Report of the IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group

Introduction
At the 16th BSHC Conference it was agreed to submit a MSDI paper to the 3rd HSSC meeting 8-10 November 2011 in Monaco. The paper was for consideration about MSDI future challenges and MSDI initiatives in the Baltic. The aim of this paper was to inform about the MSDI initiatives taken in the Baltic in order to motivate a discussion about future activities of HSSC concerning MSDI

Analysis/Discussion
As seen through a Baltic perspective, it is important that the IHO takes the lead in addressing MSDI matters for the maritime sphere through its MS. In view of IHO´s definition of hydrography in place, MSDI delivers the instruments for the enhanced scope of hydrographic information users. MSDI is to create the framework for the future provision of this information beyond the classic field of surface navigation. The MSDIWG would be an appropriate WG to deal with these challenges.

In particular, BSHC recommended that HSSC consider whether the topics listed below should be included in the work of the MSDIWG:
− Revising C-17 to reflect the MS approach to MSDI;
− Generating an operational approach to the implementation of MSDI, possibly as an annex to C-17;
− Creating a conceptual MSDI model with reflection on the difference between SDI and MSDI;
− Describing the basic elements of MSDI from a HO perspective;
− Analysing best practise and relevant SDI and, more specifically, MSDI projects;
− Reviewing the consequences of the INSPIRE Directive and other EU Directives and initiatives for MSDI;
− Determining how MSDI can create the framework for e-navigation ; and
− Studying the dimensions of governance in MSDI.

The HSSC Conference took note of the MSDI paper submitted by BSHC and found it appropriate to task the HSSC's MSDIWG chair to implement relevant items in its work program.

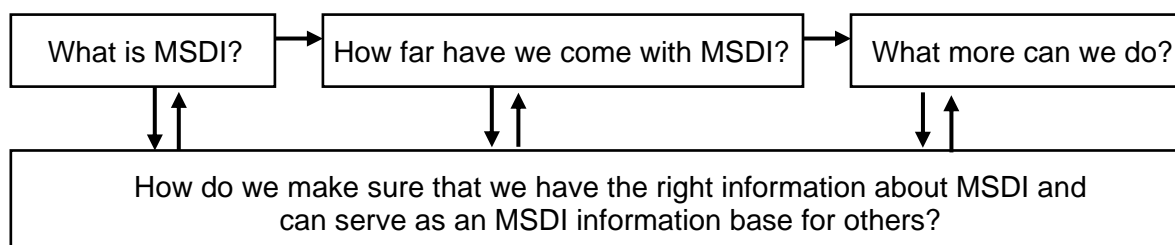In July 2012 KMS was appointed as the new MSDIWG Chair.

Next planned meeting

MSDIWG4 is planned to take place in Copenhagen January or February 2013 as a back-to-back arrangement with an MSDI conference. The MSDIWG4 meeting and the MSDI conference will be arranged by KMS.

Work Programme
A first draft of a work programme has been distributed to the WG members. At the proposed MSDIWG4 meeting in 2013, discussion and identification of any new work items will be undertaken, and a proposed revision of the existing work plan will be developed if necessary. The group may also consider proposing changes to the MSDIWG Terms of Reference. These would be presented to HSSC5 for approval.

The following is a draft work programme that has been developed with a view towards a five-year horizon. It includes four proposed initiatives that the MSDIWG will review and may propose to adjust at the WG's next meeting.

What is MSDI?	→	How far have we come with MSDI?	→	What more can we do?

How do we make sure that we have the right information about MSDI and can serve as an MSDI information base for others?

Initiative 1:   What is MSDI? – A general approach to MSDI
Aim: To create a general and uniform understanding of the key elements of MSDI, including concept descriptions of four subareas:
- Technical issues
- Data and harmonisation
- Governance
- Liaison with other organisations

Deliverables: A review of MSDI that includes conceptual descriptions of the four subareas of MSDI. An MSDI wiki can support the documentation process. This activity will also result in a revision of the IHO MSDI pub C-17.

Initiative 2:   How far have we come with MSDI? – A review and status report
Aim: To review regional and national status of MSDI development
Deliverables: A MSDI review and status report, that identifies examples of MSDI best practise

Initiative 3:   What more can we do? – A strategic approach to further MSDI development
Aim: To address the opportunities and challenges for MSDI, leading to the creation of strategic plan for how the working group can support the MSDI development within the IHO and among the Member States
Deliverables: A SWOT and GAP analysis, an MSDI strategy and a revised work plan. Pilot MSDI projects may be created or facilitated among the Member States, and an IHO metadatabase can be launched based on open-source technology

Initiative 4:   Training and communication
Aim: To ensure that the working group's members are adequately trained and
                   prepared to actively move MSDI development forwards, and to position
                   the working group as a hub of expertise concerning MSDI. Further, to en-
                   sure that MSDI stakeholders are linked to other SDI initiatives as a way to
                   ensure that MSDI is integrated into larger scale SDI work.
Deliverables: A study of the need for education and training among the Member States
                   and possible arrangement of training events. The group will arrange an-
                   nual MSDIWG conferences, if possible as back to back arrangements
                   with MSDIWG meetings, and represent the working group in relevant fora,
                   events and conferences. This will be achieved in part through liaising with
                   relevant organisations and projects, including the United Nations Commit-
                   tee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-
                   GGIM), IMO in the context of e-Navigation, the European INSPIRE im-
                   plementing bodies, Arctic SDI and Global SDI.

Conclusions and Recommended Actions
As seen from a Baltic perspective, the Baltic MS now have a direct possibility to actively
participate in the development of a well functioning MSDI within the hydrographic domain
and its surroundings with the possibility to benefit from a national and a regional ap-
proach. The BSHCMSDIWG is, in this perspective, seen as a vital WG. Together with
other regions, MSDIWG can function as a discussion forum where practical solutions can
be tested and pilot projected can be initiated.

The Baltic MS that are not participating in the IHO MSDIWG are encouraged to consider
participation in the planned MSDIWG4 that is planned to take place in Copenhagen
January or February 2013 as a back-to-back arrangement with an MSDI conference.

Actions for the BSHC 17th Conference:
The BSHC 17th Conference is requested to note this Report and to take appropriate ac-
tions.