

**18th Conference  
Tallinn, Estonia  
16-18 September 2013**

**Agenda item C.4  
Explanatory Note  
Denmark**

## **Report of the Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (BSMSDIWG)**

### **Introduction**

At its 15th Conference, the BSHC recognised the need to initiate a study of MSDI in the Baltic region in order to identify areas where MSDI implementation is underway, where problems can be foreseen and how the Baltic member states view the future development of MSDI in the region.

Therefore, the BSHC 15th Conference established the BSMSDIWG with the task of studying MSDI in the Baltic region.

The Working Group should:

- Identify and analyse the current status of individual MS MSDI implementation;
- Consider MSDI policies within related international projects such as e-navigation, ICZM, INSPIRE, EU Integrated Maritime Strategy, the Marine Strategy Framework and EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;
- Analyse how maritime authorities can contribute their spatial information and related updates, so information can easily be collected with other data to generate a current overall picture for the region;
- Focus on how BSHC can benefit from a regional approach to MSDI in the future; and
- Monitor the development of SDI that could be relevant for the Baltic region.

A BSHC MSDIWG workshop is planned later in September 2013 with the AIM to discuss, how MS can benefit from a regional approach to MSDI, see appendix A.

### **IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group**

The 18th International Hydrographic Conference confirmed the importance of marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI) activities for the IHO and its Member States.

From a HO perspective, it is important that the IHO takes the lead in addressing MSDI matters for the maritime sphere through its MS. With 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 should be seen as an appropriate WG to deal with these challenges.

### **Analysis/Discussion**

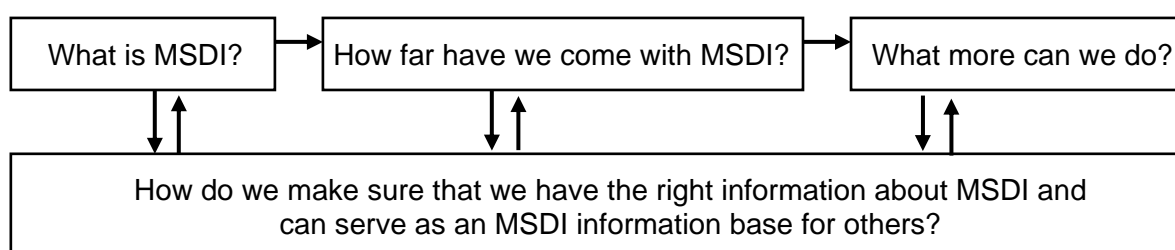
The IHO's MSDIWG has published the publication C-17 - Spatial Data Infrastructures: The Marine Dimension - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices, which outlines the benefits of developing spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) to reinforce coordination among maritime authorities.

At a time when the EU INSPIRE Directive is in its implementation phase across the European countries and SDIs are being developed worldwide at the national, regional and local levels, this approach to coordinated access to, and management of, geographic information has become a standard on land. However, as C-17 identifies, the integration of maritime data in SDIs has been limited at best, though there can be as many benefits to be gained by coordinated access to maritime information as to terrestrial data.

#### MSDIWG Work Programme

At the MSDIWG4 in Copenhagen February 2013 a draft work programme was established including a revision of the MSDIWG Terms of Reference. These would be presented to HSSC5 for approval.

The following work programme was developed with a five-year horizon. It includes four proposed initiatives that will create the framework for the MSDIWG.



#### **Maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management**

EU has recently published a proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council dealing with establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management. A presentation about the directive is attached as annex 2.

The main purpose of the proposed directive is to promote the sustainable growth of maritime and coastal activities and the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources by establishing a framework for the effective implementation of maritime spatial planning in EU waters and integrated coastal management in the coastal areas of Member States.

The increasing and uncoordinated use of coastal and maritime areas results in competition for maritime and coastal space and inefficient and unsustainable use of marine and coastal resources. Uncertainties and lack of predictability on appropriate access to the maritime space has created a suboptimal business climate for investors, with potential job losses.

The proposal establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management in the form of a systematic, coordinated, inclusive and trans-boundary approach to integrated maritime governance. It obliges Member States to carry out maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management in accordance with national and international law. The aim of the action is for Member States to establish a process or processes that cover the full cycle of problem identification, information collection, planning, decision-making, management, monitoring of implementation, and stakeholder participation.

The maritime spatial plans and integrated coastal management strategies will not set new sectorial policy targets. They have the purpose to reflect, integrate and link the objectives defined by national or regional sectorial policies, to identify steps to prevent or alleviate conflicts between different sectors and to contribute to the achievement of the Union's objectives in marine and coastal related sectorial policies. Most importantly, the proposal requires Member State action to aim for coherence of management across sea basins, through trans-boundary cooperation in the

same marine region or sub-region and related coastal zone and appropriate data collection and exchange.

