

Final Minutes
for the
BSHC 18th Conference on 16 - 18 September 2013
Tallinn, Estonia
[21 October 2013]



A.1 Opening of Conference

Docs: BSHC18 participants, BSHC18 List of Documents

The BSHC Chair, *Mr Jukka Varonen*, welcomed all participants to the 18th conference of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission and anticipated a fruitful and constructive meeting. He especially welcomed the Director of the IHB, *Mr Mustafa Iptes*, and the observer from UKHO, *Ms Kerrie Howard*. The Chair noted that NSHC Chair was invited but not able to participate. Industry has shown their interest to participate, but due to a limited time it was found not feasible. It was approved that *Mr Juha Korhonen* will act as secretary of the Conference.

The Chair thanked all Members on their activities to forward documents well in time. He emphasized that there is limited time available and asked all to concentrate on most important issues.

The Chair thanked the hosts on excellent guided tour in the Old town and the reception in TV Tower on Monday evening.

A.2 Welcome from the host country

Docs: BSHC18_A2_BSHC18 Program

The BSHC Vice-Chair, *Mr Taivo Kivimäe*, welcomed all delegates to Tallinn on behalf of the host, Estonian Hydrographic Office. He gave information on practical issues. He also gave a wooden BSHC Logo as a souvenir.

Mr Andrus Maide, Director General of Estonian Maritime Administration, welcomed the participants and wished a good meeting. He mentioned that since the previous BSHC Conference in Estonia a lot of progress have been done e.g. on re-surveys, ENC coverage, preparing transition to S-100. BSHC initiatives are well-known and appreciated by IHO and other RHCs, and have been recognised to be very important activities for the safety of navigation. There is good cooperation between BSHC members.

A.3 Adoption of the Agenda

Docs: BSHC18_A3_Draft Agenda Version 3.

The Draft Agenda was approved without amendments.

A.4 Minutes and actions from the previous BSHC Conference

Docs: BSHC18_A4_BSHC17 Final Minutes, BSHC18_A5_Status of BSHC17 Actions

There were no comments to the Minutes of BSHC17 in September 2012. The action list from BSHC17 was reviewed and all items on action list from BSHC17 were considered as done or are on-going.

Sweden raised a question of the approval of the minutes of the Conferences. Current statutes specify quite long time periods and old-dated procedures for approving the minutes. It was generally agreed that the List of Actions will be reviewed and approved at the end of the Conferences and the Minutes should be distributed via e-mail soon after the Conference. The Minutes including decisions taken at the conference and the List of Actions are finally approved after being reviewed by the member states and later confirmed by the chair of the Conference.

B. IHO Work Programme 1 "Corporate affairs"

B.1 Report from the IHB

Docs: BSHC18_B1_IHB_Report to BSHC

IHB Director, *Mr Mustafa Iptes*, gave the IHB Report. He passed greetings from other IHB Directors and expressed as the IHB view that BSHC is an important Commission and an excellent example of regional co-operation. He also noted that the HSSC Chair and CBSC Chair are present.

He highlighted the important activities and four priorities of the IHB; raising the profile and awareness of IHO, capacity building, obtaining ratifications of the amended IHO Convention and to increase IHO membership.

He reported the IHO issues relevant to the BSHC; ratification of the amended IHO Convention, IHO membership, status of Lithuanian IHO membership, S-11 updates, new GIS development activities at IHB, actions to increase IT capability at IHB, status of development of IHO GIS database, and welcomed Baltic issues into IHR.

The IHB is ready to arrange either 5EIHC or the first Assembly if the still missing 9 ratifications of the amended IHO Convention happen before 6 July 2014. He noted that of the BSHC Members only the Russian Federation has not yet ratified the amended IHO Convention. Russia clarified their position and informed that they hope this will happen before the 5EIHC. *Director Iptes* appreciated that effort and noted that the parliamentary processes are not always easy. Russia asked from the IHO initiated action for the Government of Monaco to approach those MS who have not ratified, Russia have not received any letter. *Director Iptes* said that IHB has discussed with the Government of Monaco and IHB tries to help via diplomatic channels.

