

# 36th North Sea Hydrographic Commission meeting Online, 29 – 30 March 2023

## Status report Baltic Sea and North Sea Marine Spatial Data Information Working Group (BS-NSMSDIWG)

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Chair of BS-NSMSDIWG, Christian Thellufsen, Denmark
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This report reviews the work group's findings, status and the planned next steps.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	C-17 - Spatial Data Infrastructures: The Marine Dimension - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices Development of Spatial Data Infrastructures for Marine Data Management, OGC IHO MSDI Concept Development Study (MSDI-CDS)
<b>Related Projects:</b>	UN-GGIM Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information, Arctic SDI, ARHC MSDIWG, IHO MSDIWG and OGC MDW.

This report contains the status and planned actions of the BS-NSMSDIWG.

### Meetings held during reporting period

#### Online meeting 19 January 2023

In August 2022, the very engaged and knowledgeable chairman of BS-NSMSDIWG (Jens Peter Hartmann) from The Danish Geodata Agency stepped down, and Christian Thellufsen from Denmark took temporarily over as the new chairman. After talking with several members of the group, the new chairman found that the group faced challenges in several areas. No members of the group were engaged in the agreed work items and some member countries did not find the group valuable in their work.

On this basis, the new chairman, with the support of the member countries, decided to hold a meeting to discuss the group's future. Specifically, whether the group's members still found the group relevant and, if so, whether the group should initiate a process regarding changes in the group's working methods and focus.

An online meeting was held 19 January 2023. The conclusion from the meeting was divided among the represented countries. About 1/3 of the countries did not believe that the group currently added value to international work on MSDI. Another 1/3 would like to continue working with the group if the focus was sharpened. It was suggested that the group should work on very concrete projects that can clearly demonstrate the group's value to the outside world. The last 1/3 chose to follow the majority's decision as observers or new members of the group.

On this basis, it was decided to continue the work in the group. At the meeting, a core group was established to lay out a plan for further work to try to specify the group's goals. The group may initiate a change in the Term of Reference. The group will also approach the chairmen of NSHC and BSHC to update them on the discussions and inquire about their thoughts on the group's focus.

The core group consists of Ellen Vos (NL), Njål Tengs-Hagir (NO), Juha Tiihonen (FI), and Christian Thellufsen (DK).

## **Next meetings planned**

It has been decided within the group to hold a new meeting in March/April 2023 to discuss which work items the group will focus on in its work, how the group ensures progress and engagement in the agreed-upon efforts, and finally, to elect a new permanent chairman.

## **Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

It is important to sometimes pause and evaluate. An evaluation of the health of BS-NSMSDIWG revealed a patient with a slight fever:

- A very ambitious work program was decided in 2021, but no one had yet signed up for the work tasks
- Terms of References have not been updated in 8 years - a lot has happened since then!
- Some member countries do not find the group valuable

The group has now acted and will work together to inject new energy and momentum into the group.

In a broader context, the question is why this group is not in completely good health?

Several factors seem to apply to this group (and perhaps other similar groups in IHO):

- Numerous groups on MSDI today – the members only have limited resources
- General lack of resources for international work - attending the meeting but not having time for more international work
- Too ambitious work program
- Often changes of members in the group - makes a consistent work plan with few meetings hard to succeed

Two general conclusions can be drawn for BS-NSMSDIWG that can surely also be used in other of IHO's international groups:

- Set a realistic level of ambition and be very concrete on your goals
- Evaluate frequently among members of the group about how they experience the value of participation and how this can be improved.

## **The NSHC 36 is invited to:**

- a) Note the report
- b) Update the list of participants to BS-NSMSDIWG
- c) Discuss how NSHC can assist the sub-groups in keeping a high degree of experienced value for the members

## **Annex 1. List of participants to the BS-NSMSDIWG9 online meeting 19 January 2023.**

- Christian Thellufsen – DK, Chair
- Cindy Niemeyer – DE
- Mindaugas / Emilis – LT
- Dane Ukryte – PL
- Ellen Vos – NL
- Gerald J Wong – UKHO
- James Coles – UKHO
- Edvardas Minkevicius – LT
- Juha Tiihonen – FI
- Gerhard Heggebö – NO
- Niels Finsen – IS LHG
- Njål Tengs-Hagir – NO
- Trevor Alcorn – IR (observer)

## Annex 2. Work plan 2021 – 2024 (to be revised)

Theme	Subject	Responsible action item
<p><b>Task 1.</b></p> <p>Work item: Common understanding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish a framework for common understanding of MSDI</li> <li>- The opportunities and challenges from a national and regional MS perspective</li> <li>- Definition of HO role in MSDI</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Task 2.</b></p> <p>Work item: Liaison with external projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify relevant use cases for MSDI</li> <li>- Analyse the user need for relevant HO data set</li> <li>- Identify relevant EU projects and WG's with relevance for BS-NS MS</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Task 3.</b></p> <p>Work item: S 100</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a study on visualization of S-100 datasets from a MSDI perspective (Non navigation)</li> <li>- Investigate the possibility to establish a regional S-121 testbed</li> <li>- Evaluate on how to promote S-100 in the Baltic and North Sea</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Task 4.</b></p> <p>Work item: INSPIRE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study on IHO standard S 57 in relation to INSPIRE</li> <li>- The difference between S 57 and S 100</li> <li>- Identify the challenges with S-102 on interoperability with INSPIRE</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Task 5.</b></p> <p>Work item: Hydrographic data and legal aspects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study on status on implementation and responsibility with relevance to MSDI in the Baltic and North Sea countries</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Task 6.</b></p> <p>Work item: Pilot projects/demonstration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study on the possibility to establish BS-NSMSDI WEB pages</li> <li>- Demonstration project (e.g. S-121 testbed and use of BS-NS MSDI datasets)</li> <li>- WEB GIS demonstrator with BS-NS HO datasets</li> </ul>	