

Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)

17th Conference – Helsinki, Finland

18-20 September 2012

IHB Report

New Directing Committee - Duties and Responsibilities

1. The new Directing Committee assumed office on 1 September. Details of the allocation of responsibilities were promulgated in IHO Circular Letter 77 dated 6 August 2012. In summary, Director Mustafa Iptes will oversee IHO Programme 3 concerning regional cooperation and capacity building. Director Gilles Bessero will oversee Programme 2 - the IHO technical programme. Director Iptes will be the IHO Directing Committee representative in the BSHC.

New IHB Staff Member

2. Mr David Wyatt joined the IHB in April this year as an Assistant Director (AD). He replaces Mr Stephen Shipman who has retired after nine years' service at the IHB. Assistant Director Wyatt is a hydrographic surveyor who previously served in the UK Royal Navy, finally retiring in the rank of Commander. AD Wyatt has experience of working in various hydrographic services around the world. As well as service in the UK Hydrographic Service, both at sea and ashore, he has spent two years on an exchange posting to the Australian Hydrographic Service and completed his Navy career as the Hydrographer of Oman. AD Wyatt will assist Director Iptes in relation to BSHC liaison with the IHB.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

3. By September 2012, 36 of the required 48 approvals to the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco.

4. The Government of Monaco has received notification of approval of the Protocol of Amendments from all IHO Member States of the BSHC eligible to respond except Russian Federation.

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

5. Haiti, Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. By September 2012, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Haiti	51 of 52 required (All IHO Member States of the BSHC have approved the Haiti)
Viet Nam	29 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	26 of 52 required
Georgia	3 of 54 required

6. The following IHO Member States of the BSHC have not yet indicated positive support:

State Applying for Membership	No response as yet from:
Viet Nam	Denmark Finland Germany
Brunei Darussalam	Denmark Estonia Germany Latvia
Georgia	Denmark Estonia Germany Latvia Poland Russian Federation Sweden

7. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the representatives of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in obtaining the necessary support from their respective government bureaucracies to progress any approvals.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region H

8. Finland, as INT coordinator for Region E, has continued to provide regular updates to S-11 Region E. Member States are encouraged to continue to provide updates to S-11, through Finland as coordinator for INT Region E.

IHO ENC Reference Collection and ENC Availability Catalogue

9. CL 51/2012 dated 18 May reminded Member States to provide their ENCs to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19. This will enable the IHB to maintain an authoritative and up to date reference collection of ENCs and also to create a global information catalogue showing all ENCs that are published. The ENC data will be maintained on a secure stand-alone server and used for internal IHB reference purposes only, ENCs will NOT be provided to any other parties.

10. Responses to CL 51/2012 are as follows:

State	Remarks
Denmark	ENCs to be provided through PRIMAR
Estonia	ENCs to be provided through PRIMAR
Finland	no information provided to IHB
Germany	ENCs to be provided through IC-ENC
Latvia	no information provided to IHB
Poland	no information provided to IHB
Russian Federation	no information provided to IHB
Sweden	no information provided to IHB

11. Those ENC Producer States that have not yet responded to CL 51/2012 are requested to do so as soon as possible.

C-55 Updates

12. The latest updated information in C-55 - *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* submitted by States in the BSHC region is as follows:

State	C-55 last updated
Denmark-Baltic Coast	2011
Estonia	2007
Finland	2011
Germany-Baltic Coast	2011
Latvia	2009
Lithuania	2011
Poland	2009
Russian Federation-Baltic Coast	2003
Sweden	2011

IHO Publicity

13. World Hydrography Day. The proposed theme for World hydrography Day 2013 is "*Hydrography - supporting the blue economy*". The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and the benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms that will appeal both the public and to politicians. The IHB will be providing some supporting material on the IHO website beginning in the new year.

14. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The representative for the BSHC is Dr. Mathias JONAS.

15. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (*ihreview@iho.int*) and (*jan.halls1@defence.au.gov*).

Capacity Building Programme

16. Funding for the IHO Capacity Building programme over the next five years is forecast to be considerably lower than in the last five years. In these circumstances, the IHO and the RHCs will need to explore alternative mechanisms to fulfill their requirements.

Action Requested of BSHC Member States

17. BSHC Member States are invited to:

- Note this report,
- Report in-country progress on approving the Amendments to the IHO Convention and approving New Member States, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- Continue to provide updates to S-11, through Finland as coordinator for INT Region E;
- Respond to CL51/2012 as appropriate;
- Provide updates to C-55 as appropriate; and
- Take any other actions as considered appropriate.