



Baltic Sea Maritime Safety Information Working Group BSMSIWG

Report to the BSHC29 Conference

1. Status of Work of BSMSIWG since BSHC 28

The sixth meeting of the BSMSIWG is planned to be held on August 29, 2024. The outcomes of the meeting will be presented at BSHC29.

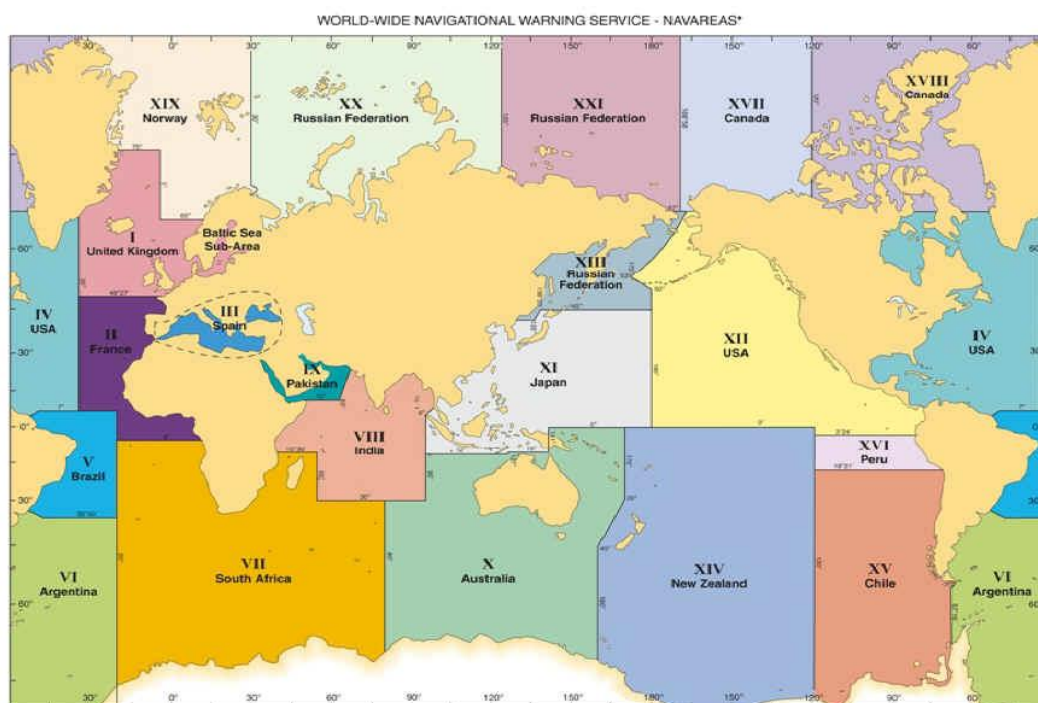
1.1 BSMSIWG Members

An updated list of the members are posted on the working group website (<https://www.bshc.pro/working-groups/bsmsiwg/>)

Member states are welcome to nominate members to the BSMSIWG members by sending an e-mail to chair Mr. von Bültzingslöwen (johan.bultzingslowen@sjofartsverket.se).

2. Background

The ocean areas are divided into 21 Navareas. Each Navarea has a Navarea Coordinator. The Baltic Sea sub-area is a part of the Navarea I. The Navarea I coordinator is UK.



The working group BSMSIWG was in its original form, created in 2004. The meetings were then called the Baltico meetings.

