

Status Report from the IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG)

Background

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is established between the IHO and the European Commission (EC). The purpose is to provide a framework ensuring a continuing liaison between IHO and EU in the specific areas of common interest. The EU Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) acts as the contact point on the EC side. From the IHO side the IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG) has been established as a working group under IRCC, which acts as the IHO contact point. The IENWG is chaired by France, Laurent Kerléguer, and consists of representatives from all Regional Hydrographic Commissions concerned. Sweden represents the BSHC.

IHO-EU Network meetings and representatives

Since the 21th BSHC meeting in September 2015 one IENWG meeting has been arranged in Brussels 13 – 14 October 2016. This meeting was arranged back to back with a presentation for the EU Committee of regions conference on "The Importance of Marine data for the Development of the Blue Economy on Local and Regional Level". Sweden (Magnus Wallhagen) participated as the BSHC representative. The next IENWG meeting will be in Paris 27 – 28 September 2017. The following member states represent the RHCs concerned:

- Arctic HC (ARHC) – Denmark
- Baltic Sea HC (BSHC) – Sweden
- Eastern Atlantic HC (EAtHC) – France
- Mediterranean and Black Seas HC – Greece
- Nordic HC (NHC) – Norway
- North Sea HC (NSHC) – Germany
- The IHB have been represented by Director Gilles Bessero

The meetings are always open for any IHO member state to participate in. Italy and UK has usually participated in the IENWG meetings.

Ongoing in the IHO-EU Network

Coastal Mapping

DG MARE issued a Call for Tender for a Coastal Mapping project in 2014. The IENWG had over some time communicated with DG Mare and contributed with written input for the specification process under a concept called Joint European Coastal Mapping Program (JECMaP).

A consortium, led by SHOM (FR), was created with 19 partners from 15 countries and the consortium was awarded the contract by the DG MARE in June 2015.

The Coastal Mapping portal was publicly opened in December 2015. Individual uploads of suitable data sets, covering the coastal zone between land and sea, are available in the portal. See <http://coastal-mapping.eu/>. An algorithm has been developed, and is available in the portal, in order to calculate and suggest suitable survey methods for different depths ranges and different turbidity. The project was finalized in December 2016. The portal will be up and running until 2018. As a result of the project a proposal of a future programme on a Joint European Mapping Programme has been proposed and has been presented for the EU Commission DG MARE and other DGs concerned. The Mapping Programme was also presented for the EU Parliament Intergroup for Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas, SEARICA <http://www.searica.eu/en/> in February 2017, by Bruno Franchon Head of the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM). Magnus Wallhagen (SE) also made a presentation on how EU programmes have been used for co-financing of hydrographic surveying in the Baltic Sea (MONALISA, FAMOS, ADAPT), but proposed more dedicated programmes for coastal mapping.

From the BSHC member states BSH from Germany, MAL from Latvia and SMA from Sweden were partners in the consortium. Other Hydrographic Offices involved were from Belgium, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.



Figure 1 The result of the Coastal Mapping project and a proposed way forward for mapping EU:s coastal waters is presented for EU Parliament Intergroup for Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas. The meeting was chaired by the vice-president for Marine Knowledge MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos (Portugal). MEP Gesine Meissner (Germany), president of the Intergroup, participated also actively.

EMODnet phase 3 - High Resolution Seabed Mapping

The DG MARE has launched the EMODnet in order to be able to give easy access to marine data, of the EU member states waters, to the society as a whole. A previous phase 1 and phase 2 of the EMODnet project should be seen as tests on how a portal on marine data could be achieved. The third phase of EMODnet, phase 3, is aimed to achieve a more permanent solution of a portal with high resolution marine data including the appointed themes in EMODnet (see also <http://www.emodnet.eu/>):

- Bathymetry

- Geology (including sedimentology data)
- Seabed Habitats
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics
- Human Activities
- Coastal Mapping

A Call for Tender regarding a high resolution digital bathymetry model (EMODnet phase 3) was issued in May 2016, called EMODnet High Resolution Seabed Mapping.

As a result of discussions within the IENWG the bathymetry consortium of the second phase of EMODNet was merged with the Coastal Mapping consortium, with SHOM as lead of this new consortium. In November 2017 it was announced that the consortium had been awarded the contract and a startup meeting was organized 20 – 22 March 2017 at ISMAR (Istituto di Scienze Marine) in Venice. The consortium consist of 41 (!) partners including HOs from Belgium, Croatia, *Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden* (BSHC MS in italic). The project is ongoing until the end of 2018 with a possible extension another two years.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the BSHC continues to monitor the ongoing work within the EC through participation in the future IHO-EU Network. Sweden (Magnus Wallhagen) is willing to continue to represent the BSHC.

The Commission is invited to

- Note the report
- MS to inform Sweden about their point of contact for IENWG issues