

25th Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission Conference
22 September 2020 – Video Conference

FINAL MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Opening formalities.

A.1. Opening of the Conference.

Docs: BSHC25 List of Participants; BSHC25 Programme; VTC Administrative Matters

The Chair of the Conference (The Chair) *Mr. Dariusz Kolator* opened the 25th Baltic Sea Hydrographic Conference and welcomed the delegates, observers and IHO Director *Mr. Abri Kampfer*. The Chair described the technical details of the Video Conference and presented the Programme. The Chair informed the delegates, that the Russian Federation sent a letter informing about not taking part in the Video Conference.

A.2. Adoption of the Agenda.

Docs: BSHC25 Standing Agenda

The delegates reviewed the Draft Agenda. The Agenda was adopted without any changes.

A.3. Minutes and actions of the 24th BSHC Conference.

Docs: BSHC24 Minutes; BSHC24 List of Actions

The minutes from 24th BSHC was approved by correspondence earlier. This was confirmed by the BSHC. The status of the Actions of 24th BSHC Conference was reviewed:

Action No. 1-11 in progress (permanent action).

Action No. 12 done.

Action No. 13 in progress, considered as a permanent action.

Action No. 14-15 pending.

Action No. 16 done / ongoing.

Action No. 17 done.

Action No. 18 pending.

Action No. 19-24 done.

Action No. 25 considered as a permanent action.

Action No. 26-27 done.

Action No. 28 postponed to BSHC26.

Action No. 29-31 done.

Action No. 32 postponed to BSHC26.

Action No. 33 done.

ACTION 1: All permanent actions to be evaluated at BSHC26.

B. IHO work program 1 – Corporate Affairs.

B.1. Information about the activities of the IHO.

B.1.1 Information about the preparations for the Assembly.

Docs: BSHC25 B1 IHO SecReport

The IHO Director (*Mr. Abri Kampfer*) presented the report of the IHO, with emphasis on:

- new members from the Republic of Ghana and Samoa,
- IHO council Activities,
- preparations of the 2nd IHO Assembly,
- INT chart and ENC production and coordination in region E which is considered to be one of the most dynamic regions in the IHO and the BSHC is actively involved in the global IHO charting process,
- Capacity Building programme – the same level of activity as in 2019; IHO has no separate budget for CB programme - relies on national contribution,
- Crowdsourced Bathymetry, the development of the publication B-12, ways to increase the data gathering activities, importance of cooperation with GEBCO and Seabed 2030,
- GEBCO support through Seabed 2030, new release of GEBCO grid,
- IHO GIS and databases,
- IHO outreach, the World Hydrography Day 2020, the new IHO website,
- IHO 100 years celebrations, WHD 2021 is to be a culmination of celebration along with planned workshops, exhibitions, outreach events and other activities,
- IHR, Dr Patrick Westfeld is representing BSHC on the IHR Board, MS are invited to submit papers for publication in the IHR.

The Chair thanked IHO Director and confirmed that BSHC took note of the report and the recommendations.

ACTION 2: BSHC Chair to invite the Seabed 2030 project representatives to the BSHC26.

B.2. Information on Council issues of the IHO.

Finland (*Mr. Rainer Mustaniemi*) informed about the new Council Members and presented the report of the most important issues that will be raised at the next Council meeting planned on 19 November 2020.

The Chair thanked Finland for the Report and the Commission took note of the Report.

Sweden (*Mr. Magnus Wallhagen*) thanked and commented on the election of representative of Sweden to the Council for the next period.

B.3. National reports.

Docs:

BSHC25_B3.1_National_Report_Denmark

BSHC25_B3.2_National_Report_Estonia

BSHC25_B3.3_National_Report_Finland

BSHC25_B3.4_National_Report_Germany

BSHC25_B3.5_National_Report_Latvia

BSHC25_B3.6_National_Report_Lithuania

BSHC25_B3.7_National_Report_Poland

BSHC25_B3.8_National_Report_Russian Federation¹

BSHC25_B3.9_National_Report_Sweden

¹ The National Report of Russian Federation was sent after the Conference.

Due to video conference formula, the national reports were not presented. The Chair thanked all MS for the effort in hydrographic activities and encouraged to study the information included in national reports uploaded to the IHO website.

Estonia (*Mrs. Kaidi Katus*) informed about planned reorganisation in Estonian Maritime Administration.

ACTION 3: Denmark to inform BSHC MS when paper charts reflect the agreed delimitation (EEZ) between Denmark and Poland.

B.4. Status Report from the IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG).

Docs: BSHC25 B4 IHO-EU Network Report

Sweden (*Mrs. Annika Kindeberg*) presented the Report of IHO-EU Network Working Group, highlighting the information from the last meeting (IENWG10, Paris, January 2020) especially the perspective of the Directive of European Parliament and of the Council on public sector information (PSI) and the possible impact to the economic models of some hydrographic offices. The future PSI directive will be called the Open Data Directive (ODD).

In conclusion there was a proposal to organise separate meeting for discussion regarding PSI Directive/ODD.

The Chair thanked Sweden for the Report and the Commission took note of the Report.

ACTION 4: Sweden to organise PSI meeting including BSHC MS, France and the Netherlands representatives.

C. IHO work program 2 – Hydrographic Services and Standards.

C.1. Re-Survey Monitoring Working Group.

Docs:

BSHC25 C1.1 MWG Report

BSHC25 C1.2 HELCOM Re-Survey Scheme update

BSHC25 C1.3 HELCOM Re-Survey Scheme Assessment Report

MWG Chair (*Mr. Seppo Mäkinen*) presented the MWG-report and gave an overview of the re-survey status. The updated HELCOM Harmonized Re-Survey Scheme, according to BSHC24th agreement includes also HELCOM CAT III areas with updated timetable is to be presented to HELCOM Maritime to be considered as a part of the new Baltic Sea Action Plan 2021. MWG Chair displayed detailed statistics about the progress of CAT I&II survey and EU Grants to speed up the survey process.

MWG Chair informed on updating the S-44 Publication with additional “Exclusive” order and the contribution of the MWG, BSHC24 and BSHC Chair (DK) to the final version of S-44 6th Edition. MS were encouraged to study and implement S-44 6th Edition.

Mr. Seppo Mäkinen informed about his decision to step down of the position of MWG Chair with the end of 2020 and his declaration of continued support for MWG.

The BSHC was requested to:

1. *Note the report.*

2. *Approve the updated Harmonized HELCOM Re-Survey Scheme with Cat III areas included.*

Decision: The Commission approved the updated Harmonized HELCOM Re-Survey Scheme with Cat III areas including an updated associated timetable for these areas. The MWG Chair was tasked to present this proposal to HELCOM Maritime 20 (5-8 October 2020) to be a part of the new Baltic Sea Action Plan 2021.

3. *Approve the updated HELCOM Re-Survey Scheme Assessment Report to be presented to HELCOM Maritime 20.*

Decision: The Commission approved updated the HELCOM Re-Survey Scheme Assessment Report and tasked the MWG Chair to present the Report to HELCOM Maritime 20 (05-08 October 2020).

4. Encourage member states to study and define Cat I & II areas in their waters based on the existing AIS information on commercial shipping.
5. Encourage member states to perform re-surveys in areas of commercial shipping.
6. Encourage member states to participate actively to MWG work.
7. Select the next MWG chair (from 2021, to provide the knowledge transfer).

The Chair thanked *Mr. Seppo Mäkinen* for his excellent work as the MWG Chair and his personal commitment for the MWG. *Mr. Seppo Mäkinen* confirmed his support to the MWG. The Chair encouraged MS to select candidates for the position of the MWG Chair. The BSHC took note of the report and approved the following actions:

ACTION 5: To encourage MS to study and define Cat I & II areas in their waters based on the existing AIS-information on commercial shipping and to utilize risk assessment tools.

ACTION 6: MS to nominate candidates for the MWG Chair.

ACTION 7: MWG Chair to organise election by correspondence or VTC for the position of the MWG Chair.

ACTION 8: MWG Chair to present the HELCOM Re-survey Scheme Update and the Assessment Report to the HELCOM Maritime 20.

C.2. Report of Chart Datum Working Group (CDWG).

Docs: BSHC25 C2 CDWG Report

CDWG Chair (*Mr. Thomas Hammarklint*) presented the report summarizing the process of the implementation of the vertical reference level Baltic Sea Chart Datum (BSCD2000) and the status of the implementation in particular MS. The report presented future benefits of BSCD2000 and encourages MS to continue with gravity measurements and geoid computations.

The Chair thanked CDWG Chair for the presentation. The BSHC took note of the report and continues to support gravity measurements.

Decision: BSHC approves the TOR's and work program as proposed from the WG.

C.3. Report of Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database Working Group (BSBDWG).

Docs: BSHC25 C3 BSBDWG Report

BSBDWG Chair (*Mr. Hans Öias*) presented the report. He informed, that the bathymetric data portal is operational and running smoothly. BSBDWG Chair informed about the plan for 2020 to update the 500 meters resolution bathymetric data and to add a 200 meters model to the portal with updated coastline and basin borders. The new models will include Lithuania datasets and open dataset over the Kaliningrad and also cover Norwegian areas and Skagerrak. Presented detailed statistics showed, that the use of the portal is at the similar level as in previous years. Most users are from SE, PL and FI. Presented bathymetric model is frequently used for illustrations in articles, books and also used in student theses. The portal supports EMODnet project and delivers data for the EMODnet High resolution Seabed Mapping project and the EMODnet Bathymetry model/portal.

