

Background

At the 17th Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission Conference it was decided that Sweden and Finland were to form a pilot project with the aim of improving the harmonisation of depth information in ENCs and paper charts.

Current members of the working group:

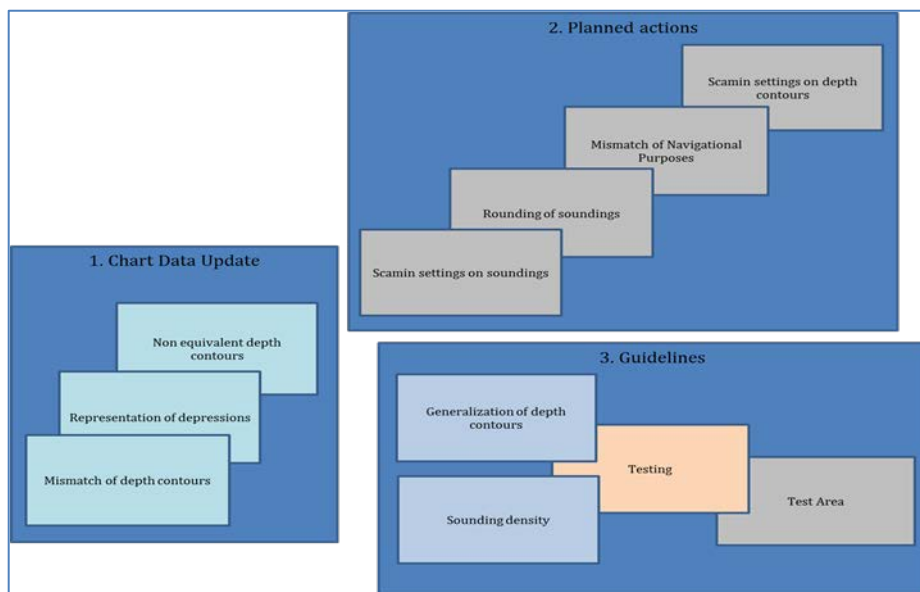
Hans Engberg (SE, Chair)
Anita Bodin (SE)
Florence Pendrill (SE)
Anna Löfstrand (SE)
Mari Niemeläinen (FI)
Outi Rondaij (FI)
Teppo Kuusijärvi (FI)

and Lisa Johansson (SE) who is working with the Chart Data Update at SMA.

The project has identified the following inconsistencies:

1. Mismatch of Navigational Purposes
2. Sounding density
3. Scamin settings on soundings
4. Scamin settings on depth contours
5. Representation of depressions
6. Mismatch of depth contours
7. Generalization of depth contours
8. Non-equivalent depth contours
9. Rounding of soundings

The different types of inconsistencies call for different actions. The actions have been grouped into three blocks. The first block being an update of the chart data, the second block being already planned actions for which this working group needs take no further action and the third block being the development of new guidelines.



The actions are grouped into three blocks.

Chart Data Update

The cooperation between the offices has worked very well and any issues related to the Chart Data Update have been solved by the contact persons. Thus the progress of the Chart Data Update has been steady and is close to completion. Only the Bay of Bothnia in Navigational Purpose General is left to update. The finalized new editions of the Finish ENC:s will be published according to the Finnish production plans.

