



**BALTIC SEA
HYDROGRAPHIC
COMMISSION**



Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 – implementation of one common reference level in the Baltic Sea

BOOS Annual Meeting

25 November 2021

VTC

Thomas Hammarklint

Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)



BALTIC SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



[Home](#) [About](#) [Services](#) [Relations](#) [Working Groups](#) [Meetings](#) [Contact](#)



The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission,

which is an integrant part of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), promotes the technical co-operation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography and nautical information among the neighboring countries of the Baltic Sea region.

The main objectives of the Commission are the coordination of the production of the Baltic Sea INT Charts, the coordination of hydrographic re-surveys, harmonization of chart datums, harmonization of Baltic Sea ENC's, and the exchange of information and the harmonization of practices with regard to various issues related to hydrography.

The most recent development is the [Baltic Sea Bathymetric Database](#) – accessible via this portal.

International Hydrographic Organization

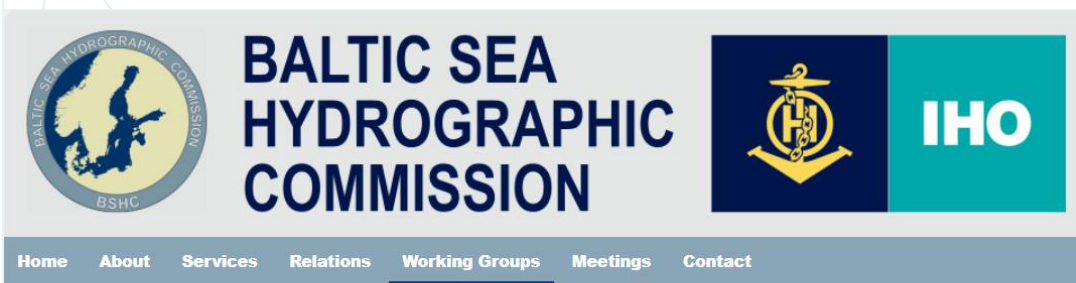
The International Hydrographic Organization is an intergovernmental consultative and technical organization that was established in 1921 to support safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. The object of the Organization is to bring about:

- The coordination of the activities of national hydrographic offices
- The greatest possible uniformity in nautical charts and documents
- The adoption of reliable and efficient methods of carrying out and exploiting hydrographic surveys
- The development of the sciences in the field of hydrography and the techniques employed in descriptive oceanography

You are here: [Home](#)

Copyright 2013–2019 Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission

Chart Datum Working Group (CDWG)



BSHC Chart Datum Working Group

"To implement a common reference level in the Baltic Sea"



Photo: Chart Datum Working Group 13th meeting, 7 September 2021, VTC

<http://www.bshc.pro/working-groups/cdwg>

Members of CDWG:

Denmark Mrs Gitte Hauerberg Iversen
Estonia Mrs Gabriela Kotsulim
Finland Mr Jarmo Mäkinen
Germany Dr Patrick Westfeld
Latvia Mr Bruno Špēls
Lithuania Mr Mindaugas Zakarauskas
Poland Mr Witold Stasiak
Russia Mr Leonid Shalnov
Russia Dr Sergey V. Reshetniak
Sweden Mr Thomas Hammarklint (Chair)
Sweden Mr Lars Jakobsson
Sweden Mr Henrik Tengbert

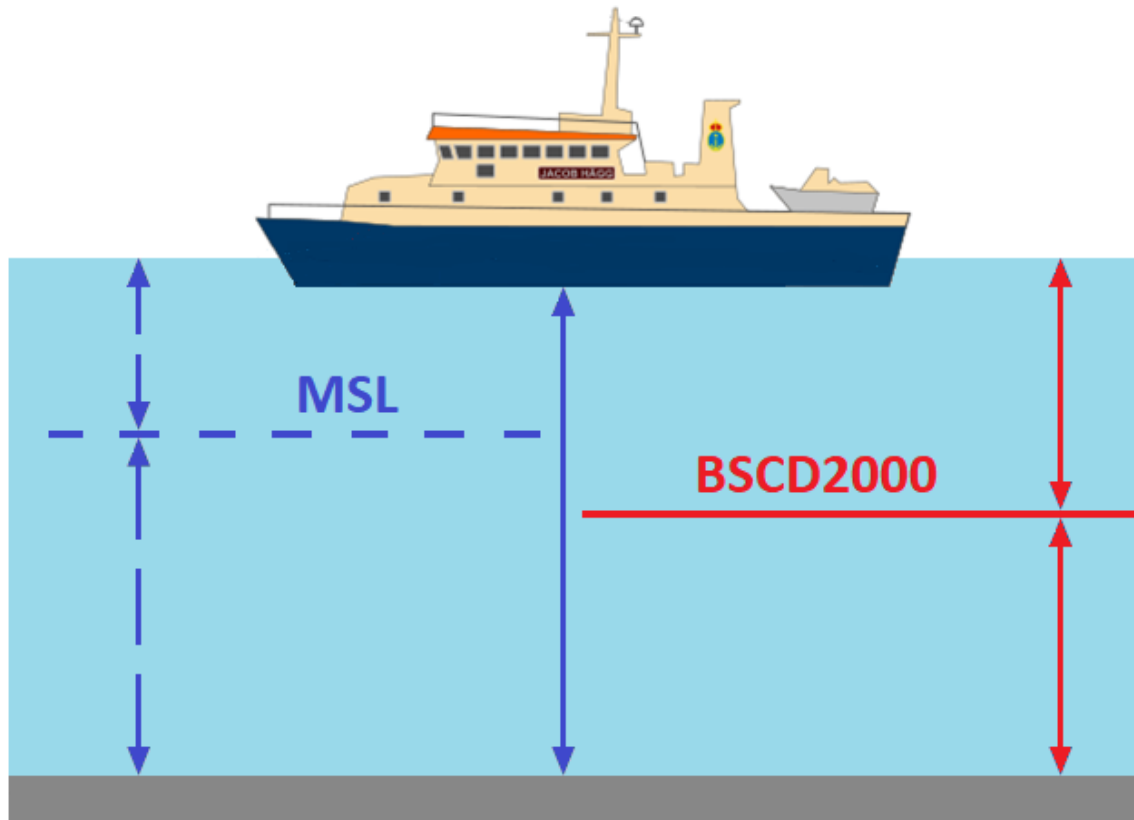
Observers and Experts:

Estonia Prof. Artu Ellmann
Estonia Mr Sander Varbla
Finland Dr Mirjam Bilker-Koivula
Finland Mrs Anni Montonen
Germany Dr Gunter Liebsch
Germany Dr Joachim Schwabe
Norway Mr Aksel Voldsund
Poland Mr Krzysztof Pyrchla
Poland Mrs Małgorzata Pająk
Poland Dr Monika Wilde-Piórko
Poland Dr Małgorzata Szelachowska
Sweden Dr Jonas Ågren
Sweden Dr Per-Anders Olsson
Sweden Mr Mikael Stenström

Representative of BOOS:

Sweden Mr Thomas Hammarklint

New reference level



The water level remains!

Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 (BSCD2000)

➤ Definition:

The datum refers to each Baltic country's realization of the European Vertical Reference System (EVRS) with land-uplift epoch 2000, which is connected to the Normaal Amsterdams Peil (NAP).

➤ Justification:

The Baltic Sea is an international shallow, non-tidal area in the northern part of Europe with dense traffic. IHO BSHC has approved the name and the adoption of the Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 ([specification](#)).

➤ Height systems used as national realization of BSCD2000 (EVRS-based):

Sweden RH2000	Denmark DVR90	Germany DHHN2016
Poland PL-EVRF2007-NH	Lithuania LAS07	Latvia LAS2000,5
Estonia EH2000	Finland N2000	Norway NN2000

➤ Chart datum name to be shown in paper charts:

Mean Sea Level (Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000^{national realization name})

or

Mean Sea Level (Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000)

CHART DATUM: Mean Sea Level (Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000^{RH2000})
REFERENSNIVÅ: Medelvattenyta (Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000^{RH2000})
SYMBOLS and ABBREVIATIONS: see INT 1
BETECKNINGAR och FÖRKORTNINGAR: se KORT 1



Referensnivå

Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 in IHO Registry

BSCD2000 is now included in IHO Geospatial Information (GI) Registry, as chart datum number 44:

The screenshot shows the IHO Geospatial Information Registry Data Dictionary Register page. The page header includes the IHO logo and the text "IHO Geospatial Information Registry". The main content area displays the "Data Dictionary Register" for the "Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000". The page includes a navigation menu on the left with options like HOME, HELP&GUIDANCE, GI REGISTERS, PROPOSAL, TEST BED, Open Online Platform, and 2nd GI Registry(Old). The main content area shows a search bar with filters for Feature Type (366), Information Type (26), Attribute Type (667), Complex Type (92), Enumeration Value (2273), and Codelist Value (117). Below the search bar, there are dropdown menus for Domain (ALL), Status (Valid), Type (ALL), and Category (Name). The main content area displays the "[Listed Value] Dictionary Details" for the "Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000". The details include the Domain (IHO Hydro), Name (Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000), CamelCase (balticSeaChartDatum2000), Item Identifier (1213), Definition (The datum refers to each Baltic country's realization of the European Vertical Reference System (EVRS) with land-uplift epoch 2000, which is connected to the Normaal Amsterdams Peil (NAP)), Data type (Enumerated value), Associated Attribute (Enumerated type), Reference (Vertical Datum), and Reference Source (Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission). The page footer includes the copyright notice "COPYRIGHT © IHO Geospatial Information Registry. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED." and the KHOA Acknowledgements logo.

[Listed Value] Dictionary Details					
Domain	IHO Hydro				
Name	Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000				
CamelCase	balticSeaChartDatum2000				
Item Identifier	1213 ?				
Definition	The datum refers to each Baltic country's realization of the European Vertical Reference System (EVRS) with land-uplift epoch 2000, which is connected to the Normaal Amsterdams Peil (NAP).				
Data type	Enumerated value				
Associated Attribute	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Attribute type</th><th>Name</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Enumerated type</td><td>Vertical Datum</td></tr></tbody></table>	Attribute type	Name	Enumerated type	Vertical Datum
Attribute type	Name				
Enumerated type	Vertical Datum				
Reference					
Reference Source	Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission				



Status transition to BSCD2000 in nautical charts



Updated 2021-11-19

Swedish Chart Improvement project



CHART DATUM: Mean Sea Level (Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000^{RH2000})
REFERENSNIVÅ: Medelvattenyta (Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000^{RH2000})
SYMBOLS and ABBREVIATIONS: see INT 1
BETECKNINGAR och FÖRKORTNINGAR: se KORT 1

Referensnivå



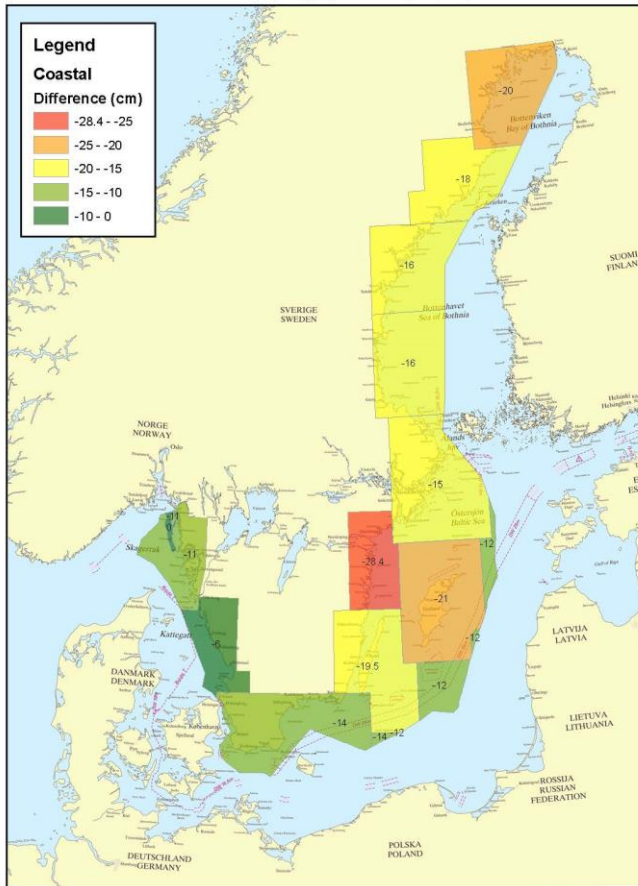
Difference between present chart datum and BSCD2000

Annex 1 To Questionare, BSHC CDWG

Page 2 (4)

