He invited all Member States contact the relevant offices of HELCOM representatives in their country to support possible actions to promote the use of ECDIS on ships.

Agreed: All countries strongly support using of ECDIS on ships.

J3 Baltic Sea Bathymetric Grid

Germany informed the Commission that the WG is remaining dormant in accordance with the decision of the proceeding Conference to suspend work because of the lack of interest and input from MSs.

J4 Overview ENC for Baltic Sea

Germany has planned to produce overview ENC for Baltic Sea. It should be available at the autumn of this year. It will be available for all HOs.

K Unscheduled items

K1 Revision of the Statutes of BSHC

Chairman informed all Members States that present version of the statutes of BSHC available is not approved by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

IHB invited Member States to consider to have meetings of BSHC every year instead of every second year. After having a close look it was decided that present wording of Statutes allows to organize meetings every year therefore there is no need to change this point.

During the discussion it was discovered that there is nothing said in the statutes about Depositary of the Statutes of BSHC.

IHB offered to have IHB as Depositary as it does other RHCs. IHB also kindly offered to provide a correct wording to Chair of the Commission.

Action 14 To prepare a new version of the Statutes

Action 15 To send a letter to MS of BSHC requesting signatures of Statutes

Action 16 To approve new Statutes of the BSHC, responding to the letter of IHB

L1 Election of the chairman and vice chairman of BSHC

According to the Article 6a of the Statutes of the BSHC the Vice-Chairman representing the country where the Conference takes place at the end of the venue becomes the next Chairman and remains in the position until the next Conference. So Mr. Viktoras Liulys was approved as Chairman of BSHC for the next period.

L2 Place and time of the next Conference

The representative of Germany Mr. Horst Hecht kindly announced that for the next, BSHC 13th Conference all participants are kindly invited to Germany, Rostock. The conference should take place in autumn, 2008. The exact time will be fixed later.

Action 17 To announce a date of the next BSHC Conference (in autumn 2008)

L3 Closing ceremony

At the closing ceremony of the 12th BSHC Conference Chairman thanked all Member States represented for smooth and excellent cooperation. All agreed that the conference was very fruitful and important. At the same time Members of the BSHC have tasked themselves with issues of great importance.

On behalf of all participants Chairman also thanked Hosts for excellent arrangements and for great hospitality!

At the end of all the Conference was declared as closed.