



Black and Azov Seas Working Group (BASWG)
12th Meeting, Batumi/GEORGIA, 3-4 June 2014

Report

*Notes: 1) The paragraph numbering is the same as in the agenda (Doc. BASWG12-02)
2) The list of annexes is provided in the end of this report*

1. Opening and Administrative Arrangements

*Docs: BASWG12-01A List of Documents, by TR
BASWG12-01B List of Participants, by TR
BASWG12-01C ToR and RoP of BASWG, by TR*

The 12th meeting of the Black and Azov Seas Working Group (BASWG12) took place at Radisson Blue Hotel, Batumi/GEORGIA on 3rd and 4th of June 2014 under the chairmanship of Capt.(PhD) Erhan GEZGIN, Hydrographer of the Turkish Navy.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants representing Bulgaria (BU), Georgia (GE), Romania (RO), Turkey (TR) and Ukraine (UA) and the IHB. On behalf of all the delegates, he expressed his sincere gratitude to the Georgian State Hydrographic Service for hosting the meeting, for all the hard work that its staff had put into the preparation and logistics support, and for the excellent venue.

Mr.Revaz BABULIA, Head of Georgian State Hydrographic Service welcomed the participants to the meeting.

The Chair noted that the agenda of the meeting was based on IHO Capacity Building activities, capacity building requirements of Black Sea States, 5 year Capacity Building Plan of the region, cooperation on hydrographic surveys and chart production, INT Chart and the ENC scheme of the Black and Azov Seas, overlaps and gaps in ENC coverage and coordination of the Maritime Safety Information in the Black Sea area. He thanked the participants for attending the meeting and contributions in advance especially to IHB Director Radm.Mustafa İPTEŞ for his participation and valuable contributions.

IHB Director welcomed the participants and gave a brief overview of IHO activities. He underlined the importance of the BASWG which is unique example amongst all RHCs as the WG of the Mediterranean and the Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC). He stressed the importance of the work done by RHCs and their sub-bodies and reminded that the IHO actively supports the activities of the RHCs to co-ordinate the Capacity Building activities, hydrography and nautical charting services as well as dissemination of the Maritime Safety Information.

IHB Director also highlighted the main roles of the IHO Capacity Building Program and emphasized the importance of the funds and contributions for effectively implementing the Program in order to improve the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. He also invited the participants to contribute to the IHO committees, sub-committees and the working groups as much as possible.

TR introduced the documents of the meeting. He presented the Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedure (RoP). The Chair asked the participants whether they have comments/proposal for the ToR and RoP of the BASWG. No comment or proposal was submitted.

The List of Documents is in **Annex A**.

The List of Participants is in **Annex B**.

2. Approval of Agenda

Doc: BASWG12-02 Agenda and Timetable, by TR

TR introduced the agenda and timetable that was approved with minor changes in timetable.

3. Matters arising from Minutes of BASWG11

Docs: BASWG12-03A Minutes of BASWG11, by TR

BASWG12-03B Status of Actions from BASWG11, by TR

The minutes of BASWG11 were presented and approved without amendment or comment. TR introduced the updated status of actions from the previous meeting to the WG (**Annex C**).

In accordance with BASWG11/02 TR presented the letter of RF dated 6th August 2013 regarding the activities in Caspian Sea.

It is agreed in accordance with the relevant MBSHC action item (MBSHC18/14) "Chair to send a letter to RF for the contact points in order to invite them to MBSHC19."

Regarding Action Item BASWG11/04 IHB Director noted that IHB intends to submit the report of the technical visit to Georgia to the Georgian Ministry of Energy in order to support State Hydrographic Service in its activities.

Regarding Action Item BASWG11/06 TR gave information on CAT-B Hydrographic Course in METU/Turkey.

Regarding Action Item BASWG11/13;

-UA noted that 2 ports in the list of ports are river ports and covered with the relevant ENCs.

-GE noted that 3 major ports are covered with ENCs.

4. International Co-ordination

Docs: BASWG12-04A National Report of Bulgaria,

BASWG12-04B National Report of Georgia, by GE

BASWG12-04C National Report of Romania,

BASWG12-04D National Report of Russian Federation, by TR (on behalf of RF)

BASWG12-04E National Report of Turkey, by TR

BASWG12-04F National Report of Ukraine, by UA

BASWG12-04G IHB Report, by IHB Director

BASWG12-04H MBSHC18 Report, by TR

National reports of the members (BU, GE, RO, RF, TR and UA) were presented and noted. National report of RF was presented by TR on behalf of RF.

UA informed that UA and RO agreed on 1.030.09 and INT 3819 and informed the Region F Coordinator. UA added that 1 Plan was withdrawn from INT 3819 and 1 remained following the agreement with RO.

RO noted that 2 INT Charts in the report will be printed in 2014. RO added that a tug boat will be converted to hydrographic vessel until mid 2015.

TR informed that the Bilateral Agreement between TR and RO is approved by Turkey in 2013 and asked the status of the agreement in Romania. RO stated that the agreement is not approved in Romania yet.

RO thanked to UA for the cooperation on INT Charts.

BU noted that they intend to distribute their ENC's through IC-ENC. BU added that they do not have the budget to purchase a multi-beam (MB) system.

IHB Director reminded the participants to gain benefit from IHO CB fund. He also stressed it is important to be an IHO member to receive more CB support.

GE informed the participants that they will have a new survey vessel equipped with MB in September 2014.

IHB Director thanked to Mr. Ravaz BABULIA and his team that Georgian State Hydrographic Service has improved very rapidly in all aspects including MB survey, RENC distribution, better MSI in the east coast of the Black Sea.

IHB Director also thanked to TR for its contributions to the IHO activities.

GE, UA and TR noted that they do not agree with the RF ENC's which have overlap with their ENC's.

TR provided information on IRCC decision 15 regarding the procedure to handle with the ENC overlaps.

The highlights from the IHB report presented by IHB Director are as follows;

- Regarding the Status of Approval of Amendments to the Convention of the IHO; it is noted that as of 1 June 2014, 40 of the required minimum of 48 approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco. It is reminded that Russia, Turkey and Ukraine from BASWG that were signatories to the Convention when the amendments were agreed in 2005 have yet to indicate their formal approval to the Depositary State (Monaco).

- Regarding the Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO;

It is noted that Bulgaria has received the required number of votes to be accepted as a Member State of the IHO. However, the Government of Monaco has yet to receive the required instruments of accession from BU which will formalise its membership.

Georgia has applied for membership of the IHO. As of 1 May 2014, the status of approvals for Georgia was 40 of 52 required. RF did not approve for Georgia yet.

- With 79 Member States having the right to vote, the current thresholds for IHO decisions are 40 when a simple majority is required and 53 when a two-third majority is needed. It is reminded that not responding to a Circular Letter which requires a vote is equivalent to voting no. IHB Director invited the Member States to respond the relevant IHO Circular Letters before deadlines.

- Regarding World Hydrography Day;

It is noted that the proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2014 is *"Hydrography – much more than just nautical charts"*. The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms easily understood and appreciated by the public, politicians and administrators.

IHB has provided supporting material for WHD-2014 on the IHO website.

- It is highlighted that IHO publication P-5 (Year book) is an important tool to understand and see the capabilities of the Member States and it is reminded that P-5 should be updated regularly.

The Chairman stated that the missing approval for the IHO membership of GE from the WG is only RF and encouraged RF to approve the GE application and reiterated the need to reach the target of 48 notifications of approval and recommend RF, TR and UA to liaise with national authorities to speed up the process on the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention.

It is agreed that the IHB will send a letter to relevant authorities for approval of GE membership to IHO.

It is recommended that MSs are encouraged to respond IHB CLs considering the deadlines.

It is recommended that MSs are encouraged to use the information in the IHB Flyer for WHD2014.

It is agreed that MSs to check and update their information in IHO year book (P-5).

TR presented the report of the last meeting of the MBSHC in Istanbul. The report is noted.

TR presented the outcome of the 6th Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) meeting which was held in Paris in May 2014. The report is noted.

5. Capacity Building

Doc: BASWG12-05A CB activities

BASWG12-05B Outcome of the CBSC12 meeting, by TR

IHB Director provided information on the IHO CB activities, particularly the statistical figures of the CB fund, trainees attending CB courses, CB technical workshops, seminars, courses and technical visits. He mentioned on CB Stakeholders Seminar took place in Monaco in March 2014. He reminded that the IHO Capacity Building programme is funded from the IHO Budget and supplemented by additional support from IHO Member States (currently Japan, through the Nippon Foundation, and the Republic of Korea). He added that considering the growing demands for IHO Capacity Building activities, IHB Directing Committee continue to find new donor States and funding organization in order to increase the CB funds and contributions. He highlighted that it will be provided a MSI training for the Eastern Europe covering the Black Sea countries funded by IMO and invited the BASWG members to be ready for responding the IHO CL for that training. He also reminded the participants the importance of the English knowledge for the CB courses and trainings.

TR, as the CB Coordinator of the MBSHC summarized the outcome of the 12th IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) meeting which was held in May 2014, focusing on the followings:

- The technical visit to Georgia was paid by experts from TR and UA on 22-24 April 2014.
- The technical visit to Lebanon was paid by experts from TR, FR and IHB on 04-06 February 2014.
- The technical visit to be paid to Israel by experts from GR, TR and IHB on 01-03 July 2014.
- The Revised IHO CB Strategy which was agreed in CBSC12 and will be approved at EIHC5.
- The CBWP 2015 was approved at the CBSC12 meeting and the 3 new submissions from MBSHC were endorsed which are included in CBWP 2015.

6. Co-ordination of Surveying and Charting

Docs: BASWG12-06A INT Chart Scheme, by TR

BASWG12-06B ENC coverage, gaps, overlaps and ENC Scheme, by TR

TR presented the status of INT charts in the Black and Azov Seas referring in CL Region F ICC WG No 02/2014 dated 6 March 2014.

GE noted that their position is to be the Printing Nation of INT 3871, 3873 and 3875 after GE is the member of IHO. GE noted that INT 3808 and 3810 should be kept as in the catalogue till GE and TR and GE and RF is agreed after GE is the member of IHO.

UA noted that UA and RO agreed on INT 3819 and 3903 and INT 3888 and 3890 proposed as new INT Charts. TR noted that the proposed charts were not included in the draft catalogue (Region F ICCWG CL 02/2014).

TR presented the status of ENC scheme in the Black and Azov Seas referring PRIMAR Online Catalogue. He noted that overlaps/gaps in usage band 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the region and reminded the IHO commitment to IMO regarding the provision of adequate and consistent ENC coverage worldwide and WEND Principles. TR reminded the draft ENC Scheme prepared by TR in 2010 was based on the INT Chart limits. UA and RO supported the draft ENC scheme.

UA noted that there should be UA ENC in usage band 1 in accordance with their national law. TR reminded that this will increase the overlap problem in the Black Sea.

IHB Director invited the participants to consider the cartographic boundary definition which is recently defined in IHO CL 40/2014.

UA noted that the governmental solution should be waited.

RO noted that the gap for the usage band 2 will be covered by their ENCs.

RO noted that the usage band 3 and 4 ENCs for RO waters are not produced yet. UA noted that usage band 4 cells will be changed with the new ones without overlap.

BU noted that the scheme should be adjusted following BU agreement with IC-ENC.

7. Maritime Safety Information (MSI)

GE provided a presentation on MSI activities in Georgia.

It is recommended that GE and RO to coordinate and share the experience about the establishment of new NAVTEX Station.

UA presented a document on "Report on inability of Ukraine to fulfill international commitments in the area of Crimean Peninsula" and noted that new additional NAVTEX station (reserve) has established and started to operate since May 2014 in Berdiansk port (Sea of Azov). UA requested the statement to be included in the minutes of the meeting (**ANNEX E**).

The Chairman reminded that the members to exchange Maritime Safety Information in order to evaluate and disseminate from their NAVTEX stations for improving the safety of navigation.

8. Any Other Business

Chair noted that there is difficulty in communication among the BASWG members.

It is agreed that Members to inform the Chair on English speaking point of contacts information and the Chair to distribute this list to the Members.

IHB Director noted that SPs and WPs are ongoing issues and these issues need to be further evaluation.

9. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

It is agreed that BASWG13 will be in 2016 and the venue will be decided in June 2015 during MBSHC19.

10. Election of the Chairman

UA proposed TR to continue the Chairmanship and WG unanimously agreed that the current Chair Capt.(PhD) Erhan GEZGİN (TR) will continue for 2 years more.

11. Review of the List of Actions

The WG discussed and approved the List of Actions (**Annex D**).

12. Report from the BASWG to the MBSHC19 meeting

It is agreed that the out come of BASWG12 will be reported by the Chair at MBSHC19.

13. End of the meeting

On behalf of the WG, the Chair warmly thanked Georgia for the excellent arrangements for the meeting. He also thanked to all participants for their valuable contribution to the meeting and wished the participants a safe return journey.

BASWG12 closed at 1130 on 04 June 2014.

Annexes:

- A) List of Documents
- B) List of Participants
- C) Status of Action List of BASWG11
- D) List of Actions of BASWG12
- E) Statement of Ukraine
- F) Statement of Russian Federation

P.S: Department of Navigation and Oceanography has sent a statement on 6 February 2015 regarding BASWG report (related with the statement of Ukraine). It is included as Annex F to the report.

Annex A**List of Documents**

Document No.	Document Title
BASWG12-01A	List of Documents
BASWG12-01B	List of Participants
BASWG12-01C	ToR and RoP of BASWG
BASWG12-02	Agenda and Timetable
BASWG12-03A	Minutes of BASWG-11
BASWG12-03B	Status of Actions from BASWG-11
BASWG12-04A	National Report of Bulgaria
BASWG12-04B	National Report of Georgia
BASWG12-04C	National Report of Romania
BASWG12-04D	National Report of Russian Federation
BASWG12-04E	National Report of Turkey
BASWG12-04F	National Report of Ukraine
BASWG12-04G	IHB Report
BASWG12-04H	MBSHC-18 report
BASWG12-04I	Outcome of IRCC6 meeting
BASWG12-05A	CB Activities
BASWG12-05B	Outcome of CBSC12 meeting
BASWG12-06A	INT Chart Scheme
BASWG12-06B	ENC Coverage, Gaps, Overlaps and ENC Scheme

List of the Participants

No	Rep.	Name	e-mail
1	BU	Lt.Mladen HRISTOV	hs_varna@abv.bg
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5	GE	Ms.Manana KIRTADZE	Manana.kirtadze@yahoo.com
6	RO	CMDR Lucian DUMITRACHE	hidro@dhmfn.ro
7	RO	Major Costica FURNICA	hidro@dhmfn.ro
8	TR	Capt.(PhD) Erhan GEZGİN	director@shodb.gov.tr
9	TR	LCDR.Bülent GÜRSES	bgurses@shodb.gov.tr
10	UA	Dr.Sergii SYMONENKO	office@hydro.gov.ua
11	UA	Mr.Oleg MARCHENKO	Chart_dpt@charts.gov.ua
12	IHB	R.Adm.Mustafa İPTEŞ	dcoord@iho.int

Status of Action List of BASWG11

No	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status
BASWG11/01	Provide the Members with their new/new edition charts covering the Black and Azov Seas.	All Members	Permanent	Permanent
BASWG11/02	Provide the Members with the information paper regarding the Safety of Navigation activities in Caspian Sea.	RF	End of July 2013	Done
BASWG11/03	Propose to the Chair about the provisional dates for the technical visit to Georgia.	GE	End of August 2013	Done
BASWG11/04	Propose to the Chair about the participation of the team for technical visit to Georgia.	RO, RF, TR, UA	End of August 2013	Done
BASWG11/05	Propose to the MBSHC about the provisional dates and the team for technical visit to Georgia	Chair	MBSHC-18	Done
BASWG11/06	Investigate the availability of Cat-B Hydrographic Course in METU/Turkey in English for the use of Members in the region and inform the Members accordingly.	TR	MBSHC-18	Done
BASWG11/07	Submit CB requirements to the Chair for the next 5 year	All Members	End of August 2013	Done
BASWG11/08	Submit BASWG 5 year CB Plan.	TR (MBSHC CB Coordinator)	MBSHC-18	Done
BASWG11/09	Update the current IHO C-55	All Members	MBSHC-18	ongoing
BASWG11/10	Inform the Chair for the comments on GE proposal regarding INT Chart 3871 and 3873.	RF	End of August 2013	No information received
BASWG11/11	Circulate the draft ENC Scheme for Black and Azov Seas to Members.	TR	End of July 2013	Done
BASWG11/12	Provide comments and proposals regarding TR proposal of the draft ENC Scheme for Black and Azov Seas.	All Members	End of August 2013	Only RF sent comments
BASWG11/13	Investigate the list of ports and provide TR with the production plan if the large scale ENC coverage is restricted.	All Members	End of July 2013	Done
BASWG11/14	Exchange Maritime Safety Information in order to evaluate/disseminate from their NAVTEX stations.	All Members	Permanent	Permanent

BASWG11/15	Inform the Chair of the date and venue for the BASWG meeting in 2015.	RF	BASWG-12	Ongoing
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List of Actions of BASWG12

Action Items

No	Action
BASWG12/01	IHB to send a letter to relevant GE authority to inform the highlights of the Technical Visit report.
BASWG12/02	IHB to send a letter to relevant authorities for approval of GE membership to IHO.
BASWG12/03	Members to check and update their information in IHO year book (P-5).
BASWG12/04	BU to provide CB coordinator with its requirements for 5 year CB plan.
BASWG12/05	Members to consider attending the IMO proposed CB training which will be informed by IHB.
BASWG12/06	Chair to inform Region F Coordinator on the GE proposal for INT charts (3871, 3873, 3875) to keep the charts in MEDINTCHART Catalogue as it is until GE become IHO member.
BASWG12/07	Members to inform the Chair on English speaking point of contacts information.
BASWG12/08	Chair to distribute this list to Members.

Recommendations

BASWG12/01	MSs are encouraged to respond IHB CLs considering the deadlines.
BASWG12/02	MSs are encouraged to use the information in the IHB Flyer for WHD2014.
BASWG12/03	GE and RO to coordinate and share experience on the establishment of GE NAVTEX station.

Decisions

BASWG12/01	BASWG13 will be held in 2016.
BASWG12/02	The venue of BASWG13 will be decided at MBSHC19.
BASWG12/03	TR to continue for the next two years as Chair.

STATEMENT OF UKRAINE

**Report on inability of Ukraine to fulfill international commitments
in the area of Crimean Peninsula**

Due to the Russian Federation's occupation of the part of Ukrainian territory, from March 2014 State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine (SHS) doesn't have access to Ukraine's inland waters and territorial sea of Ukraine in the area of Crimean Peninsula. To date aids to navigation on the Crimean coast have been out of SHS' control.

As a result SHS is not able to provide safe navigation in a proper manner in the vicinity of Crimean Peninsula.

Nevertheless, Ukraine continues to fulfill in full its international obligations arising from SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 4 (Navigational Warnings) and Regulation 9 (Hydrographic Services), specifically:

- ensure issuing, updating and re-issuing of nautical navigational charts and publications from the national portfolio of Ukraine; and
- secure dissemination of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) in Ukrainian zone of responsibility in the Black and Azov Seas including temporarily occupied territories.

I ask the Working Group and the Chair to take this information into consideration and include it to the Minutes and Report of the meeting.

Thank you for attention!

Dr.Sergii SYMONENKO

Head of State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine

STATEMENT OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Chief of the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine Mr. S.Simonenko made a statement at the 12th meeting of the Working Group on Safety of Navigation in the Black and Azov Seas that, owing to the Russian Federation fault, the Hydrographic Service of Ukraine could not provide adequately safety of navigation in the Crimea Region.

This statement is a political act and it is contrary to the principles of International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). The Organization Charter forbids the Member States of the IHO to mix political issues with technical problems the IHO deals with.

The content of the statement is contradictory in its nature and it contains no real facts. On the one hand, the statement pointed out, that the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine could not ensure the safety of navigation in the Crimea Waters. On the other hand, it said that Ukraine continued to comply fully with its international commitments in the Region in accordance with the requirements of the SOLAS Convention.

In reality, in June 2014, the Ukraine Governmental officials addressed its message to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation that Ukraine disclaimed any responsibility for the Safety of Navigation in the Crimea Waters.

In this regard, in July 2014, Russian Foreign Ministry officially notified the IHO that the Russian Federation took full responsibility for navigation and hydrographic support of the navigation in the Crimea Waters.

For the whole area around Crimea Peninsula the Russian Federation provides issue and updates of nautical charts and publications, ongoing management and smooth operation of aids to navigation, functioning of navigation warning service, delivery mariners the information on the changes in navigation situation and regime in the Waters under Russia jurisdiction, including the Black Sea off the coast of the Crimea.

Captain Captain I rank S.TRAVIN

Deputy Chief of the Department of Navigation and Oceanography