

**Chart Datum WG**

**Report to the BSHC 14th Conference**

By the Chart Datum WG Chair

16 September 2009

Jukka Varonen



**Finnish Maritime  
Administration**

**Content:**

1. Status of Work of Chart Datum Working Group
2. Brief conclusions of the current situation
3. Proposals for further actions to Chart Datum Working Group
4. Actions for the BSHC 14th Conference

## **The Work of the ChartDatumWG**

- **Five WG letters were sent**
- **All\* WG members have replied at least partially to questions and have given positive information about the need for harmonization in all. (\*Russia has some difficulties in delivering the data, because Russia is not a member of UELN.)**
- **Participation to HSSC TWLWG**
- **ChartDatumWG meeting on 13-14 May 2009**
- **Contacts with BOOS**

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## **Participation to HSSC TWLWG**

- **Jukka Varonen presented the Baltic Sea view of Chart Datum problemacy for the 1st TWLWG meeting in Niteroi in April**
- **What is the most important thing?**
  - **System determination and realization**
  - **How to apply the determination in charting practice**
- **The determination of the MSL was taken to TWLWG Work Programme**

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## **ChartDatumWG meeting on 13-14 May 2009**

- **Germany, Sweden, Finland**
- **SHMI gave a presentation on collection of water level information over a network**
- **EVRF2007 and INSPIRE rules were discussed**
- **Land Uplift model NKG2005LU**
- **The principles of EXCEL spreadsheet for Datum differences were decided**

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## **Contacts with BOOS**

- **A letter to the steering group of BOOS was sent after WG-meeting in May**
- **A positive reply was received in July (Chairman Bertil Håkansson, SHMI)**
- **The STG of BOOS is waiting the proposals of BSHC (group of experts?)**

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## Some conclusions:

- The study of differences between national chart datums is almost finished. The complicated results require a simplified description.
- Knowing the theoretical differences is not the solution
- The practices in surveying and especially the long history of data presented on nautical charts may cause that the true datum is more or less unclear and inaccuracies may exist.
- We should note that the only possibility to avoid such inaccuracies in the future is to rely on a datum which is easy to realize everywhere with sufficient repeatability over decades
- A geodetic datum fulfills these requirements for charts
- The water level information have to be delivered in the same Datum

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## Future Actions for ChartDatumWG:

- To complete the Excel table for datum parameters and to prepare a short analysis of the results
- To proceed with preparations a MoU with BOOS
- To Report to HSSC TWLWG
  - The present situation in the Baltic Sea area
  - The benefits of geodetic datum as a depth datum in
    - Nautical charting
    - In data exchange between all other charting and environmental organizations

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**The BSHC 14<sup>th</sup> Conference is requested to**

- 1. endorse this Report**
- 2. approve the revised TORs for the ChartDatumWG**
- 3. approve the revised Work Program 3.0 for the ChartDatumWG**
- 4. support further communications with BOOS aiming to have a MoU between BOOS and BSHC**

**End of the ChartDatumWG presentation**

**Questions, comments?**

**Thank You!**