

**10<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC10  
Goa, India, 4-6 June 2018**

**BALTIC SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**BSHC report to IRCC10**

**1. Chair**

**Chair:** Mr Mindaugas Cesnauskis (Lithuania) from Sept 29, 2016  
Mr Thomas Dehling (Germany) from Sept 21, 2017]

**Vice-Chair:** Dr. Mathias Jonas (Germany) from Sept 29, 2016  
Mr. Thomas Dehling (Germany) from Sept 1, 2017  
Mrs Mrs Pia Dahl Højgaard (Denmark) from Sept 21, 2017

**2. Membership**

Members: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden.  
Associate Member: Lithuania.

Observers: [list of observers]

**3. Meetings:**

Following BSHC meetings have taken place since IRCC9:

- 22nd Meeting - Rostock, Germany (19-21 September 2017)

Next meeting: (23<sup>rd</sup> BSHC) will take place 27-29 August 2018 in Aalborg, Denmark

**4. Current [RHC] Working Groups:**

- a) Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database (BSBD)**
- b) Re-survey Monitoring Working Group (MWG)**
- c) Chart Datum Working Group (CDWG)**
- d) Baltic Sea INT-Chart coordination (BSICC)**
- e) Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure WG(BS-NSMSDIWG)**
- f) IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG)**

**5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the BSHC):**

All relevant IRCC9 action items devoted to the BSHC chair have been processed accordingly.

Details are provided in the list:

<b>N.</b>	<b>Action (Agenda item)</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
2	to engage with Member States in their regions to identify potential instructors to accompany MSI trainings in order to become MSI trainers and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
3	to consider using Trainer for Trainers (TFT) and e-learning methods to support the development of CB Phase 1 for developing coastal States and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	-
4	to encourage the attendance of Member States and Observers at WWNWS-SC meetings, to highlight the use of the Joint Manual on MSI to ensure correct terminology and formats are used in MSI messages, to encourage closer engagement of the National MSI Coordinators of Member States with the relevant NAVAREA Coordinator(s) and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
5	to encourage closer coordination between NAVAREA Coordinators and Regional CB Coordinators in planning and student selection for the CB MSI training courses	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
10	to invite Member States to investigate the possibilities of fund raising and engagement in CB via national organizations and report back to the IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
14	to encourage the Member States in the region to consider making all ENC data available through the RENCs (7)	RHC Chairs	December 2017	DONE
15	to encourage the work of the IHO community to increase existence of ENC schemes at regional level (7)	RHC Chairs	December 2017	DONE
18	to encourage Member States in the region to nominate RHC MSDI Ambassadors to promote MSDI and to help Member States to prepare the national reports with respect to the status of MSDI (7)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
21	to encourage IHO Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB (7)	RHC Chairs	September 2017	DONE
22	to request IHO Member States to consider reviewing data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction to enable CSB activities to be undertaken (7)	RHC Chairs	September 2017	DONE
23	to encourage IHO Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such	RHC Chairs	September 2017	DONE

	as requiring all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities (7)			
29	to encourage Member States to organize contribution of bathymetric data in shallower coastal areas to GEBCO in order to support the production of higher resolution gridded data products and report back to IRCC (7)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
32	to encourage Member States in the region to consider using satellite derived bathymetry and risk assessment methodologies in uncharted or poorly charted areas in their respective regions as a way of developing survey priority areas as part of attracting donor funding and report back to IRCC (8)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
33	to encourage the use of satellite derived bathymetry and risk assessment methodologies for developing survey priority areas as part of attracting donor funding using the project rationale as presented in doc. IRCC9-08C (8)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
34	to encourage Member States to participate in the workshop on satellite derived bathymetry sponsored by Canada in March 2018 (8)	RHC Chairs	December 2017	ONGOING (postponed to 18-20 September 2018)
35	to invite Member States to provide technical resources to the DQWG and report back to IRCC (9)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
36	to note the list of events organized by other inter-governmental and stakeholders indicated in <i>doc. IRCC9-09B</i> , consider how the IHO might be represented in those events that are considered relevant and liaise with the IHO Secretariat for the appropriate and report back to IRCC (9)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
39	to promote the UN-GGIM in their regions (10)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	
43	to consider using the IHO Online Registration System for their meetings and report back to IRCC (11)	RHCs	IRCC10	ONGOING
44	to invite Member States to review entries related to their region in IHO C-55 and P-5 (Yearbook) at least annually (11)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	

## 6. Agenda Items:

### a) Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database (BSBD)

Bathymetry for the Baltic Sea is available in a resolution of minimum 500 grid space except for Russian Federation and Lithuania. Plans are ongoing to produce a higher resolution

bathymetric model of the Baltic Sea. Several MS are already providing up to 50 m resolution. Some might be able to provide a 300 meters model. Another action item is to regularly update the model.