Guidelines for sounding density and generalization of depth contours

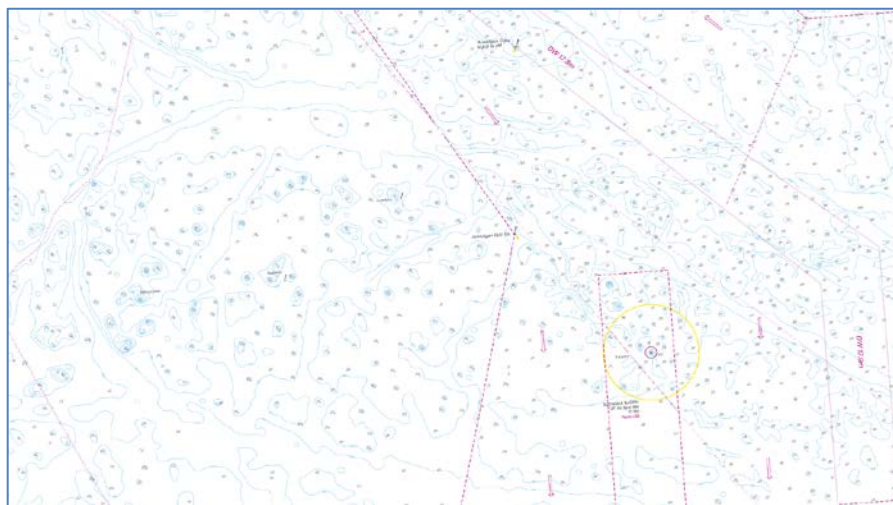
As a starting point for the guidelines a specification for the tests was drafted in June 2014. In order to process a smaller amount of data while doing the first iterations the planned test area was divided into two smaller areas: sub-area North and sub-area South.

A start-up meeting for the tests was held via Lync the 26th of August after the summer vacations.

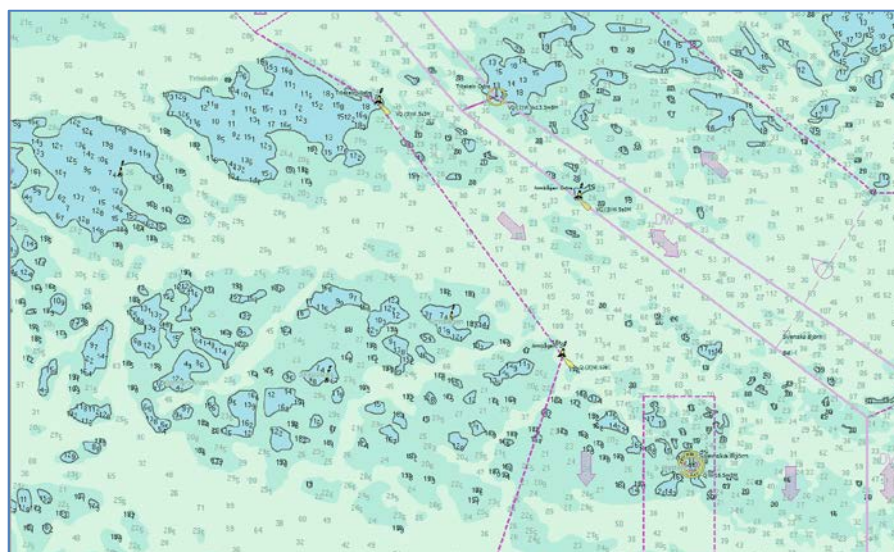
A follow-up meeting was held via Lync 7th of October. The work had proven to be more time consuming than first anticipated. This meant that it was important to get some approval of the work before moving forward. To be able to present the results of the work it was decided that a S57-file and a paper chart plot for sub-area South in Navigational Purpose Approach should be produced. These presentation files would include the new hydrography and other chart information (e.g. buoys, beacons, areas.) Finland would compile the S57-file and Sweden the chart plot.

Current Status

The presentation files for sub-area South Navigational Purpose Approach were produced in December 2014 and the discussions that followed led to a number of comments and changes to the draft guidelines. It was also decided that the work should proceed with data in Navigational Purpose Coastal and General.



A part of the Chart plot for sub-area South in Navigational Purpose Approach.



A part of the S57-file for sub-area South in Navigational Purpose Approach.

Presentation files for sub-area South Coastal were produced in June 2015 and are currently discussed at the SMA. There will probably be a number of comments and suggested changes as a result of the discussions. Meanwhile the presentation files for South General are under production.

Progress

The progress has been slow due to the projects limited resources. The SMA has decided to further engage the Hydrographic Section within the Hydrographic Office with the development of the Guidelines, since the section is currently writing internal guidelines for Hydrography.