The Chair thanked the chair of BSBDWG for the presentation. The BSHC took note of the report.

ACTION 9: Russian Federation to provide bathymetric data to BSBD portal.

ACTION 10: Russian Federation is invited to distribute good resolution (large scale – 1:50000) coastline to Sweden in order to enhance presentation in the BSBD portal and contact with SE regarding procedure.

C.4. Report of Baltic Sea North Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (BS-NSMSDIWG).

Docs: BSHC25 C4 BS-NSMSDIWG Report

The BSNSMSDIWG Chair (*Mr. Jens Peter Hartmann*) presented the report from the BS-NSMSDIWG. Informed about main topics discussed during last meeting of working group (8th online meeting 24-25 August 2020):

- national SDI cooperation,
- INSPIRE,
- the framework for maritime spatial planning in Europe (MSP – Directive),
- information from UN-GGIM Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information,
- EMODnet project - MSP perspective and the new EU data strategy, EMODnet bathymetry project,
- OGC Marine Domain Working Group,
- S-121 standard for maritime limits and boundaries.

The BS-NSMSDIWG report emphasizes on:

- a) information on a new call of EMODnet project in bathymetry,
- b) pilot project for North Sea and Baltic Sea S-121 testbed,
- c) EU MSP Technical Expert Group on Data; proposal to establish a joint online meeting between EU MSP Technical Expert Group and BS-NSMSDIWG,
- d) EU project on eMSP,
- e) preparation and planning to MSDI Hackathon.

The BSHC was requested to:

1. *Note the report.*
2. *Approve the new Draft Work Program 2021-2024.*

Decision: The Commission approved the new Draft Work Program 2021-2024 of the BS-NSMSDIWG.

3. *Take note of the new EMODnet call for bathymetry; MS to report to SHOM (Thierry.Schmitt@shom.fr) if they wanted to participate.*

The Commission took note of the new EMODnet call for bathymetry, but as the tender was due already in August 2020 it is too late at this time to join the consortium as a partner.

4. *Discuss whether the BS-NSMSDIWG should investigate the possibilities to establish at pilot project focusing on S-121 data as a testbed.*

Germany (*Mr. Thomas Dehling*) proposed to establish a pilot project on S-122 data testbed instead of S-121. Finland and Sweden supported the idea. After a short discussion the BS-NSMSDIWG Chair agreed and changed the proposal to S-122 data testbed. The Commission supported the proposal.

5. *Take any other action as appropriate.*

The Chair thanked the BS-NSMSDIWG Chair for the presentation and the BSHC took note of the Report.

ACTION 11: BSHC MS to liaise with their national UN-GGM representatives when dealing with MSDI and report back to BSHC26.

ACTION 12: DK to inform about the NHC strategic work at BSHC26.

C.5. Report of Baltic Sea MSI Working Group (BSMSIWG).

Docs: BSHC25 C5 BSMSIWG Report

The BSMSIWG Chair (*Mr. Johan von Bültzingslöwen*) presented the report with emphasis on:

- Maritime Safety Information (MSI) distribution,
- statistics of MSI including contents and quantity of information promulgated by MS,
- NAVTEX signal disturbances,
- S-124 project team,
- potential rising cost for IMO member states due to the GMDSS approval of additional satellite companies providing MSI.

The BSHC was requested to:

1. *Note the Report.*
2. *Follow the international discussions regarding MSI promulgation costs (IMO, NCSR and MSC).*

The Chair thanked the BSMSIWG Chair for the presentation and the BSHC took note of the Report and the information about promulgation costs.

C.6. FAMOS project status Report.

Docs: BSHC25 C6 FAMOS Project Report

Sweden (*Mr. Magnus Wallhagen*) presented the FAMOS project status Report. Informed about the closure of the last phase of the FAMOS Odin project in 2020 and summarized the contributions of the entire FAMOS project. *Mr. Magnus Wallhagen* informed, that BSHC Member States are interested to continue the FAMOS project, and explained that currently prospects to support hydrographic activities by EU are uncertain.

The Chair thanked Sweden for the presentation and the BSHC took note of the Report.

D. IHO work program 3 – Inter Regional Coordination and Support.

D.1. Report of BSHC representative to WENDWG.

Docs: BSHC25 D1 WENDWG Report

The BSHC representative at WENDWG (*Mr. Jarmo Mäkinen*), presented the report and highlighted the results of the WENDWG 10th VTC meeting 7-9 April 2020, emphasizing:

- a) WEND-100 Principles (old WENS – set of principles related to the products to be used in S-100 Navigation Systems):
 - A1: data products fundamental to safety of navigation,
 - A2: data products that enhance safety of navigation,
 - B: additional navigation information,
 - C: other marine spatial information.
- b) Structure of WEND-100 Principles.
- c) The Future expected role of RHCs in S-1xx products coverage and coordination.

