

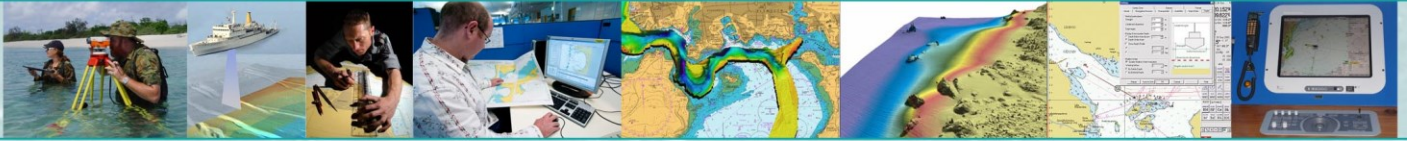
**27<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE BALTIC SEA  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
Stockholm, Sweden, 20 - 22 September**

| Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022 |   |
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| Task 3.2.1.6                                | Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commission: BSHC |

The 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC27) was held in Stockholm, Sweden, kindly hosted by the Swedish Maritime Administration, as a hybrid event from 20 to 22 September, under the Chairmanship of Mr Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden). A total of twenty six 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 United Kingdom and USA attended as Observers. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Abri Kampfer.

The conference adopted the agenda and reviewed the status of the Actions of the 26<sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference. The review of the IHO Work Programme commenced with feedback on the 5<sup>th</sup> Council meeting (C-5). Sweden is the Council representative on BSHC mandate for three years since C4 (2020) until C6 (2022). The main outcomes and actions relevant to the BSHC were communicated. In his capacity as HSSC Chair, the Chair furthermore informed the Conference of the work that is on-going before C6. These include S-100 implementation priorities and prioritized product specifications and the proposed implementation timeline. The interaction with IMO NCSR to enable the revised ECDIS Performance Standards that will enable the S-100 ECDIS was elaborated upon. Director Kampfer further reported on the IHO Work Programme and the Organization’s activities during the previous year and provided an update on the programme and planned activities for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly to be held in May 2023. In relation to the measuring of Strategic Performance Indicators (SPI), some slides to demonstrate the effort of the IHO Secretariat – in accordance with IHO CL 23/2022 - *IHO Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026 Determination of figures to calculate the Strategic Performance Indicators (SPI) assigned to IRCC - in using CATZOC information to provide data for SPI 1.2.2 (Percentage of navigationally significant areas (e.g. charted traffic separation schemes, anchorages and channels) for which the adequacy of the hydrographic knowledge is assessed through the use of appropriate quality indicators)* was shared.

All Members present provided National Reports informing on projects and developments of interest since the last Conference. Lithuania reported on the ongoing process to obtain approval to become an IHO Member States. In addition to their National Report Finland reported that their new Nautical Chart Production System (AHTI) with an automatic depth contouring and (semi-) automatic sounding selection tools are in operative use at the Finnish HO. A high density contours can now be applied for the major merchant fairways and ports in

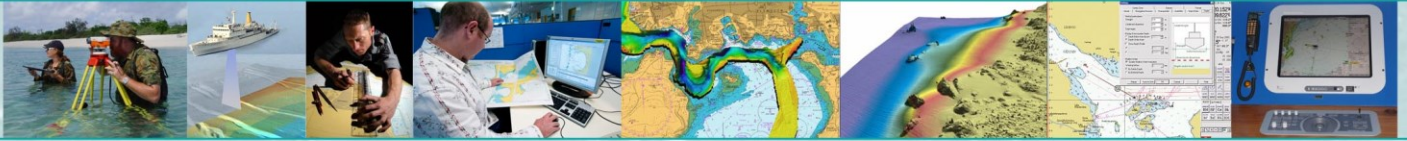


large scale ENC's (Berth, Harbour and Approach) products. The first set of ENC's including additional contour intervals and respective depth areas was published in January 2022 from the northern part of the Bay of Bothnia. It was also reported that the new nautical publication *Sailing Directions for Finnish Waters* has been published since December 2021. The publication contains general information about maritime transport channels and navigation in specific fairways.

The Commission reviewed on-going regional initiatives in particular the activities of the Monitoring Re-survey Working Group (MWG). The main tasks for the MWG has been to encourage the member states to continue the up-to-date surveys of their waters and to continue to update and enhance the Re-Survey database. At the HELCOM Ministerial meeting on 20 October 2021 the Commission adopted the updated HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). This is a remarkable milestone for BSHC, which now has the strong political commitment signed by Government representatives and the EU Commission. BSAP sets a timeline for hydrographic surveying in the Baltic Sea. The work of MWG is not limited to seabed coverage for areas used by commercial shipping in the Baltic Sea as the aim is that the entire Baltic Sea will be surveyed aiming to full seabed coverage according to IHO standards categories of S-44. MWG will continue to monitor the progress of the HELCOM Re-survey Scheme and update the Re-Survey Database.

