

Proposal to Forward Articles on Hydrographic Co-operation on the Baltic Sea to International Hydrographic Review (IHR)

[16 August 2013]

Introduction

In several cases the work and co-operation within the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission and harmonisation actions within the Baltic Sea have been recognized to be very fruitful and successful. There have been proposals to forward information on these co-operation to wider audience, e.g. BSHC 17th Conference in September 2012 recommended to submit an article to IHR on Baltic Sea re-survey Scheme and the NHC 57th Conference in April 2013 recommended an article on experiences of contracting hydrographic survey operations. There are frequent requests from e.g. HELCOM to have written descriptions on BSHC co-operation activities.

Proposal

It is proposed to forward articles to International Hydrographic Review on the co-operation activities within the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission. One IHR edition could be BSHC dominated or perhaps published as a special Baltic Sea Edition.

Below are listed some possible topics on which articles may be included. Some of these may be (longer) peer-reviewed Articles and some (shorter) Notes.

Baltic Sea Re-survey Scheme

The Harmonised Re-survey Scheme is a good example of joint co-operation of all Baltic Sea countries, even Lithuania who is not a member of IHO. The Scheme is based on Ministerial level declarations and it has a high level political support. Re-surveys increase safety of navigation. The Scheme is available on Web. This work is well in line with the Decision 17 of the IHO XVIII Conference, see Annex 1. BSHC17 has already recommended an article on this to IHR.

MonaLisa project

This project is a concrete action to speed up re-surveys significantly on Finnish and Swedish areas. Re-surveys have been outsourced to private survey companies. These are co-funded by EU TEN-T funds. There are plans to seek future co-funding on the forthcoming EU 2015-2010 financial perspective.

Experiences of contracting hydrographic survey operations

Finland and Sweden have gained a lot of experiences of outsourcing hydrographic surveys e.g. within the MonaLisa project. Sweden already reported at NHC57. NHC57 recommended an article on this to IHR.

Lidar Bathymetry test projects on Baltic Sea

There are many activities and test projects on Baltic Sea, e.g. Germany 2012-2014, Finland some 10 years ago, Sweden studies, Denmark (reported at NHC57), Norway has experiences, and a proposed BSHC Lidar seminar. Main point of view should be on the feasibility of this technology on shallow waters and especially in the Baltic Sea environment.

Baltic Sea Depth Model

This is under development to allow easy use of depth data and harmonised depth data sets, especially high density modern data.

Wider use of hydrographic data

The use of hydrographic data for other purposes is all the time increasing. Also IHO Vision mentions e.g. environment protection. In Europe the INSPIRE Directive has requirements of data availability and distribution.

Other BSHC harmonization actions

Other BSHC harmonization actions may include short notes i.e. on ENC harmonisation, Harmonisation of depth presentation, INT chart coordination, Harmonisation Vertical datums.

Other possible Notes

Other possible Notes may include briefings on HELCOM activities for safety of navigation, on EU Baltic Sea Strategy and Action Plan for safety of navigation, etc.

Way ahead

The IHR Editor, *MR Ian Halls*, has endorsed this proposal and believes that anyone of the proposed topics is suitable. He also studies the idea of special Baltic Sea edition. He is waiting comments from the IHB. The BSHC representative at the IHR Editorial Board, *Mr. Mathias Jonas*, is also supporting this proposal.

A feasible target date could be November 2014 edition. If the publication is already ready by the beginning of October 2014, then this edition could be tabled to the participants of the 5EIH. This means that at least the peer reviewed articles should be available on the first half of 2014, others by July/August 2014.

Printed copies of this edition could be used as an information paper for various purposes, e.g. as an information paper on international meetings around Baltic Sea (e.g. HOs, HELCOM, EU BSAP meetings). Additional copies of this IHR issue could perhaps be tabled at the forthcoming IHO 5EIH in October 2014.

If this proposal is endorsed by the BHSC, then the BSHC 18th Conference might give indication of the priorities of the topics to be forwarded to IHR and to indicate possible authors of them. Other topics are also welcome. We believe that there should also be nominated a volunteer the BSHC coordinator for these issues.

Justification

These articles should promote good (best) hydrographic practises within the Baltic Sea, promote good co-operation between all Baltic Sea HOs, and raise awareness and importance of hydrographic work on the Baltic Sea.

In our understanding this proposal is well in line with the Decision 17 of the XVIII IH Conference (PRO 6) to take whatever actions raising the importance of hydrography and to keep Member States informed on the progress

Actions for the BHSC 18th Conference

The BHSC 18th Conference is invited to

- endorse the proposal to forward articles to IHR,
 - to propose a special Baltic Sea Edition to be considered by the Editorial Board of the IHR
 - indicate priority of selecting the proposed topics and indicate volunteers to the authors of the topics
 - nominate a volunteer BSHC coordinator for this issue
 - give further guidance, as seen appropriate
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