

Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission

Harmonised Hydrographic Re-Survey Plan

(in compliance with HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration)

(Version 1.0, December 2002)

The Hydrographic Offices of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden have developed this Plan during 2002.

This Plan has been approved on 20 December 2002 by the BSHC.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration was adopted on 10 September 2001 by the HELCOM Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting [1]. It was included also as a *Regulation 9 Paragraph 1. b)* into the HELCOM Convention entering into force on 1 December 2002 [2].

The requirement of the re-survey plan is written into the Declaration in *Paragraph III. a)* as follows:

III To adopt additional measures to ensure improved hydrographic services and to promote the use of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC)

a) Re-surveying of major shipping routes and ports

- *by requesting the Governments of the Contracting Parties to develop a scheme for systematic re-surveying of major shipping routes and ports in order to ensure that safety of navigation is not endangered by inadequate source information. The survey shall be carried out to a standard not inferior to the latest edition of IHO S-44. The scheme shall be elaborated jointly by the hydrographic services responsible for the areas in question not later than by the end of 2002 with the aim to begin implementation by 2003,*

The NHC 46th Meeting in Copenhagen 4-6 February 2002 expressed that this plan will be an important initiative and agreed some actions to foster the preparations of the plan.

The HELCOM Expert WG Meeting in Helsinki 14 March 2002 drafted some basic principles and a workplan for preparing the Re-survey Plan and made some proposals for the BSHC Monaco Meeting.

The BSHC Extraordinary Meeting in Monaco 14 April 2002 further developed the basic principles and approved the working plan.

On the BSHC Extraordinary Meeting on 18 September 2002 in Norrköping all the relevant details of the Re-survey Plan were discussed and approved.

There have been several bilateral negotiations between Hydrographic Offices (HOs) of the BSHC member states.

Experiences of recent surveys have emphasized the need for re-surveying since several new shallows have been reported.

1.2 Scope and aims

The purpose of this Plan is stated in the HELCOM Declaration Para III a): *by requesting the Governments of the Contracting Parties to develop a scheme for systematic re-surveying of major shipping routes and ports **in order to ensure that safety of navigation is not endangered by inadequate source information.***

1.3 Status of the Plan

This plan is derived from the best available information. It is however understood that there are some routes or areas on which a more accurate survey plan may be needed, for example in the areas where heavy ice conditions may exist. Within the implementation period the Plan can be updated based on more accurate information.

2. Harmonised Re-survey Plan

2.1 Principles used for the Re-survey Plan

This Plan has been prepared according to the following basic principles:

- This Plan will concentrate on the hydrographic survey, only. Other issues of main and secondary routes (i.e. mines hunting, environmental problems) will be dealt separately by the Helsinki Commission
- Common understanding of the HELCOM Declaration is: All routes are to be re-surveyed, if the old survey data cannot be interpreted according to the IHO S-44 standard.
- The main and secondary routes and ports are defined mainly by the traffic volumes of dangerous goods and passengers.
- As a general guideline the width of the routes in coastal areas should be at least two nautical miles; for open sea areas 6 nautical miles. The actual width of the routes and areas will be described in the Plan.
- For planning and evaluation purposes, the draft of Danish Sounds has been taken as maximum permissible draft.
- Each country is responsible for the interpretation of the IHO S-44 and compliance of its data regarding its own surveys.

2.2 Routes and areas included in the HELCOM Declaration

Each country has specified the main and secondary routes and ports in its area of responsibility. Originally these were based on [3], and updated since that. These are presented on the chart in Annex 1 and on the table in Annex 2.

Sweden created a common web-based database of the routes and areas included in this Plan. The HOs shall make links to this Plan on their national web pages.

2.3 Realisation of national survey plans

The HOs have various time schedules to complete the re-surveys, some of them extend beyond 2008. Possible means to enhance and foster the implementation of the re-surveys should be studied. These could be the possibilities to utilize the capacity more effectively, possibilities to get extra funding for speeding up the re-surveys, etc.

2.4 Actions used to harmonise national survey plans

Bilateral negotiations between the HOs of the neighbouring countries will be carried out when needed.

3. Principles of distribution of the re-survey data

The re-survey data will be processed as soon as feasible to the appropriate nautical charts and products, basically to printed charts and ENCs. The zone of information confidence shall be included with the data and products.

Other possible exchange and distribution of the re-survey data should be agreed within the Bilateral Arrangements between the HOs.

4. Presentation of the re-survey data

Wherever possible, common symbology (based on IHO specified symbology) for marking re-surveyed areas on nautical charts will be used.

5. National ENC production plans

The plans for the National ENC production will be given in a separate appendix to this Plan within the first half of 2003..

6. Approval of the Re-survey Plan and further actions

The Re-survey Plan is approved by the BSHC on 20 December 2002.
The Chairman of the BSHC will send the Plan to IHB for information.
The Chairman of the BSHC will send The Plan to HELCOM for possible further actions.
This Plan will be reported to the HELCOM Maritime Meeting on February 2003 for information.

7. The implementation of the Re-survey Plan

7.1 Implementation of the Plan

Each HO will implement the Harmonised Re-survey Plan in its area of responsibility.

Necessary co-operation between the HOs will be discussed on bilateral negotiations and agreed on Bilateral Arrangements.

7.2 Monitoring the implementation of the Re-survey Plan

For monitoring the implementation of the Plan, a specific BSHC Working Group, **Monitoring the Implementation of the Re-survey Plan**, has been established. The members of this Working Group are Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden. Finland will initially chair the Working Group. The rotation of the chairmanship will be foreseen for the future.

TORs of the Working Group are given in Annex 3.

8. Public relation activities

For public relation activities, an executive version of this plan will be prepared.

Every HO will inform its appropriate administration.

A common press release will be prepared by Denmark.

References:

- [1] HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration, 10 September 2001
- [2] AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX IV "PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS" TO THE HELSINKI CONVENTION. HELCOM Recommendation 22E/5, 10 September 2001
- [3] Major shipping routes and harbours. HELCOM EXTRA PREP 3/2001 Document No. 2., 3 August 2001.

Annexes:

1. Chart of the main routes and ports in the Baltic Sea Area.
2. Table of information of the main routes in the Baltic Sea Area.
3. TORs for Working Group for Monitoring the Implementation of the Re-survey Plan.