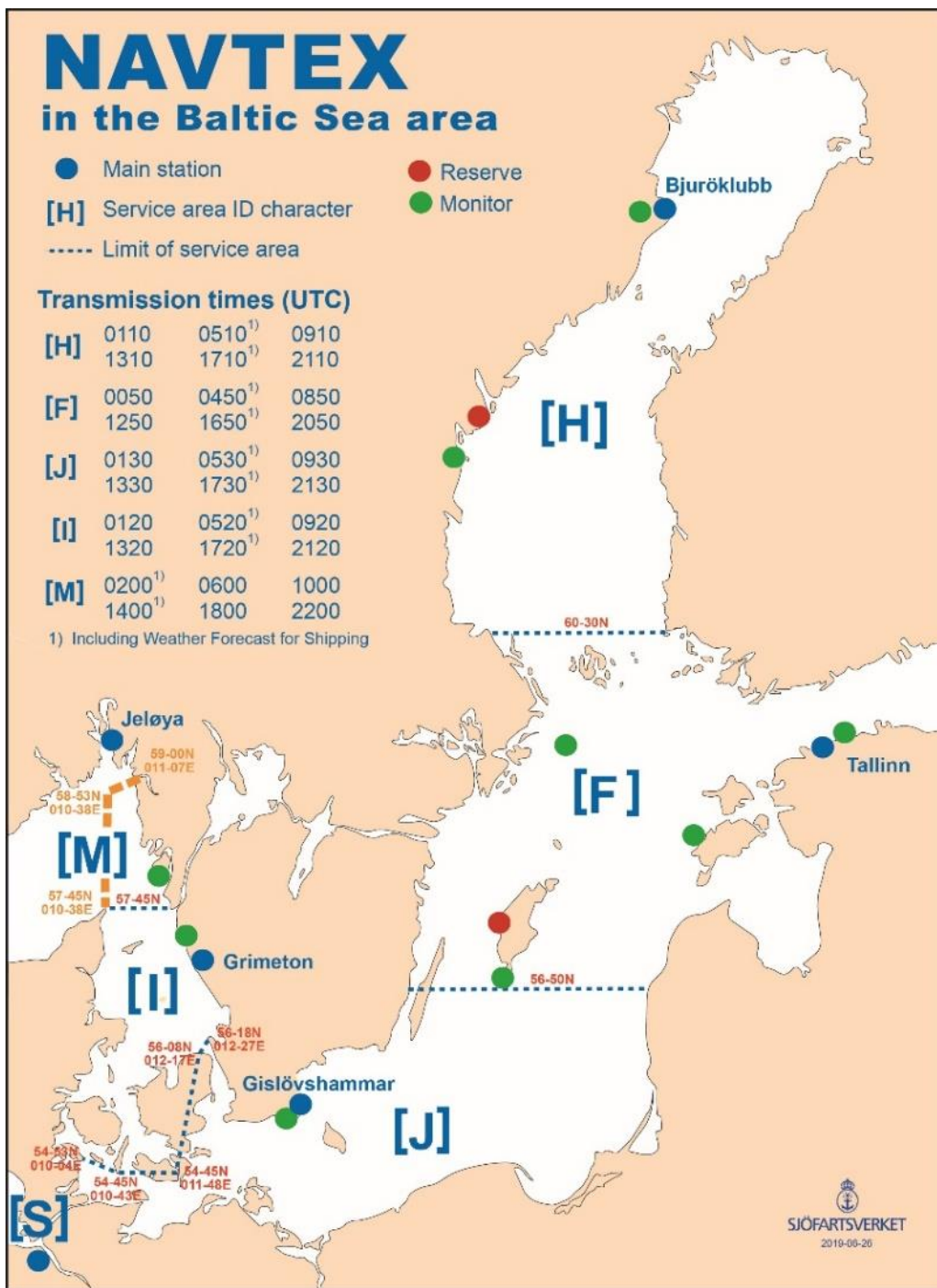
In 2018 the group became an official working group under the BSHC.



3. Distribution of MSI

In accordance with GMDSS, Maritime Safety Information (MSI) for the Baltic Sea region is provided to shipping by means of the international Navtex system.

In addition to Navtex, MSI is provided by means of various national systems such as VHF, national Navtex, MF-radio and national websites.





3.1 Operational points of contact

An updated list with contact information to the national coordinators of the countries around the Baltic Sea sub-area is found on the working group website. Refer to paragraph 1.1.

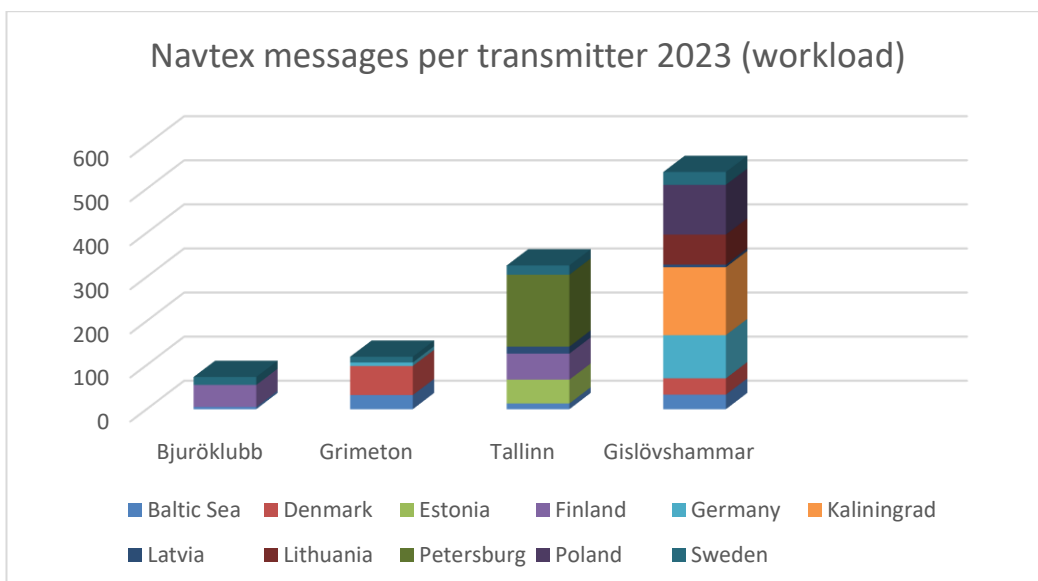
3.2 Contents of Navigational Warnings

Subjects that cause navigation warnings in the Baltic Sea region vary between the issuing countries due to different rules and procedures in the issuing country and various marine conditions etc.

Navigational warnings in the Baltic Sea normally regards military exercises, aids to navigation, drifting hazards, underwater operations, cable laying, low sea level and temporary withdrawal of TSS due to ice.

3.3 NAVTEX Navigational Warnings for the Baltic Sea sub-area 2023

Country	Bjuröklubb (H)	Grimeton (I)	Gislövshammar (J)	Tallinn (F)
Baltic Sea	5	32	33	13
Denmark	0	66	37	0
Estonia	0	0	0	54
Finland	50	0	0	59
Germany	0	8	98	0
Kaliningrad	0	0	154	0
Latvia	0	0	6	16
Lithuania	0	0	68	0
Petersburg	0	0	0	163
Poland	0	0	113	0
Sweden	18	13	29	21
Summary	73	119	538	326



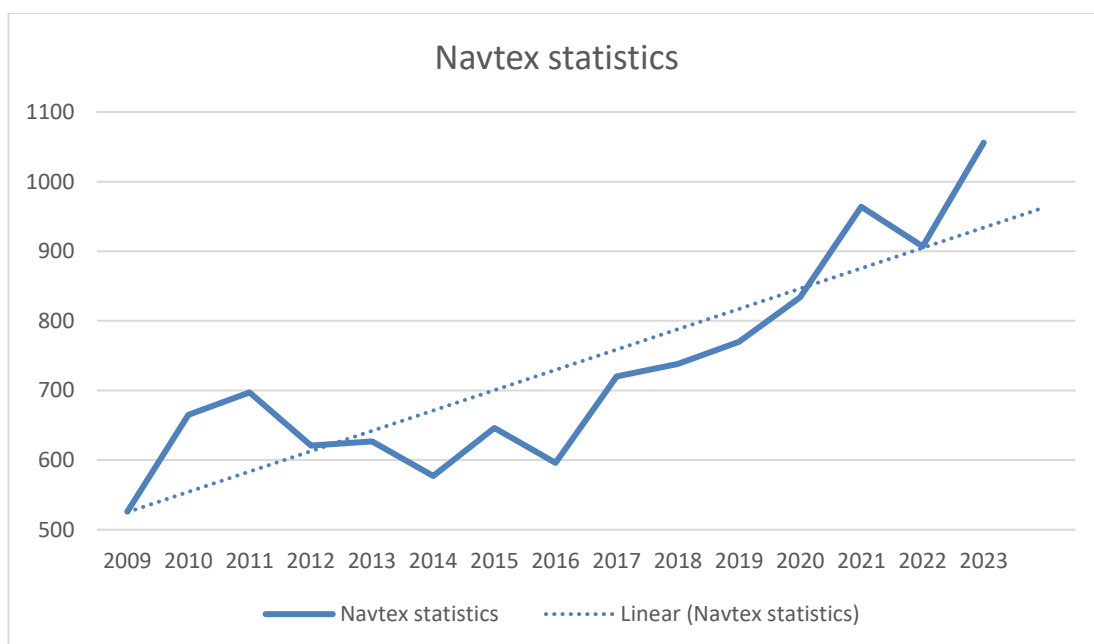


Please note the difference in workload between the different transmitters. Also note the fact that the Gislövshammar transmitter covers the waters of seven nations.

