

Baltic Sea Depth Database

In 1995 the BSHC established a working group on the subject “Baltic Sea Bathymetric Grid”. The task for the working group was the development of a bathymetric data set for the entire Baltic Sea preferably based on hydrographic survey data. The working group, chaired by Germany, developed a specification for the data set. During 1998 the German partial dataset was completed. Later on Denmark offered to process and compile partial datasets. At the 10th BSHC Conference in St. Petersburg 2003, Germany gave a status report on the “Baltic Sea Bathymetric Grid” project. The report stated that it had not been possible to complete the task due to lack of data provided by member HOs.

The Working group was disbanded but it was decided to include the item into the agenda of the next Conference. The item has however not been discussed at subsequent Conferences.

During the last years it has been more and more evident that the access to reliable depth data in the Baltic Sea is most important, not only for navigation but also for many other purposes such as environmental use.

The Swedish government has also pointed out the importance of having harmonized information concerning the Baltic Sea.

Sweden invites the BSHC members to consider reopening the Working group concerning depth data in the Baltic Sea.