

**Proposed Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures for
the BSHC Working Group for Harmonisation of the Conveying and
Presentation of Depth Information**

(Draft by 12 June 2008)

With referencing to BSEHWG recommendation #6,

the BSHC at its 13th Conference recognised the need to study the harmonisation of the conveying and presentation of depth information from BSHC hydrographic databases in order to ensure consistency and a common level of depth information on ENC's and other nautical products and data. Therefore the BSHC 13th Conference established the Baltic Sea Working Group for Harmonisation of the Conveying and Presentation of Depth Information.

The Working Group should

- Identify and analyse existing depth related rules and recommendations used in populating databases and creating nautical products
- Identify existing and future user requirements for depth information
- Study possible [future] solutions and measures to avoid inconsistencies in the future.
- Propose ways to convey and portray hydrographic data on products. Especially regarding to the density of soundings, contour intervals, and grid, TIN and dynamical models and their parameters,
- Follow up development of S-100 based specifications.
- Provide a Progress Report to the BSHC 14th Conference. [This should include an Action plan with specified time schedule for future harmonisation actions.]
- Send reports to relevant IHO and IMO bodies, if deemed appropriate.

Rules of procedures

- All BSHC Members and Associate Members are encouraged to participate to the this WG and to contribute to the work of it.
 - The WG should be chaired by one of the Member State elected [at the BSHC Conference].
 - The WG should prepare its Work Programme [and forward it to the BSHC members for review].
 - The WG should work as far as possible in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations issued by the IHO and the RENCs.
 - The WG should consult the CHRIS Committee and its Working Groups or other relevant bodies, as deemed necessary.
 - The WG should liaise with BSHC ChartDatumWG regarding to the harmonisation of vertical datums.
 - The WG should liaise with the NSHC and the NHC for promoting the harmonisation with the North Sea nautical products as far as possible.
 - The work of the WG will be carried out primarily by correspondence (via e-mails). The members are strongly encouraged to reply without unnecessary delay.
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