North Sea - Baltic Sea -MSDI working Group

Thoughts on the future and why international collaboration is damn hard...



Genoa, 30th January 2023

Who am I?

- Christian Thellufsen, M.Sc., Ph.D.
- Private Land surveyor -> Cold -> Government
- Danish Cadastre Office -> Danish Hydrographic Office
- Keen portrait and wedding photographer and indoor cyclist (Zwift)



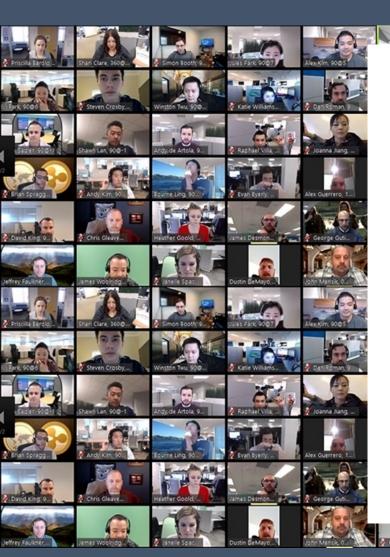
Short on the group

- Longest acronym in IHO community? NSBSMSDIWG!!
- Took over chair of the group from Jens Peter Hartmann a bit hard
- Common MSDI working group under Baltic Sea HC and North Sea HC
- Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland, Germany
- Focus is on monitering status of MSDI, policy development, integration of information and regional cooperation
- Not much have happened since MSDIWG13 a different staus

A patient with some fever

- A very ambitous work program decided in 2021 – but no one has yet signed up for the work tasks
- Terms of References has not been updated in 8 years – a lot have happened since then!
- Some member countries do not find the group valuable

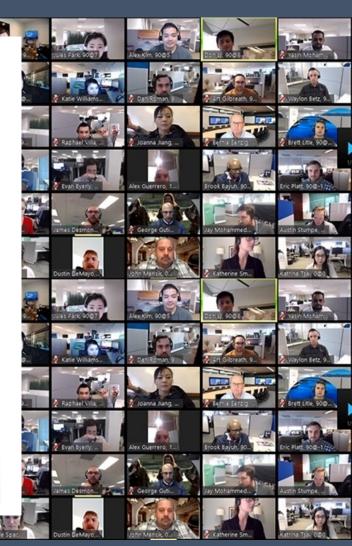




At a crossroad

- 1. Carry on as usual
- 2. Change the course
- 3. Close the group with a huge shoulder clap





Plan for the group now

- Sub group has been appointed to look into a clearer focus for the group – maybe change Terms of Reference
- Simpler and more concrete goals
- The members reach out to the chairs of the Baltic Sea HC and North Sea HC for their view on the focus of the group

Why is this?

- Numerous groups on MSDI today where to focus?
- General few resources for international work
- Hydrografic organisations have different focus some deal with MSDI
 - some don't
- Too ambitious work program
- Often change of members in the group
- Different ambitions among the member a few do most of the work
- Relationship from the commissions to the sub-group could be better

Take aways for other working groups

- Set a realistic level of ambition and be very concrete on your goals
- A closer relationship in regard to focus and "health" between the HCs and the sub-groups probably will be beneficial
- Evaluate often in the group

Is this group the only one with fever?



Thank you 🕲