There was a discussion on the implications of the amended IHO Convention, especially the actions for RHCs to establish the Council. This will be discussed in more details at the next BSHC Conference in 2014.

He informed also on the approval of Haiti as a new IHO Member State and the status of approval of Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam and Georgia. Several BSHC Members reported that they have forwarded their approvals via diplomatic channels but these have not been arrived to IHB. IHB try to clarify these cases with relevant Embassy's.

Dr Mathias Jonas as the HSSC Chair emphasizes the importance of the active contribution to the forthcoming HSSC5 meeting in November 2013 in Shanghai.

Director Iptes invited BSHC participation and contribution to the forthcoming IHO IFHS Conference 19-21 October 2013, Southampton, "*Maritime Web*". He also informed that the theme for the World Hydrography Day 2014 should be connected to the theme 2013; "the Blue Economy".

The *Chair* noted that all National Reports have been distributed well before the Conference and invited all Members to highlight very briefly the main issues or forward additional information.

B.2 National Report of Denmark

Docs: BSHC18_B2_DK_National Report Denmark

Cdr Lars Hansen clarified their new organisation, reported the agreement with Poland on re-surveying of disputed area as good example of co-operation, and informed that an updated version of "*Behind the Nautical charts*" is free to be downloaded from GST web site. There were some discussion on the surveys and Routeing Guide of Greenland waters.

Following a question from the Russian delegation Denmark informed that they have no knowledge of any plans of deepening the Belts, where maximum recommended draught is 15 m. Kadettrennen, on the border between Denmark and Germany, is dimensioning for the larger part of the Baltic Sea, since the minimum depth there is 16,5 m.

B.3 National Report of Estonia

Docs: BSHC18_B3_EE_National Report Estonia

Mr Taivo Kivimäe informed on the status of digital Sailing Directions, on Spatial Planning on maritime areas, and invited all to visit their new survey ship *Jakob Prei* who has achieved good survey results during summer 2013. There was a discussion on some private digital pleasure boat charts which are not duly updated.

B.4 National Report of Finland

Docs: BSHC18_B4_FI_National Report Finland

Mr Rainer Mustaniemi clarified the new organisation of Finnish Transport Agency entered into force 1 July 2013, informed on good results of bathymetric survey projects during 2012, on the new tools for source data management, and on the new 3 year publishing contract which reduces the end-user prices for Finnish printed charts some 30%.

B.5 National Report of Germany

Docs: BSHC18_B5_GE_National Report Germany

Dr Jonas mentioned on processing of survey data, new seamless database with high resolution grid for chart production and a standard 50 m grid for other use that will satisfy the needs of 90-95% of the users of bathymetry. If anyone needs a higher density they will also deliver that. He also informed about the on-going laser test project, on data policy and licencing for navigational charts (raster + ENC), MSP request for free and unlimited access to national data (bathymetry, coastline, nav aids, underwater hazards), and on extension to UK developed licensing system for mobile market. The request of hydrographic data for other use than navigation is increasing.

There were some discussion on the survey database and outputs from it. Germany clarified that if the government has ordered private surveys then they receive the data, but not regularly from other private surveys, e.g. gained for offshore explorations. Negotiations are going-on to develop legislation for that.

B.6 National Report of Latvia

Docs: BSHC18_B6_LV_National Report Latvia

Mr Janis Krastins informed that they will reorganise their hydrographic database, there is a roadmap for 2014 onwards. The HO is participating to Maritime Spatial Planning (cartographic work) and the legal framework is available. The HO has established a web-based shop for charts and publications. They have produced a special map which was given as a gift to the participants of *Tall Ship Race 2013*.

B.7 National Report of Lithuania

Docs: BSHC18_B7_LT_National Report Lithuania

The Chair noted that Lithuania has participated actively to the work of the BSHC even not able to participate many of the meetings. He asked *Director Iptes* to forward best regards to Lithuania when he is visiting there later this week.

