

# **14<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) Conference**

Copenhagen, 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009

## **FINAL MINUTES**

### **A. Opening Formalities**

#### **A1 Opening the Conference**

The Chairman, Dr. Matthias Jonas, opened the 14<sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 14:00. He gave a cordial welcome to the delegates of the Conference, especially to those who are participating for the first time. He welcomed Captain Robert Ward, Director of the Directing Committee of the IHB and expressed his gratitude to Denmark as the hosts of this meeting. He stated also, that Lithuania and Russia were not able to attend the Conference, but according to the statutes a sufficient number of Member States is present to constitute a quorum.

The Chairman reported about the work since the last conference and referred to the relevant agenda items. He thanked Juha Korhonen from Finland for providing information on the history of the BSHC for the IHO web-page.

#### **A2 Welcome from the host country**

Carsten Riise-Jensen gave details of the practical arrangements for the conference.

#### **A3 Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted with the following changes:

DK announced to give a presentation under item F3.

The Chairman added an item under H (Miscellaneous) about the International Hydrographic Review.

#### **A4 Minutes and actions of the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference**

The Minutes of the last BSHC Conference were endorsed by the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference. The list of actions was reviewed.

Ad 1: See agenda item C3

Ad 2: IHB reported on MS' response to the CL about the proposal from BSHC 13 regarding S-23. The response was mixed, though all MS responded that something has to be done. As a result, an S-23 WG has been established to clarify and attempt to resolve the remaining problems which prevent the publication of a new edition of S23.

Ad 3: done

Ad 4: see agenda item C4

Ad 5: done

Ad 6: see agenda item E3

Ad 7: done, see report under F5

Ad 8: Estonia informed the meeting that an informal agreement has been reached. Latvia added, that a formal approval is not needed, as agreed by Russia via e-mail (31 Oct 2008). Finland confirmed this agreement based on bilateral communication with the Russian HO.

Ad 9,10: see agenda item F2

Ad 11: done

Ad 12: see agenda item F3

Ad 13: see agenda item F1

Ad 14: done

## **B. Strategic aspects of the further development of IHO**

### **B1. Report of the IHB**

The Commission took note of the information presented by the IHB (see EN).

### **B2 Co-operation within the IRCC**

The Chairman provided a report of the first IRCC meeting (see EN). The Commission stressed the importance of an active role of the IRCC and the input from Member States. The Commission decided to put IRCC matters on the standing agenda of BSHC Conferences and to evaluate under the Agenda Item "IRCC" the development of and the co-operation with the IRCC at the 15<sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference

*Action items 1 and 2*

### **B3 Further steps in the S100 adoption procedure**

The Commission took note of the information presented by the IHB (see EN) and agreed upon putting a discussion about the implementation process for S-100 on the agenda of the 15<sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference.

*Action item 3*

MS are encouraged to vote as soon as the new S-100 is circulated for approval.

## **C. Strategic aspects concerning technical issues of the activities of HOs**

### **C1 National Reports**

The Chairman thanked the Member States for providing their national reports and the Commission took note of the valuable information.

### **C2 Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)**

The Commission took note of the information presented by Germany (see EN). MS informed about their status related to MSDI and spatial planning. In most of the Countries the land mapping agencies are the responsible authorities for the INSPIRE directive.

IHB informed about the IHO MSDI WG. A report will be tabled and discussed at the next HSSC meeting. The WG will probably be disbanded.

The Chairman kindly asked HOs to be pro-active in convincing the users about the knowledge and the capacity of Hydrographic Offices in the field of MSDI as this is of utmost strategic importance.

The Commission agreed upon keeping Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure on the Standing Agenda of BSHC Conferences

*Action item 4*

**C3 Status of the inclusion of Baltic Sea MRG into the IHO publication S-49 (Action 1)**

Germany offers to provide several free copies of the Mariners Routing Guide for the Baltic Sea to disseminate the information on that product more widely. MS may contact Germany directly to order the copies.

It was noted that the new draft version of S-49 recommends MRGs to be as INT charts (see EN). The chairman of the BSICC informed that an INT-number for the MRG will be allocated before the end of 2009.