The Chair of the Chart Datum Working Group (CDWG) reported that since February 2022, all work in the Chart Datum Working Group has been set on hold, after a decision taken by the member states of BSHC. The CDWG14-meeting is now planned to be held 28-29 March 2023 in Gothenburg (physical meeting only). One of the most important items in the working group is to review national plans and status of implementation of the Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000. Due to the pause in the work, not all countries have been able to contribute to the implementation status of 2022. However, it can be concluded that most member states after all have made actions to implement the common vertical datum. A good geoid model for the whole Baltic Sea is an essential component for the Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000. As an outcome of the former EU co-financed FAMOS-projects (Finalising Surveys for the Baltic Motorways of the Sea), gravity surveys and improvement of the geoid model for the Baltic Sea are still ongoing.

At the 26<sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference, it was decided to establish a Strategic Correspondence Group (BS-SCG) to analyse the Commission's work with regard to the revised IHO strategic plan. The BS-SCG is chaired by Mr Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden) and he provided feedback on the progress so far. The Conference agreed on the continuation of the BS-SCG with the aim to complete its work by BSHC28. Denmark reported on the work from the NHC strategic workshop held in 2021. Potential users were divided into 5 different user groups, the user groups were again divided into 12 different subgroups. The Workshop participants developed 12 matrices covering all subgroups, specifying the different datasets that it expected would be of interest for the subgroups. It was recommended that this document should be seen as a living document that can create the framework for internal and regional discussion about the user needs in a forward-looking perspective.

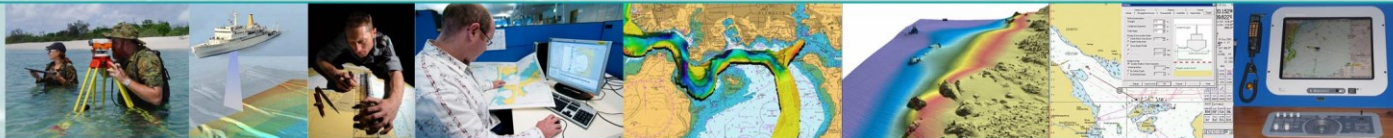


Sweden, as BSHC's representative to the IHO-EU network (IENWG), presented the highlights of the work done in the IENWG and reported that the discussion on the question of high value datasets is ongoing. The Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database Working Group (BSBDWG) chair reported that since the last conference the portal has been up and running without interruptions on the portal itself. The earlier issues with timeouts on downloading of datasets has been solved. Alarms to identify any malfunctions in the Domain Name Server has been implemented. Presently work is ongoing to move the portal to new, updated and faster servers where the updated 500 and 200m DTM will be published. He reported further cooperation with GEBCO, Seabed2030 and EMODnet.

Baltic Sea and North Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (BS-NSMSDIWG) report provided an overview of the last online meeting attended by member from the North Sea Hydrographic Commission and the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission. External stakeholders also attended the meeting. The overall aim of the meeting was to create a common MSDI framework and to receive input from external stakeholders on items relevant from a regional MSDI approach and to discuss the framework for the ongoing S-122 pilot project in the Baltic- and North Sea as part of the OGC Federated Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Pilot (FMSDI). The meeting evaluated BS-NS MSDI work plan for 2021 to 2024, with a focus on how the BSHC and NSHC can benefit from a regional approach to MSDI. The next meetings of the BS-NSMSDIWG is planned to be arranged as one day online meetings.

The Baltic Sea MSI Working Group (BSMSIWG) chair reported on the increasing number of Navtex warnings. The statistics clearly show a steady increase of navigational warnings transmitted over the Navtex system. This is of some concern, as the 10 minute time slot for each transmitter is not always possible to maintain. The chair of the BSMSIWG requested every MS to review their procedures for Navtex transmissions as messages need to be short and concise. As an alternative MS should consider if updated information could be published in Notice to Mariners.

The BSHC WEND WG representative (Finland) provided feedback on the outcomes of the 12<sup>th</sup> WENDWG and reported that the expanding role of the RHC INT Chart Coordinators was discussed. The Working Group decided to propose that the IRCC recommend that new S-1xx Coordinator roles to be established in the RHCs either as separate from the Chart Coordinator or as an additional duty of the Coordinator who will be responsible for considering the progress and coordination of S-1xx products as they become available, starting with the pathways outlined in the WEND Product Matrix. The Chair of the Baltic Sea International Charting Coordination Working Group (BSICCWG) (Finland) reported that no face to face meeting was held since BSHC26 and all communication and tasks have been carried out by circulars and e-mail. BSICC has organised a MAGVAR-survey in summer 2022 (at the initiative and assistance of the Estonian Transport Administration). Summary of that questionnaire will be presented at the next BSICCWG -meeting. The next BSICCWG (face-to-face) meeting is planned to take place in May 2023 in Rostock.



At the end of the meeting Mr Rainer Mustaniemi (Finland) was elected as the Chair of the BSHC and Mr Olavi Heinlo (Estonia) as the Vice-Chair. It was also agreed that the next meeting of the BSHC will be hosted in Helsinki by Finland from 19 to 21 September 2023.



Participating via VTC:  
Thomas Dehling, Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg (Germany)  
Mindaugas Zakarauskas, Emilis Tertilis (Lithuania)

*Participants of the 27<sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference*