

**Paper for Consideration by
23th BSHC Meeting
IHO Secretariat Report**

Submitted by:	Secretariat of the IHO
Executive Summary:	This paper reports on activities of the IHO Secretariat that may impact the work of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission.

Operations of the Organization under the IHO Convention since the last BSHC Meeting (BSHC22) in September 2017

1. The amendments to the IHO Convention and its supporting Basic Documents entered into force on 8 November 2016. Since last BSHC Meeting the first meeting of the Council (C-1) as a new organ of the Organization was put into operation.
2. The first meeting of the Council (C-1) took place in Monaco from 17 to 19 October 2017 and will meet annually thereafter. The subsidiary organs of the IHO reported to the Council that will then referred endorsed proposals for adoption either to the Assembly or to the Member States through correspondence;
3. The main outcomes of the 1st meeting of the IHO Council were reported in IHO CL 55/2017.
4. Altogether five out of eight regular BSHC members are also Council members.
5. Regional Hydrographic Commissions are established in its own right by statutes and recognized by the Assembly (Article 8 of IHO General Regulations). They are sovereign to identify tasks, ways and means to address the specifics of hydrography within their respective region. If such regional hydrographic issues are of operational relevance for the international community they can be forwarded by the respective Regional Commission through the link with IRCC. The chairs of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions are regular IRCC members. They report to IRCC and in turn report back to the Regional Hydrographic Commission about IRCC issues.
6. With regard to the relationship between the Regional Hydrographic Commissions and the Assembly, Regional Hydrographic Commissions enjoy the right to report to the Assembly directly. However, the applicable IHO Resolution 2/1997 is under review. The Secretariat proposes to discuss whether this reporting process could be better harmonized with the IRCC Chair who report towards the Assembly as well.
7. **Recommendations. BSHC to consider:**
 - a) Provide a report on the outcomes of about this meeting to the IRCC Chair for his report to C-2;
 - b) Discuss how the BSHC reporting towards the Assembly could be better harmonized with the respective IRCC Chair report.

Status of Membership of the IHO

8. One of the main changes resulting from the entry into force of the revised IHO Convention is that, for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations, there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO. In 2017 **Malta, Vanuatu, Seychelles** and in 2018 **Bulgaria** acceded to the IHO Convention and became the 86th, 87th, 88th and 89th Member States of the IHO respectively. On 1 January 2018 **Dominican Republic** was reinstated as Member State, suspended since 1983. Regrettably, Syria was suspended from Member States rights being in arrears in its contributions now for two consecutive years.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region E

9. According to the IHO Secretariat records, Finland (Mr Jarmo Mäkinen), is the designated INT Chart / ENC Coordinator for Region N. Compared to other regions, Region E is covered by a fully matured chart INT

chart and ENC scheme including the professional and collaborative handling of ENC overlaps.

10. The status of the INT chart scheme for region E is contained in Edition 3.0.8 of S-11 Part B which was made available in December 2017. According to the S-11 Part B Web Catalogue, there are 302 charts and 292 ENCs in the scheme, all have been produced and published; although not all details in IHO publication C-55 are current All BSHC members and associates are requested to check their individual entries and provide updated information as appropriate.

11. Early January 2018, the IHO Secretariat informed the Chart Coordinators that the project INToGIS Phase II was underway, thanks to the outstanding support provided by KHOA (Republic of Korea). For more information, see Doc. [HSSC9-11A-INF1](#). Since the publication of Ed. 3.1.0 of S-11 Part A, INToGIS Phase II aims to provide a very useful scheming tool, putting together ENC and INT charts.

12. Adoption of Ed. 3.10.0 of IHO Publication S-11 Part A requires new arrangements for the monitoring of INT charts (CL 11/2018 refers).

13. The representative of the BSHC at the WENDWG (Jarmo Mäkinen) participated in the 8th meeting (March 2018) of the WENDWG.

14. The elimination of overlapping ENC data that are navigationally significant is one of the main objective of the WEND Principles. A new IHO Resolution addressing this issue was adopted by IHO Member States (See. IHO CL 19/2018 – *Adoption of new IHO resolution on the elimination of overlapping ENC data*). WENDWG considered the outcome of this resolution at its recent 8th meeting from 20 to 22 March 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina and IRCC10 endorsed the resulting report (The separate presentation to be given under the Agenda Item B2 refers).

15. At its 13th meeting in Monaco (January 2018), the Data Quality Working Group arranged a workshop where participants shared their best practices on the way CATZOC values are populated for S-57 ENCs by Hydrographic Offices. In order to facilitate the harmonization and prepare the future transition to S-101 ENCs, it is recommended that BSHC ENC Producers provide their guidelines to the DQWG.