**C4 Workshop on S44 (Action 4)**

Germany informed about the investigations of Finland, Latvia and Germany about a workshop on S-44 (see EN). As no nominations were brought to the floor for potential trainees, volunteers for holding or assisting such a workshop. The Commission endorsed the recommendation to postpone a course until the need is being raised again.

**C5 Shallow Water Bathymetry to Improve the IHO /IOC GEBCO Grid**

The IHB informed about the need of shallow water bathymetry. The Commission took note of the need to improve the GEBCO Grid and discussed in a wider scope the activities of the European Commission in that field, namely the project EMODNET (see Presentation from Germany).

Lars Hansen, Denmark, as a member of the EMODNET Expert Group, informed about the project.

After a lively discussion the Chairman summarised, that there are parallel activities and that it is crucial to show the importance of the HOs as the relevant experts and to offer the IHO standards for a wider use. MS that are impacted should be active directly or via the focal point of the IHO, which is France.

The Commission agreed

- to take note of the seabed mapping activity within EMODNET;
- to provide low resolution bathymetry on request of EMODNET and provide coastal bathymetry to the IHO/GEBCO coastal bathymetry database;
- to reserve national positions on provision of high resolution bathymetry;
- to support S-100 for encapsulation of bathymetric data in EMODNET.

**C6 Baltic Sea Depth database**

The Commission agreed upon the need of having a common bathymetric dataset for the Baltic Sea as pointed out by Sweden (see EN). The commission decided to install a "Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database WG (BSBD-WG)". The TOR and ROP were drafted by Sweden with assistance from Germany and attached as an Annex to these draft minutes of the conference.

MS are invited to comment the draft TOR and ROP. The WG will be chaired by Sweden. All MS are invited to nominate a member for that WG.

*Action Item 5*

**C7 Environmental impact of shipwrecks**

The Commission took note of the information presented by Sweden and Germany (see ENs).

**D. Strategic aspects concerning administrative and marketing activities of HOs**

**D1 Leisure craft charts for the Baltic Sea**

The Chairman presented the Explanatory Notes asking some questions to the Commission on how to deal with ENC in the leisure craft market (see EN and Presentation). IHB informed that the topic is not on the HSSC agenda. The Commission sees the importance of the topic and decided to set up a questionnaire. The questionnaire will be drafted by Germany/Denmark and will be disseminated to MS who are kindly asked to give their input.

*Action Item 6*

**E BSHC co-operative projects with other organizations**

**E1 BaltSeaPlan – Interreg project on spatial planning**

The Commission took note of the information presented by the Chairman (see EN). Germany is lead country for that project. For further information see [www.baltseaplan.eu](http://www.baltseaplan.eu).

**E2 Report of the Nordic Data Quality Working Group**

The Commission took note of the presentation given by Finland (see EN) and acknowledges the importance of the topic.

The Chairman encouraged MS to support the work of the IHO Data Quality WG.

**E3 Discussion on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**

The Commission noted the report presented by Finland and appreciated the importance of the EU Strategy for the work of BSHC (see EN and Presentation).

In the light of the overall marine and maritime Strategy of the EU (DG Mare of the EC) the Commission recommends to improve the input of the Baltic Sea matters to that topic and invites Member States to give their input directly by becoming a member of the NSHC Task Group (see meeting report with EC from France).

A report to HELCOM Maritime 8 has been dealt with under agenda item F1.

The Commission decided that the next chair of the BSHC will draft a letter of the BSHC to the EC focal point, which provides information on the scope of BSHC in the context of the Baltic Sea strategy. The draft will be disseminated to the MS for comments. No answer will be seen as acceptance.

*Action Item 7*

**F. Reports of BSHC WGs**

**F1 Report of the Re-Survey Monitoring WG**

The Commission took note of the report given by Finland (see EN and Presentation) and thanked the WG for their important activity. No other macro-region has comparable harmonised resurvey schemes in place. The work is highly recognised by the IHO. The Commission

- endorsed the Report,
- approved the Vision (V.2) of the Re-survey Scheme,
- endorsed the implementation of the revised Re-survey Scheme, Version 2.0,
- endorsed the Work Programme, Version 5.2 and
- endorsed the future MWG actions.

Post meeting note:

At the MWG meeting on the afternoon of 17 September 2009 the MWG found that the naming of the re-survey categories (“A.1”, “A.2”, “B”) used in Re-survey Scheme V.2 Vision (as approved by the BSHC/14) may be confusing to the S-57 CATZOG categories ( “A.1”, A.2”, “B”, “C”). Thus the MWG meeting decided to use the identifiers “I”, “II” and “III” for these re-survey categories.

The Commission tasked Finland to draft a report to HELCOM and to circulate the draft to MS by the end of September for comments. No comments until mid October will be taken as approval. Finland will elaborate the final report and send it to HELCOM.

*Action item 8*

**F2 Report of the Chart Datum WG**

The Commission endorsed the report presented by Finland (see EN and Presentation). It also approved the revised TOR and the Work Programme 3.0. The Commission supported further communications with BOOS aiming to have a Memorandum of Understanding between BOOS and BSHC.

The Commission tasked the WG to draft a wording for solving the mismatch of the vertical datum regulations in the INSPIRE directive and draft a letter to INSPIRE. The letter shall be forwarded via the BSHC Chair. Copies shall be disseminated to MS. MS are encouraged to forward the information to their relevant national INSPIRE Points of Contact.

*Action Item 9*

**Suggestion from IHB for the wording in INSPIRE documents:**

“Refer to the appropriate resolutions and recommendations of the IHO concerning geodetic datums related to water depth.”

### **F3 Report on the implementation of the BSEHWG Recommendations (Action 12)**

The Commission took note of the report presented by Denmark (see EN). The chairman thanked all MS for their contribution to the questionnaire and thanked Denmark for compiling a summarised report.

The Commission decided that Denmark and Finland will report on the implementation to HSSC-1 meeting and to keep the topic on the agenda of the BSHC Conferences for the pending matters.

MS are invited to report to Denmark on the implementation of the recommendations from the BSEHWG.

Denmark volunteered to compile a summary of the national reports to BSHC 15.

*Action Items 10,11,12*

### **F4 Report of the Depth Information Harmonization WG**

The Commission endorsed the report presented by Denmark (see EN) and tasked the BSHDIWG Chair to send a letter to all MS to check how they could provide expertise for the pending matters of the TOR (i.e. bathymetric data processing).

*Action Item 13*

### **F5 Report of the Baltic Sea INT Chart Committee**

The Commission endorsed the report presented by Finland (see EN and Presentation).

Finland and Denmark will provide a substantive comment paper to HSSC 1 about the enhancement of the Generic RCG TOR/ROP and the impact to the work for the Regional Charting Groups. The letter will reflect also the results of the agenda item F3.

*Action Item 14*

### **G Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide C55**

The IHB informed about the change in the naming of the document from S-55 to C-55. "C" stands for documents related to Capacity Building. "S" now covers Standards and Specifications. Commission members whose entries in C-55 were out of date were encouraged to supply current information to IHB.

### **H Miscellaneous**

#### **H1 Editorial Board of the International Hydrographic Review (IHR)**

The Commission took note of the letter (see letter from IHB) concerning the International Hydrographic Review (IHR) presented by the Chairman. All MS are invited to provide assistance in reviewing articles and giving input to the IHR Editorial Board.

### **I Unscheduled items**

none

## **J Closing Formalities**

### **J1 Election of the chairperson and vice-chairperson of BSHC**

Charlotte Wiin Havsteen (Denmark) was elected as new Chairperson and Piotr Pernaczynski (Poland) was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

### **J2 Place and time of the next Conference**

Poland volunteered to host the next BSHC Conference in 2010. The Place will probably be Gdynia. Poland invited MS to send survey vessels to the conference site, as the Hydrographic Office in Poland is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. The exact place and date of the Conference will be disseminated by Poland by November 2009. Announcements of participating vessels should be communicated to Poland by that date as well.

*Action items 15, 16*

### **J3 Closing Ceremony**

The Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to the hosts for their hospitality and the organisation of an outstanding conference. He also thanked all participants for their professional and active participation.