B.8 National Report of Poland

Docs: BSHC18_B8_PL_National Report Poland

Capt. Henryk Nitner informed that there will be a reorganisation 2015, HO will be reporting to General Army Commands in Warsaw. However the HO stays in Gdynia. The HO will get four new motor survey boats for their survey squadron in 2014, in order to replace older boats. Diplomatic problems are solved by HOs Re-surveys on Route south of Bornholm, surveys soon completed and data will be exchanged with Denmark. *Capt. Nitner* will retire in the end of 2013.

B.9 National Report of Russian Federation

Docs: BSHC18_B9_RU_National Report Russian Federation

Capt. Alexander Shemetov informed that the re-organisation of the Chart division is still on-going and will still take next two years. They have some difficulties to produce charts on same level as usual. There are several new paper and ENC charts on Baltic Sea area. TSS route near *Gogland* has been changed and charts updated. Now extend surveys on coastal areas for yachting. Nuclear powered systems in AtoNs are removed and replaced with alternative energy systems.

B.10 National Report of Sweden

Docs: BSHC18_B10_SE_National Report Sweden

Mr Patrik Wiberg informed that at the moment they have now a stable organisation. Surveys have been progressed well, over 10 000 km². Stops printing NtMs at the end of the year. NtM will be issued in digital formats; as pdf and as a database service. ENC selling is increasing, paper chart selling decreasing some 10% annually, UKHO sales increasing. He also briefly informed on CHEMSEA project.

As a comment *Capt. Alexandr Shemetov* noted that the Baltic Sea navigation environment is so demanding that the navigators cannot rely solely on electronic navigation. It was noted that IMO has approved ECDIS Performance standards. NAV59 has agreed on a MSC Letter including all ECDIS related regulations. It was noted that adjusting the ENCs to the users' demands, such as completing with additional contours, may solve many of the problems due false alarms.

C. IHO Work Programme 2 "Hydrographic Services and Standards"

C.1 Report of Re-survey Monitoring Working Group (MWG)

Docs: BSHC18_C1_FI_MWG Report, BSHC18_C1_SE_Funding of HELCOM resurvey scheme

Mr Juha Korhonen, Chair of MWG, reported the work of the MWG, the status of Re-survey Scheme and the re-survey database. The main issue is now the reporting to the forthcoming HELCOM Ministerial Meeting on 3 October 2013. Both Estonia and Germany informed that the Ministerial Declarations have helped to get funding for re-surveys and new ships.

The Conference endorsed the reporting to HELCOM Ministerial Meeting October 2013 and approved the proposed MWG Work Programme 7.0 for 2013 – 2014.

Mr Magnus Wallhagen informed on plans for seeking EU co-funding funding of re-surveys within EU financial scheme 2014-2020. The call will be opened late 2014 or early 2015. It should be possible to get 20 – 30% funding. Sweden informed to be willing to lead the application and to act as a project leader. There were discussion on funding survey operations of own ships, restrictions and obligations of data. Some Member States already informed that they are interested in participating in a joint application and a possible project in order to get this funding.

It was agreed that Sweden will forward a Letter to BSHC Members including on future EU funding project (**Action #1**) and that BSHC Members should inform Sweden on their willingness to participate in a future EU funding application before 30 November 2013 (**Action #2**).

C.2 Report of Chart Datum Working Group (CDWG)

Docs: BSHC18_C2_FI_CDWG Report

Mr Jukka Varonen, Chair of CDWG, reported the work of the CDWG. The BCHC Chair has sent a questionnaire to all member states on their commitments to the transition to harmonised vertical reference in January 2013. Member states reported that they are committed to the harmonization plan, the reference frame for the harmonization, EVRS has been taken in use or will be taken into national use in most of the member states and they have plans to change their Chart Datum to this reference frame. The position of Russia is most complicated, because their national vertical datum covers much larger area than which is now defined for EVRS.

CDWG prepared a proposal for amendments to IHO resolution 3/1919. Members from Finland and Sweden presented this at IHO TWLWG5 meeting in May 2013. The amendments were accepted by TWLWG5 are now forwarded to HSSC5 in November 2013 for approval.