3.4 Sub-area warnings and coastal warnings in recent years

Nation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baltic Sea*)	28	37	38	34	23	45	44	52	58	72	62	51	66	48	83
Denmark	98	87	117	91	89	79	63	42	43	52	57	70	49	86	103
Estonia	3	7	5	11	9	6	7	26	41	30	34	34	37	37	54
Finland	28	91	53	49	35	25	47	30	48	47	46	56	50	40	109
Germany	73	99	92	92	120	118	145	86	91	132	108	123	151	113	106
Latvia	24	20	27	16	15	10	14	9	17	10	17	12	9	16	22
Lithuania	27	34	31	30	65	46	30	35	30	29	37	31	63	38	68
Poland	70	74	78	70	101	107	115	100	109	91	113	100	165	134	113
Kaliningrad	49	66	68	68	57	70	67	91	107	123	96	147	148	152	154
St Petersburg	29	33	32	40	24	27	29	66	134	81	113	142	168	167	163
Sweden	97	117	156	120	89	44	85	59	42	71	87	68	58	76	81
TOTAL	526	665	697	621	627	577	646	596	720	738	770	834	964	907	1056

*) The navigational warnings marked "Baltic Sea" are warnings concerning more than one nation.



The statistics show an increasing number of warnings during 2023 reaching over 1000 for the first time. This is alarming when maintaining the 10-minute time-slots for the Navtex transmitters.

The chair of the BSMSIWG thanks national coordinators for the effort to maintaining the Navtex time slots and welcome further review the national procedures for Navtex messages. Navtex messages need to be short and concise. Planned activities are preferably published in Notice to Mariners.



3.5 Operational issues

No major Navtex operational problems has occurred during 2023. The process to replace old Navtex transmitters in Sweden has begun. The transmission software will also be replaced.

4. Current BSMSIWG issues

4.1 Coordination of implementation of S-124 in the Baltic Sea Sub-area

At BSHC26 the BSMSIWG was given the action to coordinate the implementation of S-124 in the Baltic Sea. This is a continuous agenda item at working group meetings. The chair will report about outcomes from BSMSIWG6 at the BSHC29.

4.2 Amendment of the Baltic Sea sub-area

The chair has begun the process to amend the border of the Baltic Sea sub-area to align with the area of responsibility of BSHC. Issue brought to WWNWS for further guidance.

This is more of a formality and would not change any of the processes of how MSI is broadcast in the area, as the Navtex service areas would not change.

5. IMO/IHO issues concerning navigational warnings

The WWNWS16 will be a five-day meeting, September 2 – 6, 2024 at IHO headquarter in Valparaiso, Chile. The chair of BSMSIWG is attending WWNWS meetings as Baltic Sea sub-area coordinator.

The issue concerning the cost for promulgating MSI via EGC that was raised in the report to BSHC25, 26, 27 and 28 is still not resolved. The introduction of more satellite companies has raised concern among some Navarea coordinators about the cost for promulgation of navigational warnings. When introducing more companies, the cost could be decided to be distributed over all IMO member states. This issue has been discussed at NCSR and WWNWS meetings.

All MS are encouraged to follow the development of this issue as it could possibly impact the economy of every IMO MS.

6. S-124

The chair of the BSMSIWG participates in the S-124 project team. S-124 is a system for presenting Navigational warnings in the ECDIS system. The system is under development.

Version 1.0 of the product specification has been approved at HSSC. The BSMSIWG have started to discuss the implementation process and will continue to make sure that the process is well coordinated.



29th BSHC Meeting
17-19 September 2024
Tallinn, Estonia

Agenda item D4
Baltic Sea MSI Working Group (BSMSIWG) Report
SWEDEN

7. Actions requested

The Commission is invited to:

- note the report.
- note the effort to align the Baltic Sea sub-area with the BSHC area of responsibility.
- note the effort to coordinate the implementation of S-124 in the Baltic Sea sub-area.