

# North Sea - Baltic Sea – MSDI working Group

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



Danish Geodata Agency

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# 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 monitoring status of MSDI, policy development, integration of information and regional cooperation**
- **Not much have happened since MSDIWG13 – a different status**

# A patient with some fever

- A very ambitious 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
- Hydrographic 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 😊