The co-operation with other scientific institutes, geodetic and oceanographic incl. BOOS and GOOS in the meetings of CDWG has proved out to be very fruitful.

The Conference thanked the Chair for a good work and important results and wished them to be completed. There were discussions on some issues, i.e. implications to IHO specifications and geoid models.

The Conference decided on the continuation of the CDWG as outlined in the presentation and elected Mr Jyrki Mononen, Finland, as the new Chair of CDWG.

It was agreed that the CDWG Chair will contact the BSHC Members and to ask them to confirm their contact persons. He will also propose dates for the next CDWG meeting (Action #3).

C.3 Report of Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database Working Group (BSBDWG)

Docs: BSHC18_C3_SE_BSBDWG Report

Mr Hans Öiås, Chair of BSBDWG, reported the work of the BSBDWG and the status of the Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database. Sweden has announced the release of the portal of the depth model. It has been well received; more than 2000 visits within few days and it has been linked from many websites and portals.

There were lengthy discussions on the data resolution of the portal and the terms and restrictions of the use of the data. The intention is to have in the first phase one homogenous grid (500 m resolution) with the same terms for all data. All data which is delivered for modelling in this resolution to the database should be free also for commercial use. If this is found not possible for some countries then separate grids or other technical solution are needed to be implemented for these as separate terms and conditions will apply.

The Conference agreed that the portal provides bathymetry models with resolutions equal to 500 m resolution, or better than 500 m resolution where data providers and legislation so allows. The use of all data has the following restrictions:

“The Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database (BSBD), and any data or products derived from it, are not to be

- *used for safety of navigation purposes*
- *used for route planning*
- *used in Electronic Chart Display Systems.”*

Mr Stig Gelslev proposed the bullet point "*used as an aid to navigation*" and it was added to the additional terms on the site already during the meeting.

- *used as an aid to navigaton.*

The majority of the Conference agreed that the 500 m grid is to be free for commercial use.

Denmark stated that at this Conference they are not in the position to agree on "*free for commercial use*" before national consultation. Denmark was asked to clarify their position as soon as possible but not later than the end of 2013, and to inform BSHC Chair on that (*Action #4*). BSHC Chair will communicate with Sweden according to the clarification from Denmark and decide what actions should be taken concerning the homogenous grid (*Action #5*).

In the future more dense grids will be provided as available and allowed by the legislations of the BSHC Members. These may have different licensing terms.

As a reply to the request to allow publishing the depth model as A3 page on a magazine it was decided that commercial use of data is not allowed until the position of Denmark has been clarified.

Russia informed that they have no objections to the suggested terms if the depth information is derived from official Russian ENC's and will provide S57 data. Russia further stated that they will investigate the possibility to deliver denser data and inform about it at the latest during the BSHC19.

Estonia has already provided 50 m resolution and allows models in that resolution to be created and provided also for Commercial use.

The Conference agreed that the compiled results of the bathymetry model can be provided for inclusion in the GEBCO grid.

C.4 Report of Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Data Information Working Group (BSMSDIWG)

Docs: BSHC18_C4_DK_BSMSDIWG Report, BSHC18_C4_DK_BSMSDIWG Report, Appendix 2

Mr Gelslev reported the BSMSDIWG on behalf of the BSMSDIWG Chair.

He also informed on the MSDI Workshop to be held next week and asked for active contribution to that. Germany has proposed issues of regional cooperation within EU infrastructure (e.g. INSPIRE, EMODNET) to be discussed at the workshop. It was noted that Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database is a good example of regional MSDI.

C.5 Status of Harmonisation Depth information pilot project

Docs: BSHC18_C5_SE_Harmonisation Depth information

Mr Wallhagen gave a status report of the pilot project. The goal is to try to identify differences on depth presentation between Finnish and Swedish ENC's, and to develop guidelines for harmonising them. These will be tested on a pilot area. If good guidelines will be found then these could be used also for other areas. When implemented, this will also have a positive impact on paper charts. IHO guidelines are quite limited e.g. for generalization of contours and density of soundings. No intention to specify additional recommendations to those agreed already based on BSEHWG work. This is an interesting project, because this is not only depending on software capabilities, but there are also long traditions in background. Time schedule is somewhat unclear i.e. on Finnish resources available to the project. Next report will be given at BSHC19.

