

**REPORT OF THE BALTIC SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (BSHC) to the 2nd SESSION OF THE IHO
ASSEMBLY (21-24 APRIL 2020)**

Submitted by Captain (PLN) Dariusz KOLATOR, Chair BSHC

1. Chair:

Mr. Mindaugas Česnauskis (Lithuania); 29.09.2016 - 21.09.2017

Mr. Thomas Dehling (Germany); 21.09.2017 - 29.08.2018

Mrs. Pia Dahl Højgaard (Denmark); 29.08.2018 -12.09.2019

Captain (PLN) Andrzej Kowalski (Poland); 12.09.2019 -13.10.2019

Captain (PLN) Dariusz Kolator (Poland) from 14.10.2019 - until present

Vice-chair:

Mr. Mathias Jonas (Germany); 29.09.2016 - 24.04.2017

Mr. Thomas Dehling (Germany); 24.04.2017 - 21.09.2017

Mrs. Pia Dahl Højgaard (Denmark); 21.09.2017 - 29.08.2018

Captain (PLN) Andrzej Kowalski (Poland); 29.08.2018 -12.09.2019

Mr. Patrik Wiberg (Sweden) 12.09.2019 – until present

2. Membership:

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

Associate Member: Lithuania.

3. Meetings:

22nd meeting: Rostock (Germany); 19-21 September 2017

23rd meeting: Aalborg (Denmark); 28-29 August 2018

24th meeting: Gdańsk (Poland); 10-12 September 2019

25th BSHC videoconference; 22 September 2020

4. Agenda Items:

IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG)

Sweden acted as a 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. During the last BSHC Conference: concerns were raised on safety of navigation issues if source data is made freely available as well as the need for exchange of information on national implementation of the new PSI directive was requested on a bilateral basis.

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 neighbouring countries. The BSHC re-survey monitoring working group liaises with the respective NSHC working group. HELCOM Re-Survey MWG chair just prepared and sent a letter to HELCOM MARITIME with the aim of a possible continuation of the task in HELCOM and inclusion of CAT III areas in the Re-Survey Scheme.

Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database

Sweden operates a cross border bathymetry database and a geo portal (data.bshc.pro) on behalf of the Commission. BSHC Member States are providing gridded mesoresolution depth information. Data density differs between the Member States and has a minimum resolution of 500 m. The website is fairly widely used and the portal is running smoothly. The usage of the portal is almost unchanged from year to year. Most users are from SE and PL.

It is possible to either download data or to use the WMS service provision. The options for the re-use of the data are not fully harmonised and depend from the specific national legal regulations. Sweden plans to release a new version of the grid as far as newer and better data is available from numerous countries.

The BSHC bathymetry database is recognized by GEBCO as a Regional Mapping Project. At the same time BSBD uses the GEBCO dataset for areas where no data has been provided by national HO of the region. BSBD is used in the EMODnet phase 2 model and it is planned to assist in deliveries to EMODnet "High Resolution Seabed Mapping" (phase III).

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). A first specification of such a harmonized chart datum was completed in 2016. The specification reflects the specific needs of surface navigation and hydrography in addition to EVRF conventions. The Chart Datum WG 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.

FAMOS - FASTMOS

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.

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, was ongoing for the time 2016-2018. The third and last period of FAMOS is aimed to start in 2020. A new project name, FASTMOS 2020-2023, is proposed. The project concept is currently being designed and new stakeholders and potential partners are signing up in the process. So far, four work packages have been defined. The aim is to enable the maritime sector to be a more efficient and sustainable means of transport. Completing HELCOM Re-survey scheme is fundamental for any development in the Baltic Sea.

BSICC

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 working group. BSHC member states agreed about the unlimited internal use of the small scale ENC covering the whole Baltic as provided by Germany as the responsible producer.

Finland acted as a representative from BSHC and proposed several changes of geographical names (i.e. "Middle Baltic" to "Central Baltic" and "Central Baltic Sea" to "Baltic Proper") and to shift the limit between Middle Baltic and South-Eastern Baltic.

There is also the need to refine the limits between charting region D (North Sea) and charting region E (Baltic Sea) to correspond to the limit as laid out in IHO S23. This proposal will also refine the definition of the limits between the sea areas, Skagerrak and Kattegat as well as the definition of the existing limit between charting region D (North Sea) and charting region E (Baltic Sea) in accordance with S-23 by defining coordinates for GIS-purposes. NSHC should be informed about the refined limit.

Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)

MSDI delivers the instruments for the enhanced scope of hydrographic information users. MSDI can create the framework for future provision of this information beyond the classic field of surface navigation. BSHC and NSHC see the importance to deal with these opportunities 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 groups.

WENDWG

BSHC is regularly represented in the WEND Working Group by Finland. The representative shall report to the Commission, including: review of the progress on the work items of WEND, resolving overlaps, ENC distribution and harmonisation, ENC coverage status. BSHC receives the annual report and gives further guidance to the BSHC WENDWG representative.

BSHC Internet Domain

BSHC developed an internet domain (www.bshc.pro). It is operated by Sweden. The content is under ongoing development. Major facts about the members and activities of the Commission are already presented. URL links provided for GIS applications matching with the scope of the Commission and to IHO web pages.

Capacity Building

Activities in CB are mainly dealt internally within BSHC. CBSC is chaired by Germany and Germany provides the CB Coordinator for the BSHC.

5. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

Russian Federation is a very important member of BSHC, but unfortunately since 2018 has very rarely participated in BSHC conferences and working groups.

6. Achievements/outputs/conclusions

The cooperation within the BSHC is very productive. 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.

Denmark and Poland completed EEZ delimitation process near Bornholm.

Starting from mid-March 2020, due to the risk of COVID-19, all meetings of the working groups are held in the form of videoconference.

7. Actions required of the Assembly:

Take note of the Report of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission.