

**BSHC Working Group
for Monitoring the Implementation
of the Harmonised Re-survey Scheme (MWG)**

MWG Report to the BSHC 14th Conference

[31 August 2009]

The MWG Work Programme requires the MWG Chair to give a report of the MWG Actions to the BSHC yearly and to the BSHC Conferences. Previous MWG Report was given at the BSHC 13th Conference in August 2008, where in principle the major revision of the re-survey scheme was approved. Major features related to the work of the MWG since that:

1. Status of Work of MWG

A MWG Meeting was held in Helsinki on 16 June 2009. Altogether 7 participants from 3 countries were participating the meeting. Main issues in that meeting were:

- to review the status of re-surveys
- to review the status of developing the re-survey database and the interface
- to review the status of MWG Work Programme
- to review the status and future of MWG
- to discuss on reporting to BSHC 14th Conference
- to share information on NSHC re-survey WG

The TORs of the MWG, the MWG Membership and the National Database Operators were reviewed. No amendments to these were identified.

2. Status of re-surveys

The MWG Work Programme Version 5.1 was approved by the BSHC 13th Conference. All countries have proceeded with their re-surveys. Some delays in the time schedules have been reported, due bad weather conditions or due other reasons. The harmonisation of the routes needs in some cases decisions by other bodies than the HOs. The database has been updated by MWG Members. Sweden has updated the geometry of the routes based on the information sent by the MWG Members.

3. Status of revision of the Re-survey Scheme

The MWG meeting in June discussed on the goals and principles of the revision of the harmonised re-survey scheme. It was noted to be important to have a common harmonised HELCOM Re-survey Scheme, which should be jointly recognised by the Baltic Sea countries. Based on these discussions, the MWG proposes the Vision (in [Annex 1](#)) to be agreed by the BSHC 14th Conference.

The statuses of national re-survey schemes were reviewed. It was noted that all countries have some kind of national schemes, but that these have been made in quite

different styles and with different systems. It was noted that the previous principles for re-surveys are still valid.

4. Status of development of the Re-survey the database

The MWG meeting in June reviewed the status of the development of the database and the user interface. It was noted that many of the tasks have been completed, some of them are ongoing and some of the have been deleted. There were also some discussions on further database development options. The meeting tried to agree on details how to include our national survey schemes and to agree on principles on updating and revising the database (also issues related to re-survey frequencies) and on more detailed guidance to the database developers. The revised Database Development Plan (List of Actions) was agreed.

The meeting expressed its sincere thanks to Sweden for their efforts to develop the database. MWG has noted that some of the new development tasks are beyond the original database development plan to which Sweden has committed. If Sweden needs in the future any external funding for this database development it may raise this issue at the BSHC 14th conference.

5. Status MWG Work Programme

A slightly updated MWG Work Programme Version 5.2 was approved at the MWG meeting in June 2009. Only one new Task was added: Task 4.3 "Study possibilities to present re-surveyed areas on nautical publications (e.g. Sailing Directories, Baltic Pilot, Mariners' Routeing Guide)".

6. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

The Draft Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (COM (2009) 248) includes one Priority area "13. *To become a leading region in maritime safety and security*" with a cooperative action "Ensure that vessels, in particular those transporting energy products and other dangerous cargo, are up to the highest maritime safety standards". This has a flagship project:

"Speed up re-surveying for major shipping and ports", as agreed in HELCOM, in order to ensure that safety of navigation is not endangered by inadequate source information. (Lead: HELCOM in cooperation with the International Hydrographic Organisation; Deadline for progress review: to be determined)."

HELCOM Professional Secretary, Ms Monica Stankiewicz, has informed that this EU strategy will be discussed at the HELCOM MARITIME meeting on 24 - 26 November 2009 in Germany.

7. Next MWG meeting

The next MWG meeting was decided to be held on the afternoon of the 17th September 2009 at DAMSA, Copenhagen, immediately after the BSHC 14th Conference.

8. Actions for the BSHC 14th Conference:

The BSHC 14th Conference is requested

- to take note on this Report
- to endorse/approve the Vision of Re-survey Scheme V.2
- to give further guidance to the MWG, as seen appropriately

Annex: 1. Vision of Re-survey Scheme V.2

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[Developed by the MWG meeting at its meeting on 16 June 2009]

Re-survey Scheme V.2 Vision:

The whole Baltic Sea area should be covered by a harmonised re-survey scheme.

The harmonised re-survey scheme is based on national re-survey schemes (and generalised if needed).

The re-survey areas should be specified in three Categories:

- Cat A.1 current Scheme, e.g. for re-surveys specified by the HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration
- Cat A.2 extended routes and areas according to national re-survey schemes as specified for safety of navigation.
- Cat B extensions for other purposes than above (e.g. for environmental protection).

Re-survey areas should be prioritized by each HO (using general guidance as in Chapter 2.5 in Re-survey Scheme Version 2.1).

A realistic time schedule for re-surveys or re-survey frequency (time interval between re-surveys) should be estimated by each HO. If the time estimations are beyond 20 - 25 years these may be left out.

Database will be modified and implemented by Sweden in 2009 to include the new attributes and their functionality to allow all HOs to load and maintain their own data in the database (including also geometry). Suitable printing capabilities will be developed. Necessary guidance will be provided.