Implementing acts will ensure consistent implementation of the Directive throughout the EU and facilitate reporting from the Member States to the Commission and, where relevant, the exchange of data between Member States and with the Commission. Article 10 in the proposed directive especially focuses on data collection and exchange of information. Article 12 and 13 describes Cooperation with other Member States and third countries.

As seen from a HO perspective a MSDI could support such varied activities as coastal zone management planning and maritime spatial planning including the management of energy production at sea, fishing, marine environmental protection and nature conservation, planning charts, navigation, civil and military preparedness, tourism, and maritime spatial planning.

### **Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

There are growing needs for better coordination of individual authorities' management of maritime information. While a national single window can aid in the reporting process among maritime stakeholders, information flow among the authorities is also a critical factor for ensuring the effective and efficient coordination of their work.

A MSDI ensures that relevant maritime authorities can contribute their spatial information and related updates, and that this information can easily be collected with other information to generate a current, overall picture. As a result, MSDI can support such varied activities as coastal zone management planning of energy production at sea, fishing, marine environmental protection and nature conservation, planning charts, navigation, civil and military preparedness, tourism, and maritime spatial planning.

As coordinated maritime spatial planning also gains increased focus at the EU level, not least through the Integrated Maritime Strategy and the Marine Strategy Framework, the needs for better integration of maritime data are becoming increasingly evident. Towards this end, discussion has begun among HOs as to the degree to which the maritime-oriented elements of the INSPIRE Directive can be implemented at an accelerated rate.

As seen from a HO perspective, the 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 approach.

The IHO MSDI WG and the Baltic MSDI WG are, in this perspective, seen as vital WG. Together with RHC the MSDI WG can function as a discussion forum where practical solutions can be tested and pilot projects can be initiated.

The BSHC 18th Conference is invited to discuss the implication of MSDI from a HO perspective and how MS can benefit from a regional approach. The issues and conclusions from the discussion are intended to be used as background material at the forthcoming Baltic MSDI meeting.

### **Actions required from the BSHC 18th Conference:**

The BSHC 18th Conference is requested to consider this report and to take appropriate actions.

## Appendix A

**Draft Workshop Schedule day one  
BSHC MSDIWG2**

Day One: September 24, 2013

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	1100 - 1110	Welcome, introduction of participants and practical information	Host/Chair
<b>Status</b>	1110 - 1125	Introductions to the MSDI Workshop 2 – what is the aim of the workshop and the meeting, and what do we want to achieve? (Draft to be forwarded before the workshop)	GST
	1125 - 1200	The MSDI work of IHO (IHO MSDIWG - Status, review of the work plan circulated and responses to it	Chair
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>1230 - 1315</b>		
<b>Presentations</b>	1315 - 1415	National presentation from members on status on SDI, MSDI and INSPIRE (Key successes and challenges on a country by country basis)	All
<b>Break</b>	<b>1445 - 1500</b>		
<b>Presentations</b>	1500 - 1530	Summing up with a GAP analysis approach, This should provide the starting point for Day 2 discussions	GST/all
	1530 - 1630	Presentation of the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management, this should also be discussed in relation to the other big EC drivers e.g. MSFD and Maritime strategy.	GST
	1630 - 1645	Discussion about the proposal from a Baltic perspective	All
<b>Status and how to proceed</b>	1645 - 1655	Summing up the challenges for the future	GST
	1655 - 1700	Evaluation and preparations for the second day	Chair
<b>Dinner</b>	1900 - 2200	Dinner	GST

**Draft Workshop Schedule Day Two  
BSHC MSDIWG2**

**Day Two: September 25, 2013**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	0900 - 0910	Welcome and the conclusions from Day One	Host/chair
<b>Status</b>	0920 - 1020	Terms of reference for the BSHC MSDI WG (see below)	Chair
		Setting goals for this meeting's results	Chair/All
<b>Break</b>	<b>1020 - 1035</b>		
<b>Presentations</b>	1035 - 1230	National presentation from members on national use of datasets	All
		Summing up on the use of datasets	GST
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>1230 - 1315</b>		
<b>Status and how to proceed</b>	1315 - 1500	Identifying the Baltic region's challenges for the future related to national and regional MSDI including the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management.	All
		How to proceed and creation of work plan	All
		Status report to BSHC	Chair
<b>Break</b>	<b>1500 - 1515</b>		
<b>Next meeting</b>	1515 - 1555	Next meeting	All
		Evaluation	All
		Any other business	All
<b>Closing</b>	1600	Closing of the workshop	Chair