In conclusion, *Mr. Jarmo Mäkinen* described future plans and challenges for WENDWG.

The Chair thanked the WENDWG representative for the presentation and the BSHC took note of the report.

D.2. Report of Baltic Sea INT Chart Coordination Working Group (BSICCWG).

Docs: BSHC25 D2 BSICCWG Report

The BSICCWG Chair (*Mr. Jarmo Mäkinen*) presented the report with emphasis on:

- a) BSHC24 List of Actions under the responsibility of the BSICCWG Chair.
- b) The 2nd Workshop for Chart Coordinator (Sweden, November 2019) and the implementation of the new INTToGIS II tools (INT Chart Web Catalogue).
- c) Status of the new INT Charts (numbers).
- d) Status of the ENC's Coverage in Baltic Sea – Baltic Sea ENC Scheme (overlap report).
- e) Future work of BSICCWG.

The result of the CATZOC questionnaire was attached to the report.

The Chair thanked the BSICCWG Chair for the presentation and the BSHC took note of the Report and approved the following action:

ACTION 13: To have an agenda item at the BSHC26 about the need for regional coordination of S-100 implementation.

D.3. Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide C – 55 Status in BSHC Member States Review.

The IHO Director (*Mr. Abri Kampfer*) gave a presentation on the data included in P-5 and C-55 IHO publications and the rate of data update. Detailed statistics were presented showing the progress of survey in shallow waters (< 200m) by particular countries within the Baltic Sea.

Denmark (*Mr. Lars Hansen*) commented on difficulties in interpreting and defining the statement “adequately surveyed” used in C-55

The Chair thanked IHO Director for the presentation.

D.4.1. New Shipping Route Systems in Denmark.

Docs: BSHC25 D4.1 New Shipping Routes DK

Denmark (*Mrs. Elizabeth Hagemann*) presented the joint DK-SE project on the new routing system in Kattegat and Skagerrak, which was established on 1st July 2020. Detailed AIS data were presented showing changes in vessel traffic after implementation of the new regulations. Information about the new routing system is presented at the BSHC website (www.bshc.pro), including a link to the information folder.

D.4.2. New Shipping Route Systems in Poland.

Docs: BSHC25 D4.2 New Shipping Routes PL

Poland (*Mr. Witold Stasiak*) presented a plan of amendments in the Traffic Separation Scheme “Słupska Bank”. The new traffic regulations are planned to increase the safety of navigation along the Polish coast in shallow waters area. New shipping routes in TSS "Słupska Bank" are expected to be established in the beginning of 2021 after the 102nd session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee.

Sweden informed that it's interested to get confirmation about the date when the new TSS Słupska Bank coming into force.

ACTION 14: Poland to inform BSHC MS when the amendments to the TSS “Słupska Bank” come into force.

E. Any other business.

E.1. Combining the function of the Chair with the host.

The Chair proposed amendments to the BSHC Statutes regarding the combination of the position of the BSHC Chair with the role of BSHC host. The idea to make changes in Article 6 of the BSHC Statutes was shared by the correspondence. All MS supported the idea to combine the function of the Chair with the host.

Germany (*Mr. Thomas Dehling*) proposed to make the Statutes more flexible about standing rules and procedures and offered to prepare the draft of the new articles to the Statutes. Sweden supported the proposal.

ACTION 15: To prepare a proposal of an amendment to the BSHC Statutes regarding the combination of the position of the BSHC Chair and the role of BSHC host.

F. Election of new Chair and Vice Chair.

Decision: The BSHC Conference elected *Mr. Magnus Wallhagen* (Sweden) unanimously as Chair of the BSHC, and elected *Mr. Rainer Mustaniemi* (Finland) unanimously as Vice-Chair of the Commission.

G. Place and date of next Conference.

According to the agreements regarding combining the position of the Chair and host, Sweden confirmed its willingness to organise the next face-to-face BSHC Conference. *Mr. Patrik Wiberg* (Sweden) announced that the date of the BSHC26 meeting will be 21-23 September 2021 in Stockholm.

H. Review of BSHC25 List of Actions.

The Conference reviewed the Draft List of Actions of the BSHC25.

Decision: The Draft List of Actions was approved after some amendments. The Draft List of Actions and the Minutes will be distributed for final approval.

I. Closing ceremony.

The BSHC25 Chair (*Mr. Dariusz Kolator*) expressed his thanks for delegates for participating in BSHC25 Conference and maintaining the time limits proposed in Agenda. He expressed the hope, that the future Conference will be arranged in Stockholm face-to-face and that the situation related to the Covid-19 would not affect the activities of the hydrographic offices. The BSHC25 Chair then declared the conference closed.