

BSHC participation at the EC Expert Group on Ocean Observation and EGSME seminar on "Cooperation for a Smart and Sustainable Baltic Sea"

Agenda Item BSHC29 E.2

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Presented by BSHC Chair / Estonia

13.09.2024

Introduction/Background

Estonia holds the presidency of the CBSS from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. Among the priorities of the Estonian presidency is "Sustainable and Prosperous Region priority". Expert Group on Sustainable Maritime Economy (EGSME) will carry out the work on the creation of green corridors launched by the German Presidency and continued by the Finnish Presidency. The Estonian Presidency will work towards reaching a common understanding of the meaning of a green corridor and creating a network of interested parties. As a new initiative, the Presidency will aim to start the preparations (mapping existing projects and defining interested countries) for creating a digital twin of the Baltic Sea, i.e. collecting real-time data in order to simulate marine processes and in this way have a better understanding of the condition of the sea.

BSHC has been invited by Ministry of Climate of Estonia on behalf of the European Commission (DG MARE) to participate in two significant upcoming events in Tallinn.

Discussion

Firstly, the 2nd meeting of the member states expert group on Ocean Observatory organized by the DG MARE of the European Commission will be organized on 25th September in Tallinn. Ministry of climate has discussed the matter and, along with colleagues of the European Commission, would very much appreciate BSHC participation as BSHC plays a critical role in planning hydrographic surveys in the Baltic Sea. BSHC insights would be invaluable to the discussions. The proposed topic is: planning of hydrographic surveys in the Baltic.

In addition, the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) is planning a meeting of experts on sustainable maritime economy, which will take place the following day, on 26th September, also in Tallinn. CBSS is a regional governmental organization representing all states around the Baltic Sea. As Estonia has commenced its Presidency of the organization, one of our top priorities is the collection of maritime data in the Baltic Sea and the creation of a digital twin of the Baltic Sea. BSHC is proposed to present its ideas on the following topic: Expectations to Baltic Sea countries from the point of view of Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission.

Actions requested by BSHC.

- Note this paper.
- To approve representation of BSHC at the EC Expert Group on Ocean Observation and EGSME seminar on "Cooperation for a Smart and Sustainable Baltic Sea"
- Take any further action as appropriate.