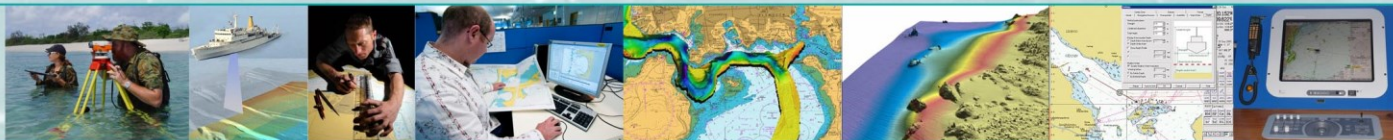


28TH CONFERENCE OF THE BALTIC SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

Helsinki, Finland, 19 - 21 September 2023

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023	
Task 3.2.1.6	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commission: BSHC

1. The 28th Conference of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC27) was held in Helsinki, Finland, kindly hosted by the Finnish Transport and Communication Agency, from 19 to 21 September, under the Chairmanship of Mr Rainer Mustaniemi (Finland). A total of twenty 24 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 Secretary-General Dr Mathias Jonas.
2. The Chair of the BSHC Mr. Rainer Mustaniemi (FIN) opened the 28th Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission Meeting and welcomed the participants. The Chair highlighted the importance of the meeting due to ongoing projects and especially plans for cooperation in S-100 implementation in the region.
3. IHO Secretary General, Dr Mathias Jonas presented the report of the IHO Secretariat, with emphasis on the importance of S-100 change and that the Baltic Sea is the laboratory to S-100 implementation. He pointed out that plenty of work has been done also between meetings and several BSHC member states represented in IHO Working Groups. "If we can make it here, we can make it everywhere", the Secretary General quoted Frank Sinatra.
4. Mr. Magnus Wallhagen, Sweden informed about the outcomes of the 6th meeting of the IHO Council, held in Monaco on 18-20 October 2022 and the highlights of the forthcoming Council 7 agenda.



- All Members present provided National Reports informing on projects and developments of interest since the last Conference. Specific items to note with relation to the S-100 roadmap were Estonia's announcement of the provision of S-102 version 2.2 datasets for test purposes and Finland's collaboration with national Meteorological Institute for S-104, S-111, S-411, S-412 provision. Lithuania reported on the ongoing process to obtain approval to become an IHO Member State.

S-102

Hydrographic Information System (HIS) is now capable of producing S-102 version 2.2 datasets.
 Sample data delivered to PRIMAR for testing and the tests were successful.
 Defining areas for S-102 datasets and their resolution is in progress.

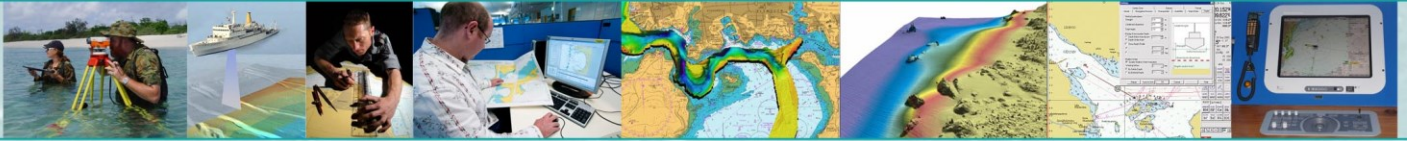


Red cells mark up the areas of Estonia's national waters now covered with S-102 Version 2.2 datasets

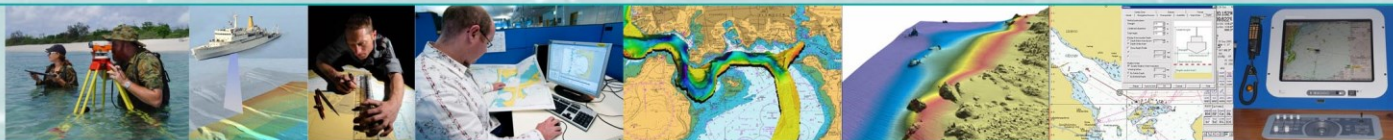
- The Re-Survey Monitoring Working Group (MWG Chair) Mrs. Maarit Mikkelsen, Finland presented the MWG report and gave an overview of the re-survey status of the region.
- Mr. Magnus Wallhagen, Sweden presented the issue on the finalization of the global dataset for polygonal demarcation of marine limit (S-130) and the need of it to be tested. The Commission agreed to forward the existing Baltic Sea Limits vertices to IHO Secretariat for S-130 experimental testing purposes.
- The Chair of the BSHC Strategic Correspondence Group (SCG) Mr. Magnus Wallhagen informed the Commission about the work in the Strategic Correspondence Group (BS-SCG). The follow-up discussion resulted in the conclusion that BSHC does not need a separate Strategic Plan and should instead implement the overarching IHO Strategic Plan according to the regional specifics. The SCG was therefore declared as closed.