The Chairman closed the 14<sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 12:00.

**Annex 1**

**14th Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)  
Conference**

Copenhagen, 15<sup>nd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009

**List of Actions**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Time frames</b>
1	B2	Put IRCC matters on the standing agenda of BSHC Conferences	Chair	15 <sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference
2	B2	Evaluate under the Agenda Item "IRCC" the development of and the co-operation with the IRCC at the 15 <sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference	Chair All members	15 <sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference
3	B3	Put a discussion about the implementation process of S100 on the agenda of the 15 <sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference	Chair	15 <sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference
4	C2	Keep Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure on the Standing Agenda of BSHC Conferences	Chair	15 <sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference
5	C6	Install a Bathymetric Data Base WG	Sweden	
6	D1	Set up a questionnaire on the use of ENC's for leisure craft charts.	Germany	Oct 2009
7	E3	Send a letter to EC focal point related to the EU Baltic Sea Strategy	Chair	Between Nov 2009 and Jan 2010
8	F1	Provide a report to HELCOM, circulated in advance to MS for comments.	Finland Members States	End Sept 2009 Mid Oct 2009
9	F2	Chart Datum WG to draft a wording for solving the mismatch of the vertical datum regulations in the INSPIRE directive and draft a letter to INSPIRE. The letter shall be forward via the BSHC Chair. Copies shall be disseminated to MS. MS are encourages to forward the information to their relevant national INSPIRE Points of Contact.	CDWG Chair Member States	asap
10	F3	Recommendations of BSEHWG: DK and FIN provide a paper for the	Denmark Finland	HSSC 1



		HSSC 1 Meeting.		
11	F3	Recommendations of BSEHWG: Keep the topic on the agenda of the BSHC Conferences for the pending matters.	Chair	15 <sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference
12	F3	Recommendations of BSEHWG: Report to BSHC 15 on the implementation of the recommendations	Member States	15 <sup>th</sup> BSHC Conference
13	F4	BSHDIWG Chair sending a letter to all MS to check providing expertise for the pending matters of the TOR.	Chair BSHDIWG	Autumn 2009
14	F5	Provide a report to HSSC 1 about the enhancement of the Generic RCG TOR/ROP and the impact to the work for the Regional Charting Groups	Finland, Denmark	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2009
15	J2	Poland to inform on exact dates for BSHC/15.	Poland	November 2009
16		BSHC MS to announce if their vessels may participate the BSHC/15	All members	November 2009

## **Annex 2**

### **TORs/ROPs for the "Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database WG (BSBD-WG)"**

#### **1. Objective**

The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) recognizes the need to study and develop the possibility to establish a common set or database of bathymetric data for the Baltic Sea Area. At the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference in Copenhagen 2009 it was decided to establish a working group for this purpose.

#### **2. Authority**

The BSBD-WG is a subsidiary of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC). The work and results of the group is subject to BSHC monitoring and approval.

#### **3. Terms of reference**

The BSBD-WG shall:

- Study issues related to the access of high density bathymetric data for the entire Baltic Sea area.
- Identify and study the possible differences of existing regulations concerning depth data in the Member states.
- Develop proposals for specification of common harmonized datasets including a common application schema for bathymetry.
- Develop proposals concerning storage, maintenance, exchange and distribution of the bathymetric data. A concept of a “virtual” database and distribution by metadata, view and download services in line with the Inspire directive should be studied.
- Consider the work and results of the former BSHC Working Group “Baltic Sea Bathymetric Grid”.
- Develop proposals for the further steps to establish the database.

#### **4. Rules of Procedures**

- All BSHC Members and Associate Members are strongly encouraged to participate in the WG.
- The BSBD-WG may invite other participants to join its work.
- The WG shall be chaired by one of the Member States elected at the BSHC Conference.
- Decisions shall generally be made by consensus. If votes are required all members (including associate and other members) have one vote.
- The WG shall conduct its work mainly by correspondence and e-mail is the preferred method of communication.
- WG meetings shall be arranged when found appropriate for the progression of work.
- The WG shall make its initial report on status and findings to BSHC 15<sup>th</sup> Conference.