C.6 European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Docs: BSHC18_C6_GE_European Marine Observation and Data Network

Dr Jonas presented the status of EMODNET activities. There are four elements. There is a decision to have a 1/8NM (185 m x185 m at the equator, roughly 200*400 m on Baltic Sea) bathymetry grid for the second phase of the project which is about to start this autumn. There should be no restrictions for the data except “not for navigation purposes”.

It was noted that there are similarities as well as differences between BSBDWG and EMODNET. Data deliveries to Baltic Sea Bathymetry service should be compatible to the requirements of EMODNET Hydrography. It was agreed that the BSBDWG will have a task to consider this technically and to liaise with EMODNET, and, if it can be assured that data is handled in accordance to our terms, to provide data from the homogenous grid for adoption.

It was also noted that Danish data delivered to EMODNET might not have been handled according to the terms. *Cdr Hansen* stated that EMODNET should only provide metadata about the available Danish dataset and as far as he knows Denmark has not been given the right to adapt data into the EMODNET grid. Denmark will initiate a dialog with EMODNET regarding this issue.

C.7 Laser Bathymetry

Docs: BSHC18_C7_GE_Laserbathymetry – German project, BSHC18_C7_FI_proposal for a LIDAR Seminar

Mr Thomas Dehling presented the German LIDAR test project. The project is scheduled for three years and includes three different survey tasks, totally covering some 300 km². The result so far indicates a cost of 300-350 €/km² for laser surveying. Final report is planned to be forwarded by the end of 2014.

There were discussions on object detection, comparison with traditional surveys.

Mr Rainer Mustaniemi presented the proposal to arrange a LIDAR seminar in 2014 or 2015. The proposal was supported. Germany volunteered to arrange the seminar, perhaps in Hannover in the second half of August 2014 (*Action #6*). BSHC Members were invited to nominate their Point of Contact for preparing the LIDAR Seminar (*Action #7*).

C.8 Nordic Nautical Publication Working Group (NNPWG)

Docs: BSHC18_C8_DK_NNPWG Report

Mr Gelslev reported on the work of the NNPWG.

There was a discussion if this WG overlaps with the HSSC SNPWG. NNPWG concentrates to the content of paper nautical publications required by SOLAS V, especially at regional base. The conclusion was that there are no conflicting interests between these.

C.9 Additional depth contours within ENCs

Docs: BSHC18_C9_GE_Additional depth contours within ENCs

Dr Jonas presented the German proposal to evaluate possibilities and consequences for including additional 15 m contour within ENCs.

It was noted that many Members already have 15 m contours on some scale bands of their ENCs. The proposal was generally supported. There is a need for each member state to inspect which particular ENCs in which scale bands are subject to be amended by this contour and to harmonise those ENCs cross border.

The Conference agreed to task to BSICCWG to clarify the status and plans of Member States on this issue, especially which charts and ENCs may be affected, anticipated divergence between ENC and paper chart bathymetry, what steps and time schedules are feasible, and to make proposals how to go forward, by end of 2013. The BSICCWG was tasked to query the member states and to give a progress report to BSHC 19th Conference (*Action #8*).

Miscellaneous

Capt. Shemetov informed that the Russian participants are leaving at this point. He expressed his satisfaction to the meeting, thanked all for their active participation and gave his greetings to all.

D. IHO Work Programme 3 "Inter Regional Coordination and Support"

D.1 Outcome of IRCC5 meeting

Docs: BSHC18_D1_FI_IRCC5 Actions

Director Iptes reported the outcome of the IRCC5 meeting. He also reviewed those IRCC5 Actions which are relevant to BSHC. The report of the IRCC5 will be circulated by an IHO Circular letter and will be available at IHO web pages next week. All BSHC Members are invited to forward their possible proposals to next IRCC meeting to the BSHC Chair by end of November 2013 (*Action #9*).

