

## **Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database WG (BSBDWG) Status Report 2010-09-14**

At the 14<sup>th</sup> BSHC Meeting in Copenhagen (agenda item C6) the Commission agreed upon the need of having a common bathymetric dataset for the Baltic Sea and of that reason installed a Baltic Sea Bathymetry Data Base WG (BSBDWG). The TOR and ROP were drafted by Sweden with assistance from Germany and attached as an annex to the minutes of the conference. MS was invited to comment the draft TOR and ROP. The final TOR and ROP are enclosed in annex 1.

Most of the MS have notified us about their WG members. The WG is chaired by Sweden and enclosed in annex 2. The BSHC MS who have not yet nominated any WG member are still invited to do so.

Letter 1 was distributed to the WG 2 July 2010 and invited to study the letter including the Working Plan proposal and time table. The WG was also invited to evaluate the concept, express ideas, proposals and improvements at latest 1 September. The proposed time table continues until August 2012. Finland has provided comments. Any comments from other BSHC members are also welcome.

The task of the BSBDWG has been included in an application for EU funding in a proposed TEN-T project 'Mona Lisa'. If this application is successful it will enable an increased level of ambition and possibly an extension of the time schedule into 2013.

It is evident that the BSBDWG needs to create relations with other important working groups and projects. Obvious examples are the BSHC Chart Datum WG, other relevant IHO groups and the ongoing specification work in Inspire.

In order to determine the necessity for a bathymetric model of the Baltic Sea and the technical specifications required, the Swedish HO has made an investigation among Swedish authorities and other users of bathymetric data. The work was started before the BDWG and the report will be completed during the next month and distributed to the whole WG. The survey reveals a wide range of applications for bathymetric data, many of which can be classified as geographical planning tasks. The range of planning applications is diverse in itself, from energy and water resource related work to environmental protection, exploration and a number of other tasks. Our investigation shows that generally speaking

- the spatial resolution and wealth of detail should be as high as possible, but there are different resolution needs for different applications,
- there is a high demand for availability of data,
- the highest level of interest is close to the coast,
- there are good conditions for improved cooperation ,
- Official Secrets Acts and the reason for classifying depth information is a serious problem and pose a hindrance to all requirements above.

The BSHC 15<sup>th</sup> Conference is invited to note this report and take any actions as considered appropriate

## Annex 1

### **Annex 2 of the final minutes at the 14th BSHC Conference; TORs/ROPs for the "Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database WG (BSBD-WG)"**

#### 1. Objective

The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) recognizes the need to study and develop the possibility to establish a common set or database of bathymetric data for the Baltic Sea Area. At the 14th Conference in Copenhagen 2009 it was decided to establish a working group for this purpose.

#### 2. Authority

The BSBD-WG is a subsidiary of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC). The work and results of the group is subject to BSHC monitoring and approval.

#### 3. Terms of reference

The BSBD-WG shall:

- Study issues related to the access of high density bathymetric data for the entire Baltic Sea area.
- Identify and study the possible differences of existing regulations concerning depth data in the Member states.
- Develop proposals for specification of common harmonized datasets including a common application schema for bathymetry.
- Develop proposals concerning storage, maintenance, exchange and distribution of the bathymetric data. A concept of a "virtual" database and distribution by metadata, view and download services in line with the Inspire directive should be studied.
- Consider the work and results of the former BSHC Working Group "Baltic Sea Bathymetric Grid".
- Develop proposals for the further steps to establish the database.

#### 4. Rules of Procedures

- All BSHC Members and Associate Members are strongly encouraged to participate in the WG.
- The BSBD-WG may invite other participants to join its work.
- The WG shall be chaired by one of the Member States elected at the BSHC Conference.
- Decisions shall generally be made by consensus. If votes are required all members (including associate and other members) have one vote.
- The WG shall conduct its work mainly by correspondence and e-mail is the preferred method of communication.
- WG meetings shall be arranged when found appropriate for the progression of work.
- The WG shall make its initial report on status and findings to BSHC 15th Conference.

## Annex 2

**List of participants**  
**BSHC Working Group**  
**"Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database"**  
**(BSBD-WG)**  
2010-09-14

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