

BSHC Chart Datum Working Group (CDWG)

CDWG Report to the BSHC 18th Conference

[16 August 2013]

The CDWG TORs request the CDWG to report annually to the BSHC.

1. Status of Work of CDWG

Mr. Jukka Varonen has acted as the Chair of the CDWG. There have been some changes to the CDWG membership. *Mr Juha Korhonen* and *Mr Jyrki Mononen* have acted as the secretary of CDWG. All the BSHC countries have nominated a member to this Working Group, however not all have been active or participated to the meetings.

The CDWG TORs were approved by the BSHC 14th Conference in 2009. The Work Programme 4.1 approved by the BSHC 17th Conference in 2012. The main tasks for the CDWG are to prepare the implementation of the EVRS in the Baltic Sea, to forward to IHO TWLWG more specific Mean Seal Level definitions and recommendation especially for non-tidal areas, to study the validation, interpolation, prediction and distribution of water level information, follow up the relevant progress within INSPIRE, and to cooperate with relevant other international bodies e.g. BOOS.

Based on the decision of the 17th Conference BSHC sent a Questionnaire on the commitment and plans for the harmonization of Chart Datums to all member states. The answers of the member states were received by the CDWG meeting in April.

2. CDWG meeting 22 – 24 April 2013, Rostock

The CDWG meeting was held in Rostock on 22-24 April 2013. The main issues were to review the work since the previous meeting, to analyse the answers of the member states to the questionnaire, the progress made by the IHO, to review the work of TWLWG and other bodies, to review INSPIRE specifications, to inform on TEN-T *MonaLisa* 3.3 project, to clarify the tasks and Work Programme of the CDWG. Four active observers from BOOS and geodetic institutes from Finland, Germany and Sweden participated to the meeting and gave presentations. A detailed report will be given at the BSHC Conference.

Results of the questionnaire:

- In principle all member states are committed into the transition to a harmonized Chart Datum
- Denmark has a situation where their Chart Datum is already practically the same as the proposed common Datum i.e. EVRS
- Russia has not yet determined their position to this harmonization plan
- However, the practical arrangements required for the transition vary among the member states. Decisions have to be made together with the national land survey /

geodetic bodies. The position in Finland and Sweden is the most favourable because the land survey on those countries is already based on EVRS-related height datum.

- Sweden has already nationally outlined that this transition process to EVRS-harmonized Chart Datum have to be finished latest at 2020.

The conclusions of the CDWG5 meeting include that the "road map" and schedule for the transition have to be prepared and decided for each country. This will require a new work programme for CDWG and clear decisions of the BSHC Conference. BOOS and geodetic organizations and their international co-operation bodies are very much interested in the decisions of BSHC. They are willing to support our work. One should be prepared to make an agreement upon some practical issues with BOOS.

TWLWG5 and IHO Resolution 3/1919:

CDWG5 prepared a proposal for the new amended resolution in reference to the earlier e-mail communication inside TWLWG. This proposal was only slightly modified and then accepted in TWLWG5 meeting in Helsinki 14.-16 May to be forwarded to HSSC5.

3. *MonaLisa* project Sub-activity 3.3

The *MonaLisa* Subactivity 3.3 "*Pilot implementation of Harmonised vertical reference*" is planned to clarify and give further guidance to the BSHC members for their transition to a harmonised vertical reference.

Sub-activity 3.3 has not been progressed as planned, due insufficient human resources and other high priority tasks.

4. INSPIRE specifications

Low activity on this issue during 2012-13.

5. Chairmanship of CDWG

Chair of BSHC CDWG will retire after September 2013. The election of the new chair and the revision of CDWG TORs and WG will be an important issue of the 18th Conference for this long-lasting but unavoidable harmonization process. Draft proposals for TORs and WG by the present Chair will be sent before the Conference.

6. Actions for the BSHC 18th Conference:

The BSHC 18th Conference is requested to

1. note this Report
2. decide about the continuation of the WG and elect the new chairperson
3. give further guidance to CDWG as seen appropriate