

## BSHC Response on the IHO Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026

### Introduction/Background

At the IHO Assembly 2 the IHO Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026 was approved. In response to this revised strategic plan the following IHO Council 4 meeting agreed upon an action (ref C4 List of Actions C4/39):

*Secretary-General, HSSC and IRCC (Chairs/Vice-Chairs), RHCs (Chairs/Vice-Chairs) to experiment the implementation of the Strategic Plan and consider during this process, following gap analysis if appropriate, whether our organisation and work programmes are fit for purpose, in particular for meeting Goals 2 and 3.*

The South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) has already at the SWPHC 18 meeting 2021 initiated a gap analysis based on individual MS' own gap analyses. Summaries can be found at SWPHC 18, document SWPHC 18-12A, B and C. The North Sea Hydrographic Commission has also agreed upon an action to analyse if the Commission is working towards the goals and targets pointed out in the IHO Strategic Plan.

At the IRCC 13 meeting the RHCs were requested to report top three aspects on their Work on the Strategic Plan. Even though BSHC has not done any specific gap analysis towards the strategic plan, the BSHC Chair and Vice-Chair agreed to report some identified aspects responding to the three goals in the strategic plan:

**Goal 1, Evolving the hydrographic support for safety and efficiency of maritime navigation, undergoing profound transformation:**

Coordination of the S-100 implementation in the Baltic Sea will be discussed at the next BSHC Meeting.

**Goal 2, Increasing the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society:**

Continue to cooperate with HELCOM on hydrographic surveying of the Baltic Sea and to provide bathymetry data also to other stakeholders (EMODNet Bathymetry etc.), in line with EU initiatives and Seabed 2030.

**Goal 2 and Goal 3, Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean:**

The implementation of a common Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 facilitates the usage of hydrographic data in combination with data produced as a result of other international initiatives in the Baltic Sea Region.

It was also reported by the BSHC Chair that the BSHC will discuss further how to align to the IHO Strategic Plan.

### Analysis/Discussion

Even though ongoing actions within the BSHC WGs could be identified to support the three goals in the IHO Strategic Plan, a proper gap analysis has not yet been conducted. Overall, the IHO Strategic Plan should serve as a strategic foundation also for BSHC. In addition, BSHC also should take into

consideration regional aspects within the Baltic Sea and incorporate them into BSHC's strategic work. With the implementation of S-100 and the increasing need for hydrographic data by other stakeholders than the traditional maritime sector, it would be an appropriate time for this Commission to develop its own strategy, using the IHO Strategic Plan as a starting point.

## **Recommendation**

Sweden recommends that a correspondence group is established in order draft a strategic plan for BSHC, using the IHO Strategic Plan as a foundation. The correspondence group should deliver a draft proposal to BSHC 27, 2022. The aims of the Commission is stated in Article 2 in the BSHC Statutes, which should be taken into consideration. The correspondence group should propose how the strategy should take form; an amended Article 2, an added annex to the Statutes or a separate document.

## **Actions required by BSHC**

- Note this paper
- Establish a correspondence group to draft a strategic plan for BSHC, using the IHO Strategic Plan as a foundation.
- Take any further action as deemed appropriate.