

25TH CONFERENCE OF THE BALTIC SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

Virtual Video Conference, 22 September

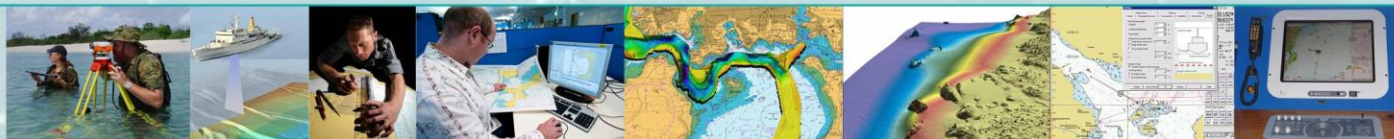
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2019	
Task 3.2.1.6	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commission: BSHC

The 25th Conference of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC25) was held in a scaled down virtual format on 22 September, under the Chairmanship of Captain (PLN) Dariusz Kolator, (Poland). A total of twenty seven attendees from seven of the eight full members of the Commission (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, and Sweden) and associate member Lithuania were represented at the Conference. The delegation of the Russian Federation did not participate and the United Kingdom was represented at the Conference as an Observer. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Abri Kampfer.

Director Kampfer reported on the IHO Work Programme and the Organization's activities during the previous year and about the ongoing preparations of the 2nd Assembly postponed to November 2020. He invited the BSHC to examine their respective instruments to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2.

The Commission reviewed on-going regional initiatives in particular the activities of the Monitoring Re-survey Working Group (MWG), Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database Working Group (BSBDWG), Baltic Sea International Charting Coordination Working Group (BSICCWG), the Chart Datum Working Group (CDWG), the Maritime Safety Information Working Group (MSIWG) and the joint North Sea and Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Data Information Working Group (NS-BSMSDIWG). The Commission supported the proposal that the NS-BSMSDIWG establish a pilot project with the North Sea and Baltic Sea as an S-122 test bed.

Sweden reported about the IHO-EU network working group (IENWG) activities. The report confirmed the general rise of awareness of the role and the duties of Hydrographic Offices and the overarching collaborative arrangements of the IHO on affected EU bodies. The implementation of the new European Directive 2019/1024 of 20 June 2019 on open data and the re-use of public sector information was discussed in the IENWG. The way this new directive is implemented at national level may impact the economic models of some European Hydrographic Offices and there is a need for a harmonized position from all EU Hydrographic Offices.

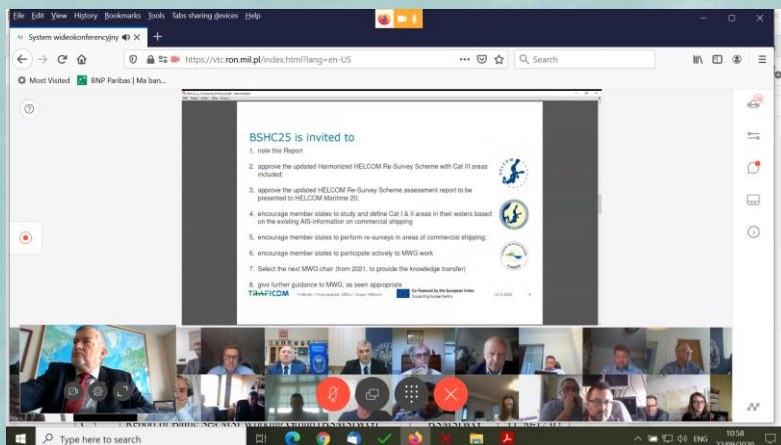


The Commission considered concerted activities for an area-wide gravity measurement campaign featuring improved geoid computations under the auspices of the Chart Datum Working Group (CDWG). CDWG has promoted studies and development of a common geoid model for the Baltic Sea by supporting the FAMOS-projects. Within FAMOS-project several gravity-surveying campaigns were executed in the Baltic Sea during 2015-2018 and interim geoid models have been calculated during 2018. The specification for the Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 have been finalized. The specification is an essential document for applying and realizing the Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 in all BSHC member states. The CDWG Work Programme 2020-2021 was endorsed.

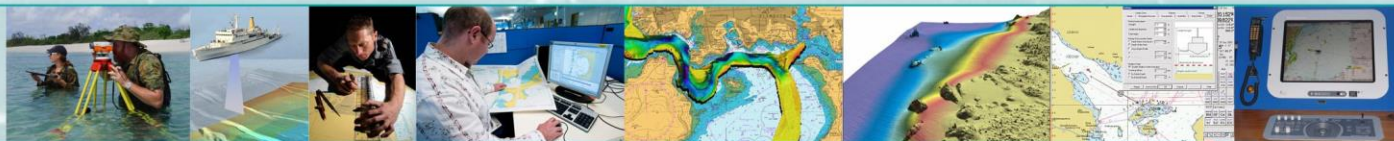
The Commission renewed its commitment to the continued maintenance of the BSHC internet portal hosted by Sweden including the provision of a gridded bathymetry model for the whole Baltic. The bathymetric model at present is the same as the version published in December 2013. An updated 500m model is planned to be published in September, and an update of the portal to contain also a 200m model and the basin names is planned for later in 2020. Both models will contain large improvements to the present model.

Finally, Sweden informed about the closure of the FAMOS Odin project that spanned the period 2014 to 2019. The final report was approved by the INEA/EU commission on July 17, 2020. FAMOS is viewed as a great success story with a surveyed area of 58 000 km² and good cooperation between 15 partnering organizations.

Denmark reported on the measures taken with the introduction, from 1 July 2020, of the new IMO routing measures in Skagerrak and Kattegat along the Danish and Swedish coasts. Poland had intentions to amend the shipping routes in TSS "Slupska Bank" and were expected to have it established at the beginning of 2021 after the 102nd session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee. Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of the IMO meeting, the approval and announcement of new routes depends on the date of the next IMO MSC meeting. Poland undertook to inform BSHC Member States when the measures will come into force.



Some Participants of the 25th BSHC Conference



At the end of the meeting, Mr Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden) was elected as the new Chair of the BSHC and Finland as the Vice-Chair. It was agreed that the next meeting of the BSHC will be hosted in Stockholm by Sweden from 21 to 23 September 2021.