16. Recommendations. BSHC to consider:

- a) the results of the most recent 8th WENDWG meeting held in March 2018;
- b) providing regional CATZOC practices to the DQWG;
- c) the maintenance of ENC Schemes when the INToGIS Phase II is commissioned;

Maritime Safety Information Services

17. MSI Capability and Supportability. The IHO Capacity Building strategy lays particular emphasis on the fundamental capability for all coastal States to provide a maritime safety information (MSI) service in support of their international obligations.

18. **Recommendations.** The Chair is requested to encourage all coastal States to:

- a) maintain regular communication with the regional NAVAREA Coordinator(s) and inform of any change of personnel or contact details;
- b) use and following the guidance provided in S-53 – *Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information*; and
- c) Request National Coordinators to review the contents of the relevant Annexes of the GMDSS Master Plan (GMDSS.1/Circ.21 31May 2017 refers) and to use the annexed questionnaire for electronic submission, whilst also cross checking the details submitted for inclusion in IHO publication C-55 for consistency.

Capacity Building Programme

19. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme decreased in 2017. Expenditure in the IHO 2017 CB Work Programme (625 952 Euros) was 18% smaller than the budget for the previous year.

Ongoing financial support is provided by the Nippon Foundation of Japan, the Republic of Korea and by a contribution from the IHO budget with in-kind support from Member States and from industry. The Secretariat is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations. In 2017, 80% of the budgeted work program was executed and paid for.

20. A student from Poland was selected to attend the next IHO - Nippon Foundation CHART (Cartography, Hydrography and Related Training) Project CAT-B course held under the 2018 IHO CB Work Programme (CBWP).

21. **Recommendations.** BSHC members are invited to identify opportunities in national or regional funding agencies to incorporate hydrographic development in the broader projects supporting developing countries.

Crowdsourced Bathymetry

22. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC5, IRCC7 established the Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowdsourced bathymetry. Member States and other interested parties were invited to nominate representatives to participate in the CSBWG (see IHO CL 42/2015). The CSBWG has developed the draft IHO publication B-12 – IHO Guideline on Crowdsourced Bathymetry, which has completed extensive stakeholder and IHO member State consultation. Edition 1.0.0 was presented to IRCC10 for endorsement, prior to submission to IHO Council-2 and IHO member State approval, it is hoped the publication will have a formal publication date of 1 January 2019. Work has commenced on the draft of Edition 2.0.0, taking into account a number of topics, for which additional time and investigation were identified as being required; additionally as a result of Decision C-1/31 IRCC10 endorsed to enlarge the scope of the tasking of the CSBWG, the CSBWG drafted revised ToRs.

23. The web-based interface portal to the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry, hosted by the USA in Boulder, Colorado, as part of its commitment to the system of World Data Centres, is being upgraded to be compatible with the crowdsourced bathymetry concept. This will enable an IHO-led CSB infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community.

24. **Recommendations.** BSHC members are invited to identify further potential sources of bathymetric measurements and survey data providers to be facilitate the further completion of the DCDB data holdings.

GEBCO support through Seabed 2030

25. The Nippon Foundation (NF)-GEBCO Seabed 2030 project builds on more than 100 years of GEBCO history; the project has established regional connections to all corners of the World and benefits from the human network of ocean mapping capacity built over 14 years through The Nippon Foundation – University of New Hampshire (UNH) training project. Through Seabed 2030, GEBCO's role will be recognized and reinforced as the authoritative international initiative for mapping the World Ocean, from the coasts to the deepest trenches. The project will champion, develop and nurture the technical and human capacity to complete this task by 2030.

26. Seabed 2030 has established a network of 4 regional centres. Each centre focuses on discovering, gathering and assembling all available bathymetric data from their region to produce regional datasets and resulting products. A global centre will merge the regional datasets to generate the production of the annual GEBCO grid as well as other products. Within this structure, the IHO-DCDB will remain the central GEBCO repository for all raw bathymetric data and all Seabed 2030 project data will be data based there.

27. **Recommendations.** BSHC members are invited to consider the future invitation of Seabed 2030 project representatives to BSHC meetings to discuss options for deepened cooperation and support.

IHO GIS and Databases

28. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS which is composed of two main parts:

- a country information database, and
- a regional information database.

29. The country information database has been progressively upgraded to include additional administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the IHO Yearbook (IHO Publication P-5) and related lists posted on the IHO website. Countries in the BSHC Region are invited to review their entry in the Yearbook on an annual basis and provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates or report no change. The status of updates in the IHO Country Information Database concerning the BSHC Countries, including those provided for C-55, is as follows:

Country	P-5 –Yearbook Last update received	C-55 Last update received
Estonia	July 2002	June 2012
Denmark	December 2016	November 2016
Finland	August 2015	March 2018
Germany	September 2017	August 2017
Latvia	April 2018	July 2014
Poland	July 2017	August 2011
Sweden	September 2017	September 2017
Russian Federation	August 2016	June 2004

30. An Esri-based GIS solution is being implemented to develop further the regional information database. This will enable access to various layers of information through the IHO website and through cloud-based on-line GIS options. The IHO ENC Catalogue and the IHO GIS for Antarctica have been transferred to this new environment.

