

Status Report from the IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG)

Background

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is established between the IHO and the European Commission (EC). The purpose is to provide a framework ensuring a continuing liaison between IHO and EU in the specific areas of common interest. The Commission's Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) acts as the contact point on the EC side. From the IHO side the IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG) has been established as a working group under IRCC, which acts as the IHO contact point. The IENWG is chaired by France, Laurent Kerléguer, and consists of representatives from all Regional Hydrographic Commissions concerned. Sweden represents the BSHC.

IHO-EU Network meetings and representatives

Since the 20th BSHC meeting in September 2015 one IENWG meeting has been arranged in Paris January 2016. Sweden (Magnus Wallhagen) participated as the BSHC representative at this meeting. The next meeting will be in Brussels 13 – 14 October 2016. The following member states represent the RHCs concerned:

- Arctic HC (ARHC) – Denmark
- Baltic Sea HC (BSHC) – Sweden
- Eastern Atlantic HC (EAtHC) – France
- Mediterranean and Black Seas HC – Greece
- Nordic HC (NHC) – Norway
- North Sea HC (NSHC) – Germany
- The IHB is represented by Director Gilles Bessero

The meetings are always open for any IHO member state to participate in. UK usually has participated in the IENWG meetings, apart from the above mentioned member states. Italy has recently announced that they also will participate in the working group.

Ongoing in the IHO-EU Network

Coastal Mapping

DG MARE issued a Call for Tender for a Coastal Mapping project in 2014. The IENWG had over some time communicated with DG Mare and contributed with written input for the specification process under a concept called Joint European Coastal Mapping Program (JECMaP).

A consortium, led by SHOM (FR), was created with 19 partners from 15 countries. In June 2015 the DG MARE announced that this consortium was selected for the Coastal Mapping project and the service contract was signed later in June 2015. The project proposal consists of the following main Work Packages:

- **WP1. Digital Mapping.** Responsible: France (SHOM)
Specify, develop and maintain a portal where coastal data can be available. The portal must be compatible with the existing EMODnet portal.
- **WP2. Share experience, standards and practices.** Responsible: Italy (ISPRA)
Assess and implement a suitable vertical datum, list existing survey methods for coastal areas and summarize experience and develop and test an algorithm for choosing the most appropriate survey method.
- **WP3. Future programme (JECMaP).** Responsible: France
Study and propose the most appropriate economic models. Organize and plan the coastal surveys within the existing data producer's community, propose policies and mechanisms to encourage joint efforts.
- **WP4. Management and communication.** Responsible: France
Administrative and technical coordination of the project with the stakeholders of the consortium.

The Coastal Mapping portal was publicly opened in December 2015. Individual uploads of suitable data sets, covering the coastal zone between land and sea, are available in the portal. See <http://coastal-mapping.eu/>. An algorithm has been developed in order to calculate and suggest suitable survey methods for different depths ranges and different turbidity. This tool is now available in the portal. A proposal of a future programme on a Joint European Mapping Programme is under discussion.

From the BSHC member states BSH from Germany, MAL from Latvia and SMA from Sweden are partners in the consortium. Other Hydrographic Offices involved are from Belgium, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. The total budget for the program is 1.330 MEUR. The Coastal Mapping project must be finalized in December 2016.

EMODnet phase 3

The DG MARE has launched the EMODnet in order to be able to give easy access to marine data, of the EU member states waters, to the society as a whole. A previous phase 1 and an ongoing phase 2 of the EMODnet project should be seen as tests on how a portal on marine data could be achieved. However the third phase of EMODnet, phase 3, is aimed to achieve a more permanent solution of a portal with high resolution marine data including the appointed themes in EMODnet (see also <http://www.emodnet.eu/>):

- Bathymetry
- Geology (including sedimentology data)
- Seabed Habitats
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics
- Human Activities
- Coastal Mapping

A Call for Tender regarding a high resolution digital bathymetry model (EMODnet phase 3) was expected to be issued already early 2015. However it was postponed several times. Then in May

2016 DG MARE suddenly issued a Call for EMODnet High Resolution Seabed Mapping. The deadline for submission was 2 August 2016.

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/tender/8490/high-resolution-seabed-mapping>

Trough discussions within the IENWG preparations had already been taken to merge the bathymetry consortium of the second phase of EMODNet with the Coastal Mapping consortium to be able to respond on the application. SHOM (FR) had volunteered to take the lead in this new consortium. The BSHC MS was informed about the possibility to participate in the consortium, through an e-mail, by Sweden 13 May 2016. Several HOs are participating in this new merged consortium. From the BSHC BSH (DE), MAL (LV) and SMA (SE) are participating partners.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the BSHC continues to monitor the ongoing work within the EC through participation in the future IHO-EU Network. Sweden (Magnus Wallhagen) is willing to continue to represent the BSHC.

The Commission is invited to

- Note the report
- MS to inform Sweden about their point of contact for IENWG issues