Regarding IRCC5 Action #20, the Conference agreed that the BSHC Chair to propose the Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database presentation at 5EIH (*Action #10*).

D.2 Report of BSHC WEND-WG representative

Docs: BSHC18_D2_FI_Report on WEND-WG issues

Mr Korhonen as the BSHC representative to WEND-WG reported on WEND-WG issues.

D.3 Report of Baltic Sea INT Chart Coordinating Working Group BSICCWG

Docs: BSHC18_D3_FI_BSICCWG Report

Mr Jarmo Mäkinen, Chair of BSICCWG, reported the work of the BSICCWG. The main issues are updating S-11, status of implementation ENC harmonisation actions and harmonisation of Baltic Sea subareas and names. BSICCWG Chair will ask all BSHC Members to inform updates to BSICCWG Membership.

When updating S-11 Region E (Baltic Sea) it has been noted that there is not enough available INT numbers for Region E. *Mr Mäkinen* showed some possible solutions to that. The Conference strongly supported the need for new INT numbers for Region E and agreed that the BSICCWG will make a proposal to IHO and CSPCWG to find a solution how to have new INT-numbers needed for international charts in region E and forward the solution to HSSC for approval preferable by end of 2014. (*Action #11*).

Mr Mäkinen presented a simplified status list of the implementation of Baltic Sea ENC harmonisation actions. He invited all BSHC Members to comment usefulness of the

proposed simplified presentation of the status and to check the draft evaluation of their status of ENC recommendations. He also raised a question if there are needs to revise and update the recommendations. These will be asked in more details within a BSICCWG Letter (*Action #12*).

There was a discussion on the Lithuanians right to use INT numbers before Lithuania achieves IHO Membership. BSICCWG Chair has proposed that to IHB and to the Chair of CSPCWG, but the reply has been negative. *Director Iptes* informed that even if IHO supports activities for the safety of navigation, current IHO regulations does allow using INT numbers only for IHO members. He will discuss also on this issue when visiting in Lithuania later this week.

Mr Mäkinen presented the enhanced proposal for Baltic Sea subareas and names which was distributed to BSHC and BSICCWG members on June 2013. The proposal is based on three levels of naming, resulting in minimum changes of existing names, and attempts to incorporate most of the comments received to previous proposals. The comments received to this proposal are included into an Annex to the BSHICCWG Report. All the comments are supporting in principle, but some details should be discussed further on within BSICCWG. Lithuania has not replied and Russia has informed earlier that they are still studying the issue with their experts.

The Conference unanimously approved in principle the tabled proposal for limits and names of the subareas of the Baltic Sea, agreed that the BSICCWG will further enhance some outstanding details (e.g. the exact naming of "*Central Baltic*"). The Conference also agreed that the BSICCWG will prepare guidance for presenting the names on the titles of nautical charts. The BSICCWG Chair will arrange a Workshop for dealing these issues and giving further guidance (*Action #13*).

It was agreed that when the outstanding details have been fixed the approved naming will be used in the BSHC Portal.

D.4 Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide C-55

Director Iptes informed briefly on the status of the development of the IHO metadata base. The first version should be available by end of 2013.

Meanwhile, the BSHC Members were encouraged to forward their updates to C-55 to the IHB.

D.5 IHO Capacity Building

Docs: BSHC18_D5_GE_Report of Capacity Building issues

Mr Dehling, Chair of CBSC, presented the CSBC report. On BSHC there is no capacity building projects going on, but many BSHC Members have contributed to CBSC activities.

The Commission thanked Mr Dehling on his extraordinary contribution to CBSC, and nominated him to continue as the Capacity Building Coordinator for the BSHC.

Member States are invited to consider providing input to CBSC or to inform CBSC about on-going or planned capacity building initiatives. (*Action #14*).

D.6 EU marine and maritime policy

Docs: BSHC18_D6_GE_Consultation on EU Police Marine Knowledge 2020: from seabed mapping to ocean forecasting, BSHC18_D6_GE_Intensified cooperation with European Union in the field of hydrography

Dr Jonas informed on the study and comments received to the paper on Consultation on EU Police Marine Knowledge 2020. This will be valuable input to BSMSDIWG. A general trend seems to be free of charge data delivery. He announced to present more details of DG Mare's interpretation of consultation results next year.