31. Work has continued on developing a GIS database application to support C-55 - Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide and the work of the IHO. In response to the request to complement C-55 composite data (percentage of areas adequately surveyed / requiring re-survey / not surveyed) with CATZOC information (see IHO CL 52/2015), CATZOC data was provided by PRIMAR - on behalf of IC-ENC, PRIMAR and Canada, Singapore, Sweden and Thailand. Useful options for visualizing the data in the IHO C-55 GIS are being investigated.

32. **Recommendations.** Countries in the BSHC Region are invited to review their entry in the IHO Yearbook and C-55 and to provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates or to report no change.

Preparation of the next meeting of the IHO Council

33. The second meeting of the IHO Council is scheduled to take place in London, UK, from 9 to 11 October 2018. The preparation of this meeting is now completed, in liaison with the host country. It can be noted that in accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the Council, the deadline for submission of proposals by IHO Member States was 9 July 2018, while comments on proposals to be included in the Red Book for the Council were accepted until 31 July 2018. All proposals, comments and INF-paper are compiled in the Red Book and made available in the first half of August 2018.

IHO Outreach

34. World Hydrography Day: Taking into account the discussions at the IHO Council meeting held in Monaco in October 2017, the theme of the World Hydrography Day for 2018, as announced by IHO CL 03/2018, is:

“Bathymetry – the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways”

35. As part of the report on the proposed Work Programme 2018 at the first Council, the Secretary-General introduced the priorities, which he had defined with the associated issues and risks, for Work Programme 1

(Corporate Affairs). One of the priorities was to plan and start a complete overhaul of the IHO website including incorporation of GIS-services.

36. The Secretariat conducted an internal workshop in December 2017, to assess the deficiencies of the IHO website in place, the up-to-dateness of the underlying technology and future requirements. The workshop resulted into a comprehensive list of topics to be addressed by an overhaul of the IHO website. In the course of the workshop it turned out that the reshape should not be limited to the establishment of a newsfeed mechanism, to the website structure and design only. Instead, a holistic approach covering IHO's corporate design of all media channels in digital and print was concluded as the appropriate scope of action. Further and more detailed information will be presented at the second IHO Council meeting in London in October.

37. It was concluded further that the current IHO communication strategy is completely lacking the provision of social media. The Secretariat therefore gladly accepted the temporary secondment of the social media expert through NOAA (USA) to assist the future set up and maintenance of such a component.

International Hydrographic Review

38. Twice a year, the IHR provides an opportunity for Member States to publicize technical and other achievements in their region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. Due to the transfer of the former regional representative, Dr Mathias Jonas to the IHO Secretariat, the post of the BSHC representative is vacant.

39. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ian.halls1@defence.gov.au). The deadlines are:

- end of January for the May Edition
- end of July for the November Edition

40. The IHO Secretariat has been working with the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, in a project to develop a digital repository of the complete library of the IHR. As a result, the first phase of the project now provides access to volumes from 1963 to 2017. They can be found at: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>.

41. Based on the considerations raised in the course of the communication overhaul discussions, the Secretariat proposes a digital revamp of the International Hydrographic Review (IHR). First consultations were held with the Editor in Chief of the IHR, Mr Ian Halls. The following principal changes are proposed jointly:

- Design and building new separate website www.ihr.iho.int using the new corporate design.
- Design the International Hydrographic Review as online publication and printable version (PoD).
- Facilitate technical options to create customized topical compilations from the digital repository of IHR articles for pdf-download and print.

42. Further and more detailed information will be presented at the second IHO Council meeting in London in October for endorsement.

43. **Recommendations.** BSHC-Members are invited nominate a new representative for the region for the IHR editorial board.

Action Requested of BSHC:

- a) **Note** this report
- b) **Consider** the recommendations on Council/Assembly interactions as presented in **Paragraph 7**
- c) **Consider** the recommendations on Charting as presented in **Paragraph 16**
- d) **Consider** the recommendations on MSI as presented in **Paragraph 18**

- e) **Consider** the recommendations on Capacity Building in **Paragraph 21**
- f) **Consider** the recommendations on Crowd Sourced Bathymetry in **Paragraph 24**
- g) **Consider** the recommendations on Seabed 2030 collaboration in **Paragraph 27**
- h) **Review** entries related to IHO C-55 and P-5 (Yearbook) at least annually (**Paragraph 32**)
- i) **Consider** submitting papers for publication in the International Hydrographic Review and nominate a new representative at the Editorial Board for the region (**Paragraph 43**)
- j) **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate