

BSBD-WG Report to the BSHC 29th Conference

Summary

The Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database Working Group has not held any meeting during the last year.

After the decision to close down the Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database (BSBD) at BSHC 28 (2023), the understanding was that the WG also can be disbanded.

1. Status of the work of BSBDWG

BSHC 28 took the decision to close down the BSBD portal and refer to the EMODNet Bathymetry Portal instead. A temporary and more simple solution to reach the BSBD dataset was established by SMA at the BSHC website to be up and running until September 2024. Download of the BSBD 0.9.3 DTM is possible by the use of an intermediate webpage on the BSHC homepage www.bshc.pro/data in a number of formats, including a TIFF image.

There is also a newer dataset called BSBD0.9.6 available for download as well as a link to a OGC-WMS service published on the same homepage that has been made available via ArcGIS-Online.

2. The use of the bathymetric database

2.1. The portal

As the BSBD today is a Subpage to the BSHC homepage it is harder to get the same statistics as earlier. The number of visits to the BSBD page between the first of July 2023 and 30th of June 2024 is 782 made by 508 unique visitors.

The simple viewer hosted on ArcGIS Online is running, but does not provide any statistics for the amount of use.

2.2. Support and usage

There has been a few support questions sent by email to SMA, and they mainly concern downloads or questions about higher resolutions.

A Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>) search for "baltic sea bathymetry database" gives 196 (184 last year) hits for articles referencing to that phrase, and 10 of them has been published during 2024.

2.3. Use of OGC services

The WMS service hosted on ArcGIS Online is running, but does not provide any statistics for the amount of use. Due to this it is impossible to state how much they are used.

3. Work Group participants

The current WG members and points of contact is:

Country	Name	E-mail address
Denmark	Giuseppe Masetti Nicki Riber Andreasen	gimas@gst.dk nirib@gst.dk
Estonia	Peeter Väling	peeter.valing@transpordiamet.ee
Finland	Juha Tiihonen Leila Rapeli	juha.tiihonen@traficom.fi Leila.Rapeli@traficom.fi
Germany	Jürgen Monk	juergen.monk@bsh.de
Latvia	Normunds Duksis	normunds.duksis@lhd.lv
Lithuania	Emilis Tertelis (point of contact)	emilis.tertelis@ltsa.lt
Poland	Piotr Kozłowski	piotr.kozlowski0@ron.mil.pl
Russia	(No person appointed)	main@unio.ru
Sweden	Hans Öiås	Hans.oias@sjofartsverket.se

4. Proposed way forward for BSBD

Sweden suggest that the BSBD dataset, currently available at the BSHC website can be kept available as a historic bathymetry dataset. No further updates will be made.

Since the BSBDWG do not have any clear tasks Sweden suggest that the WG should be permanently closed.

Hans Öiås, current chair of BSBDWG, continues as the BSHC Point of Contact for CSBWG and GEBCO/Seabed 2030 and will submit annual reports from these IHO forum to the Commission.

5. Actions for the BSHC 28th Conference

The BSHC 28th Conference is requested to:

1. Note this report
2. Agree to keep the current BSBD dataset, as a historic dataset, at the BSHC website.
3. Agree to close the BSBDWG
4. Take any further action as appropriate