

# **The Role of the RHCs - An Example of BSHC Co-operation**

**(31 January 2005)**

## **Introduction**

The new IHO Strategy emphasizes the more important role of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions. The renewal of the organisational structure of the IHO will be decided at the 3<sup>rd</sup> EIHC in April 2005.

The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission has been active on co-operation on the re-surveys on the Baltic Sea.

The Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) has decided in September 2001 on many actions to improve the safety of navigation on the Baltic Sea. One of them was to develop a Harmonised Re-survey Plan for the main routes on the Baltic Sea. The BSHC has developed this plan. The Hydrographic Offices of the BSHC are implementing it and performing Hydrographic surveys according to the plan. Sweden has volunteered to develop and maintain the data base of the plan and also to develop a Web interface to the database. Finland has volunteered to chair the Monitoring Working Group.

Finland believes that this kind of co-operation is a good example of the co-operation work of a RHC. This kind of activity fits also very well to the new IHO Strategy which emphasizes the more important role of the RHCs. The Re-survey Plan is also an example of a regional extension to the IHO S-55 database.

Information on this example should be distributed more widely on the IHO community. The Chairman of the BSHC has proposed an idea that this may be informed during the forthcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> EIHC. Also, if the 3<sup>rd</sup> EIHC arrangements allows, a poster presentation may be shown during the Conference.

## **Proposals:**

Finland makes the following proposals:

1. The BSHC will distribute an information paper during the 3<sup>rd</sup> EIHC.
2. The BSHC will set up a poster presentation during the 3<sup>rd</sup> EIHC

## **Actions required by the NHC/49 Meeting:**

The NHC/49 may wish to present opinions on this issue.

Finland also asks guidance from the IHB how to proceed with the proposals.