Participants of the 28th BSHC Conference



9. Ms Pia Højgaard (Denmark) on behalf of the Baltic Sea North Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group BS-NSMSDIWG Chair presented the report from the BS-NSMSDIWG. The WG has been in dormant state, waiting for the BSHC decision. Denmark proposed to close the BSMSDIWG since MSDI development is largely regulated by EU regulations which seven out of eight BSHC Member States are subject to. This justification was supported by Latvia. US commended BSHC and stated that the existing of IHO MSDI WG has been greatly as a result of BS-NS MSDI WG and acknowledges their important work. The Commission finally agreed to close the BSMSDIWG and inform the NSHC Chair accordingly. It was the understanding of the participants that this decision leads to the close of the Baltic Sea part of the BS-NSMSDIWG part too.
10. The IRCC Chair Mr. Thomas Dehling (Germany) presented the work of the IRCC since the previous BSHC Conference, focusing on the IRCC's recommendations to the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC). The Commission went into intense debate on items related to the future regional coordination of S-100 based data service provisions which was interrelated to the reported WEND activities. Items were S-100 Implementation and coordination, the WEND-100 Product Matrix IGIF, to be updated annually, WEND-100 Principles and S-1xx Implementation Guidelines, S-101 ENC Scheming Guidelines, INTogIS III and S-128. The WEND 100 IGIF matrix as a useful means to assess the situation and future progress was confirmed.
11. Ms. Annika Kindeberg (Sweden), as BSHC's representative, presented the highlights of the work done in the IHO-EU network (IENWG), with focus on several EU projects related ongoing (EU projects presented to EU). The resulting discussion highlighted the current lack on strategic direction in the Working Group, taking note at the same time however, that Belgium, France and the Netherlands undertake a significant amount of intercessional work. The IHO Secretariat's representative elaborated on the added value to IHO to liaise with a regional political entity as the EU is.
12. Mr. Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden) on behalf of the Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database Working Group (BSBDWG) Chair (Mr. Hans Öiås) presented the report on the current status of the BSDB and future plans for the WG. After an intense debate the Commission decided to close down the BSBD database and the service provided via the BSHC website, respectively. A temporary solution will be available at the BSHC website until September 2024. This decision was made under the assumption that the content of the BSBD database has now become an inherent part of the EMODNET bathymetry services and the duplication of service through provision of a specific BSHC service would no longer be required.
13. Mr. Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden) presented the report on the forthcoming Baltic Sea e-Nav project. This project includes partner organizations from x BSHC Members and is funded by EU to an amount of five million Euro. The project is aiming to and can be regarded as the most important regional testbed to implement Phase 1 S-100 based data service in support of new S-100 compliant ECDIS applications. It is expected that the project will gain valuable best practice experiences to be shared with and possibly adopted by other regional approaches within the network of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions. The Start-up meeting of the project will be in November 2023 in Sweden.



Baltic Sea e-Nav – Scope

November 2023 – October 2026



- Application submitted 14 March 2023
- **Was approved June 2023** ©

Goal	Period
Develop production capabilities for S-101 ENC, S-102 bathymetry and to some extent S-104 water level	2023-2025
Establish harmonization rules for S-10x-products, under the BSHC umbrella	2024-2026
Test, evaluate and refine the S-10x products	2025
Commercial rollout for S-101 and S-102 in the Baltic Sea. S-104 in parts of FI.	2026

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
the European Union

14. At the end of the meeting Mr Olavi Heinlo (Estonia) was elected as the Chair of the BSHC and Mr Janis Krastins (Latvia) as the Vice-Chair. It was also agreed that the next meeting of the BSHC will be hosted in Tallinn by Estonia from 17 to 19 September 2024.