Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)

16th Conference – Norrköping, Sweden

(21-22 September 2011)

IHB Report

Introduction

1.   The following notes report on current activities and issues being addressed by the IHB.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

2.   Progress on Member States' approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention is slow but steady. By August 2011, 32 of the required 48 approvals had been received by the Government of Monaco acting as the depository nation for the IHO. All BSHC Member States except the Russian Federation have formally approved the Protocol of Amendments.

XVIIIth IHC

3.   Preparations for the XVIIIth IHC are on schedule. There are six Proposals tabled so far, however, there may be additional proposals from member States or from the Reports of the main Committees and the Working Groups that reports directly to the IHC (such as the S-23 WG).

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

4.   Montenegro and Haiti have applied for membership of the IHO. By August 2011, the status of approval for membership was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Montenegro	51 of 52
Haiti	48 of 52

5.   Poland has not yet indicated its support for Haiti.

6.   The States of Bulgaria, Mauritania, and Sierra Leone have been accepted for membership of the IHO, but have yet to submit their letters of accession.

Global Availability of ENCs

7.   The IHO provided a report on the availability of ENCs to the 57th meeting of the IMO Subcommittee on Safety of Navigation (NAV57) in June.

8.   The report was based on information that of the 154 States with a coastline, less than six will fail to meet or nearly meet the 2010 target.

9.   As in previous years, the IHO pointed out that the coverage statistics provided in its report were based on total tonnage for the top 800 of the world's ports. Therefore, there will be some ports and areas of the world frequented by relatively few, albeit large vessels, such as cruise ships, where ENC coverage may still be missing. The IHB again invited relevant authorities to bring any such shortfalls to the attention of the relevant coastal State and to the IHB so that the matter can be addressed. After two years, no such reports have been received at the IHB.

10.   NAV57 did not ask for a specific report on global ENC coverage for 2012.

S-100

11.   The initial implementation of S-100 is proceeding satisfactorily. The UKHO continues to host the supporting S-100 registry. Development of the S-100 based ENC Product Specification S-101 and other Product Specifications is also proceeding well. These matters will all be reported in detail at HSSC-3.

12.   The IHB has represented the IHO in a number of forums that have expressed interest in extending S-100 as a standard for modelling and exchanging maritime data. Strong interest is being shown by IALA and by the IMO to use S-100 as a baseline standard for e-Navigation data exchange requirements. The ever-widening interest in using S-100 places an additional responsibility on the IHO to ensure that the maintenance and development of the standard is appropriately supported and resourced now and in the future. This will be discussed at HSSC-3 and is also related to XVIIIth IHC PRO 2 - *Requirement for increased technical resource at IHB* proposed by the UK.

S-23

13.   The S-23 WG was established in April 2009 with the task "*To submit a report of the work of the WG together with a draft 4th edition of S-23 to the IHB no later than June 2011, for the subsequent approval of Member States*".

14.   Two meetings have taken place but no progress has been made due to the currently irreconcilable positions taken by Japan and Korea over the naming the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago. Japan's position is to include only the name Japan Sea in the main body of S-23, but that a reservation by Korea could be included in an Annex. Korea's position is that two names - Japan Sea and East Sea, should have equal prominence in S-23.

15.   The work of the WG will be extended until early next year, during which time the Chair Group will continue to try to seek a compromise solution.

16.   In the meantime, if the BSHC decides to continue its development of a substitute section of S-23 containing names and limits for the Baltic region, this might provide a very useful example for other RHCs to follow. Such a section could even be considered at the XVIIIth IHC for adoption as an Addendum to the current edition of S-23.

Capacity Building Funding

17.   The Republic of Korea has recently increased its financial contribution to IHO capacity building efforts from approximately 100K USD to 400K USD per year in future years. The arrangements for spending this money are included in a revised Memorandum of Understanding between the RoK and the IHO signed by the President in June and reported in IHO CL 38/2011.

New IHB Staff

18.   Mr Dan Costin joined the IHB as the Information Technology Assistant (ITA) in January. He is occupying a new position created after the untimely death of m. Rachid Semlali as Office Manager. Mr Costin is being employed full-time in support of the IHB IT infrastructure and the administration of the IHO S-63 data security scheme. He will also take on the role of S-100 Registry Manager in the future. Meanwhile, many of m. Semlali's other administrative support duties have been superseded or redistributed among the existing staff.

19.   Captain Alberto Costa Neves joined the IHB in May to replace Captain Federico Bermejo, Professional Assistant, on his retirement. Captian Neves position has been titled Professional Assistant – Program Management (PA-PM). As well as replacing Captain Bermejo in providing primary support for IRCC activities, PA-PM will support

the Directing Committee with the growing workload of program performance monitoring and reporting, and the compilation of the IHO work programmes and budgets.

C-55 Updates

20.   The latest information in C-55 submitted by the Baltic States is as follows:

Country	Last update
Denmark – Baltic Coast	March 2011
Estonia	July 2007
Finland	February 2011
Germany – Baltic coast	July 2011
Latvia	September 2009
Lithuania	September 2011
Poland	September 2009
Russian Federation – Baltic coast	December 2003
Sweden	February 2011

Action Requested of BSHC

21.   BSHC members are invited to **Note** this report and take any actions as considered appropriate.