

Terms of Reference for the Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Working Group (BSMSDIWG)

(Approved by the BSHC 15th Conference 21 - 23 September 2010)
(As amended by the BSHC 17th Conference 18 - 21 September 2012)

With referencing to

- IHO Resolution 5 - 2009 on MSDI policy, adopted by the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in June 2009
- 1st HSSC Meeting (Singapore, October 2009)
- Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)
- Guidance for Hydrographic Offices IHO Publication C-17 - Edition 1.0
- EU INSPIRE Directive and respective national contributions of the MS

The BSHC at its 15th Conference recognised the need to initiate a study of MSDI in the Baltic Sea in order to identify areas where maritime SDI implementation is underway and where problems can be foreseen and how the Baltic member states see the future development of MSDI in the region.

Therefore the BSHC 15th Conference established the BSMSDIWG with the task to study MSDI in the Baltic Sea.

The Working Group should:

- Identify and analyse the current status of individual MS MSDI implementation.
- Consider MSDI policies within the related international project e.g. e-navigation, ICZM, INSPIRE, EU Integrated Maritime Strategy, the Marine Strategy Framework and EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.
- Analyse how maritime authorities can contribute their spatial information and the necessary updates, so information can easily be collated with other information to a current overall picture for the region.
- Focus on how BSHC in the future can benefit from a regional approach.
- Monitoring MSDI and marine- related initiatives, as well as more general geospatial developments with relevance for the Baltic Sea.
- To present an annual report to the BSHC. This report should include a description on the current status, recommendations on how to proceed with the MSDI implementation and if deemed necessary an action plan with specified time schedule for future BSHC MSDI actions.

Rules of procedures:

- All BSHC Members and Associate Members are encouraged to participate to the BSMSDIWG and to contribute to the work of the BSMSDIWG.
- The BSMSDIWG should be chaired by one of the Member States elected at the BSHC Conference.
- The BSMSDIWG should work as far as possible in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations issued by the IHO, IMO and EU.
- The BSMSDIWG should consult Task Groups, Committees and Working Groups or other relevant bodies, as deemed necessary.
- The BSMSDIWG should inform the NSHC and the NHC to coordinate within the North Sea region as far as possible.
- The work of the BSMSDIWG will be carried out primarily by correspondence (via e-mails). The members are encouraged to reply without unnecessary delay.
- The BSMSDIWG should provide a Report to the BSHC 16th Conference.
- The BSMSDIWG Chair can on request coordinate BSHC MS views on MSDI topics and present them at the IHO MSDIWG