It was noted that draft ToR for an IHO-European Union-Network were not yet available, but will be posted on IRCC web pages 1 October 2013. IHB plans to forward a Circular Letter on IHO-EC co-operation activities.

He asked on potential options to represent BSHC within the IHO-European Union-Network. This WG will be open to all MS. It was agreed that *Mr Magnus Wallhagen* will represent BSHC in that Network.

E. Any other business

E.1 Status of BSHC internet domain

Docs: BSHC18_E1_DE_SE_Establishment of BSHC internet domain

Hans Öiås presented the BSHC web portal www.bshc.pro. The portal is in early state and needs more content. It was proposed that e.g. reports, letter and minutes of BSHC Working Groups could be uploaded into the portal. IHO and BSHC Logos and links to IHO Web pages should be included.

The chairman of BSHC has the responsibility to monitor the content and to communicate with the technical host when needed.

Sweden volunteered to host the domain and develop further on the web pages, and the Conference agreed on that. All are invited to forward their comments and proposals to Sweden by end of November 2013 (*Action 15#*).

E.2 Status report of CHEMSEA project

Cancelled, but Sweden gave some information with their national report.

E.3 Hydrographic Information System of Estonia

Docs: BSHC18_E3_EE_Hydrographic Information System of Estonia

According to Estonian proposal due time constraints this was not presented at the Conference, but the Presentation will be included into the documents of the Conference.

E.4 Proposal to forward articles to International Hydrographic Review

Docs: BSHC18_E4_FI_Proposal to forward articles to IHR

Mr Korhonen introduced the proposal for forwarding articles to International Hydrographic Review and plans to have a Special edition autumn 2014. This was supported by IHB and the IHR Editor. Members already indicated preliminary their contribution for some topics for articles to IHR. Wide participation of BSHC Members is preferred. Longer articles need to be delivered by June 2014 in order to be reviewed.

The Conference endorsed the proposal. It also nominated *Mr Juha Korhonen* as the BSHC coordinator on this issue. All BSHC Members were invited to confirm their contribution to articles for IHR to Juha Korhonen by end of October 2013 (*Action #16*).

E.5 Approval of BSHC Logo

Docs: BSHC18_E5_FI_Approval of BSHC Logo

The revised BSHC Logo was officially approved with proposed minor enhancements. Final version can be seen in the first page of these Minutes and it will be published on the new BSHC website.

F. Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair

The BSHC 18th conference appointed *Mr Taivo Kivimäe*, Estonia, as Chair and, *Mr Janis Krastins*, Latvia, as Vice-Chair of BSHC for the next period.

G. Place and date of next Conference

It was decided that the BSHC 19th Conference will be held in Latvia, on 11-12 June 2014.

H. Review of BSHC18 List of actions

The secretary reviewed the actions from BSHC18 and they were approved.

The Secretary promised to forward Draft Minutes and Draft List of Actions to all participants by 20 September 2013. All should forward their comments, corrections and additional information by 4 October 2013 (*Action #17*) so that the Chair of the Conference could forward the Final Minutes before his retirement (*Action #18*).

I. Closing Ceremony

Capt. Nitner informed that he will retire in the end of this year. He has chaired one BSHC Conference. He sees this Commission very useful. He forwarded his thanks and best wishes to all.

The resigning Chair thanked all delegates, especially IHO Director and Observer for a very constructive meeting. Many important decisions were made on several topics. He apologized for the overloaded program. The Chair especially thanked the host, Estonian Maritime Administration, for excellent meeting facilities and all arrangements.

Director Iptes thanked retiring *Capt. Nitner* and *Mr Varonen*, and the hosts for their hospitality and excellent arrangements.

The Chair mentioned that his first BSHC Conference was 2001 in Tallinn and this Conference is his last official task before retiring. He closed the Conference at 16:35.

Annexes:

1. List of BSHC18 Actions