



Royal Netherlands Navy

TO:

The chairman of the BSHC
Mr. Janis Krastins
Maritime Administration of Latvia
Hydrographic Service
Tribadibas iela 5
RIGA LV - 1048
Latvia

Copy:

NSHC Member States, IHB G. Bessero

Date 10 September 2015

Subject BSHC/MSDIWG

Netherlands Ministry of Defence

The Netherlands
Hydrographic Office

Van Alkemadeaan 786
2597 BC The Hague
P.O. 90701
2500 LS The Hague
The Netherlands

Contact
Dr.Ir. L.L. Dorst

T +31 70 316 28 26
F +31 70 316 28 43
LL.Dorst@mindef.nl

Our reference
CZSK/2015003590

Enclosed: NSHC Conclusion 106, 107 and
115

*Please quote date, our reference and
subject when replying.*

Dear Janis,

During the 31st conference of the NSHC in Amsterdam, June 2014, the members of the NSHC expressed their wish to intensify their coordination on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI). Some of the dual NSHC/BSHC members suggested that the most efficient way to organize this would be to find out if the existing BSHC MSDI Working Group could be extended to a dual NSHC/BSHC Working Group. I refer to NSHC Conclusion 106 (annexed). This idea led to a workshop of the BSHC MSDI Working Group (Rostock, Germany, 20-22 January 2015) that was attended by several non-BSHC NSHC members as well. The general impression was that the extension of this group with the non-BSHC NSHC members was productive for all.

Now that the next workshop of the BSHC MSDI Working Group is approaching (Helsinki, Finland, 16-18 November 2015), I would like to request the BSHC to consider to reorganize this group to a formal dual NSHC/BSHC Working Group. Perhaps it would still be possible to discuss this request during your next conference (16-18 September 2015, Saint Petersburg)?

As many current MSDI developments are currently taking place in an identical way for the NSHC and the BSHC, creating a common group will lead to more progress on these developments than an approach per RHC. I am thinking about INSPIRE implementation and harmonization, the EMODNet project and the creation of regional bathymetric databases to support that initiative, and the monitoring of the impact of new European Directives like Marine Spatial Planning on MSDI. Synergy with the IHO MSDI Working Group is likely, as many key players in that IHO Working Group are from the NSHC and/or BSHC region.

I am satisfied that, in practice, the integration of NSHC into this group is already taking shape, with a combined Dutch/French Task to monitor the implementation of INSPIRE in NSHC and BSHC countries. This is an excellent way to structure the work on NSHC Conclusions 107 and 115 (both annexed), from which all NSHC and BSHC MS will benefit.

I wish you a productive conference in Saint Petersburg, and look forward to your response.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. van der Donck', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Captain RNLN M.C.J. (Marc) van der Donck
Director Netherlands Hydrographic Office
Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy
Chairman, North Sea Hydrographic Commission

NSHC31 Conclusion

106. Extended Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure WG

Noting the global perspective covered by the IHO MSDIWG;

Noting the increased activity within EU in fields related to MSDI (Marine Spatial Planning, Inspire, Marine Knowledge 2020, EMODnet...);

Noting the progress with respect to MSDI achieved in the Baltic Sea through the BSHC;

The Commission recognize a need for a coordinated approach for the North Sea area. As several MS are represented in either IHO MSDIWG or BSHC MSDIWG or both, the Commission concluded that to set up a separate MSDI WG under the NSHC was not expedient. To build on and benefit from the progress of the work done within BSHC would be favorable. The Commission decided that:

- The Chair of NSHC to send a letter to the Chair of BSHC requesting to include participation from NSHC MS in the existing BSHC MSDI WG

NSHC31 Conclusion

107. INSPIRE

The INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) Directive (2007) mandates all European Union member states to share environmentally related datasets so that they can be easily accessed by other public organizations within their own country, in surrounding European countries, by the European Commission for Europe-wide policy making and better facilitate public access to spatial information across Europe. INSPIRE will be implemented in various stages, with full implementation required by 2020.

Members are invited to give a national status report on implementation along the lines of the following questions:

- What do Members consider INSPIRE data?
- Are web services available?
- Are online metadata available already?
- Other remarks

Date: 1 October2014

NSHC31 Conclusion

115. Contact person for the MSDI WG

The subjects of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) have become quite important for HOs during the last few years. The development within the marine area of EU and the activity on a global scale within IHO should imply involvement from the NSHC. The IHO MSDI WG would like to have contact persons from all NSHC MS in order to be attentive to the development within each nation. The Commission made the following decision:

Each Member State to inform the Chair/Vice-Chair of the IHO MSDI WG of a national contact person for MSDI matters.