#### **b) Re-survey Monitoring and coordination**

BSHC developed and operates a standing scheme of re-surveys for the region. Schedule and execution of surveys are provided in an updated web based interface maintained and operated by Sweden. Surveys are being regularly coordinated between neighboring countries. The BSHC re-survey monitoring working group liaises with the respective NSHC working group. Further developments of the common re-survey database as metadata repository are ongoing. Member States update the information for their waters of jurisdiction independently. Link to BSHC RE-Survey Database: <https://helcomresurvey.sjofartsverket.se/>

#### **c) Harmonized Chart Datum in the Baltic**

BSHC developed the Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 as a joint height reference. It is based on the European Vertical Reference Frame (EVRF). The specification reflects the specific needs of surface navigation and hydrography in addition to EVRF conventions. The Chart Datum working group is monitoring and gives guidance for the implementation of the harmonized chart datum. BSHC members have widely committed to implement it. In some countries implementation has already started.

#### **d) Baltic Sea INT-Chart coordination**

The working group processes ENC and paper chart issues fully in parallel and to the same extent. The facilitation of the INT Chart Web Catalogue and continuous updating of S-11 Part B, have become inherent part of the chart publishing process in all member states. Monitoring of Baltic Sea ENC scheme and the identification of potential gaps and overlaps has been added to the standing agenda items of the Baltic Sea INT-Chart coordination working group.

#### **e) Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)**

BSHC and NSHC see the importance to deal with MSDI from a regional approach. The respective WGs in both RHCs have been merged in 2016 to the NSHC and BSHC Baltic Sea North Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (BSNSMSDIWG). It will report to both commissions and cooperate with the respective IHO MSDI working group. Marine Spatial Planning was identified as being an important aspect that has been widely underestimated.

#### **f) IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG)**

Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden) acts as representative from BSHC. BSHC member states have been active in participating in the IHO-EU network working group since its inception in 2012 with substantial cooperation and progress on one of the European Commission's flagship maritime projects European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNET) and its coastal mapping project. Latvia, Sweden and Germany contribute as consortium members to EMODNET derivation "High Resolution Seabed Mapping".

## **7. BSHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):**

### **FAMOS**

Several BSHC Member States (DE, DK, EE, FI, LV, LT, SE) and Working Groups are involved in the project FAMOS coordinated by Sweden. The project focuses on surveying areas relevant for commercial shipping in the Baltic Sea according to the BSHC-HELCOM re-survey scheme. Furthermore, it serves as a platform for implementing the common Baltic Sea chart datum as proposed by the BSHC Chart Datum Working Group and agreed upon within BSHC. It also deals with developments in the field of data processing and producing nautical informations. The project receives EU co-financing from the CEF Transport programme. The first phase of the project, FAMOS Freja, was successfully executed from 2014 to 2016. The second phase of the project, FAMOS Odin, is ongoing for the time 2016-2018.

### **Intelligent Marine Fairway – project**

Project underway in Finland, topics related to studies about bathymetric surfaces, improved water level services, local services of sea conditions (currents, waves and ice) and tests of the services on pilot areas/fairways.

## **8. Conclusions:**

The BSHC Statutes have been reviewed and updated. The amended version of the Statutes are currently being finalized and it is planned to sign them at the next BSHC Conference.

## **9. Achievements and lessons learned:**

The cooperation within the BSHC is very productive. The Baltic Sea can be seen as a test bed for hydrographic developments. Several projects have led to joint databases and results provided in the web. The outreach of the hydrographic work in the region and beyond has improved even further. Member states have continued to contribute extensively to the work of the IHO and have been active participants of working groups.

There has been substantial cooperation between commission member states and other European States and the EU on information sharing and shared projects.

## **10. Actions required of IRCC:**

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. take note of the BSHC report

Thomas Dehling  
BSHC Chair