Difference between existing chart datum and RH 2000 - Coastal

Swedish Maritime Administration, Hydrographic Office, May 16, 2013

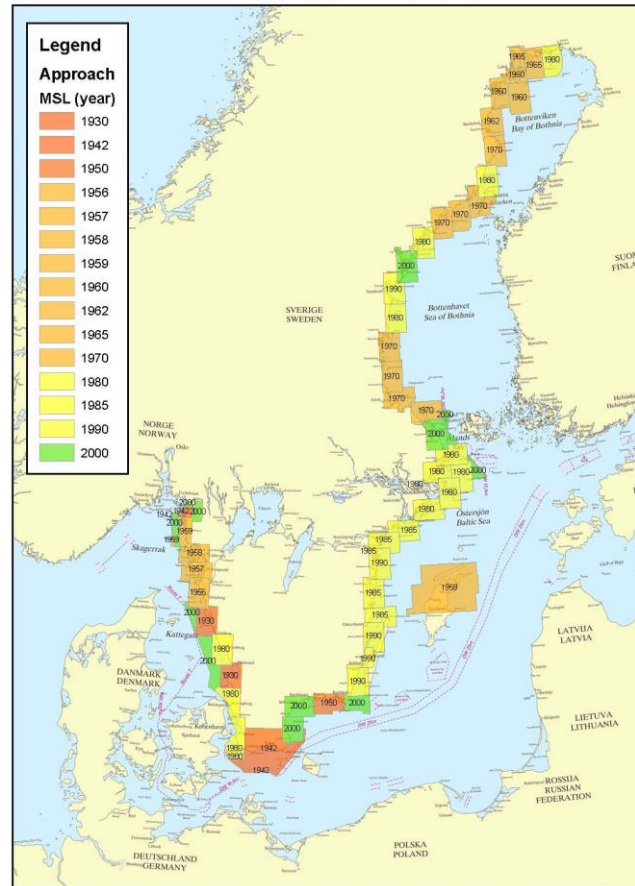


Annex 1 To Questionare, BSHC CDWG

Page 3 (4)

Year of MSL in Swedish chart database - Approach (Swedish water)

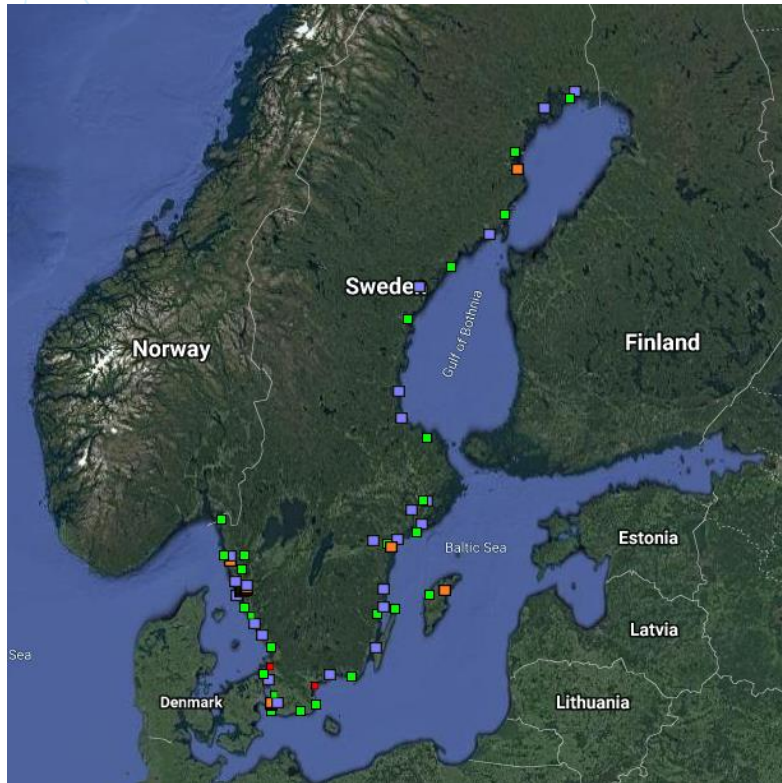
Swedish Maritime Administration, Hydrographic Office, May 16, 2013





Swedish Sea Level Network

- Real-time data relative BSCD2000 from 60 stations
- 1-minute values with 1 cm accuracy
- Real-time and delayed mode quality control



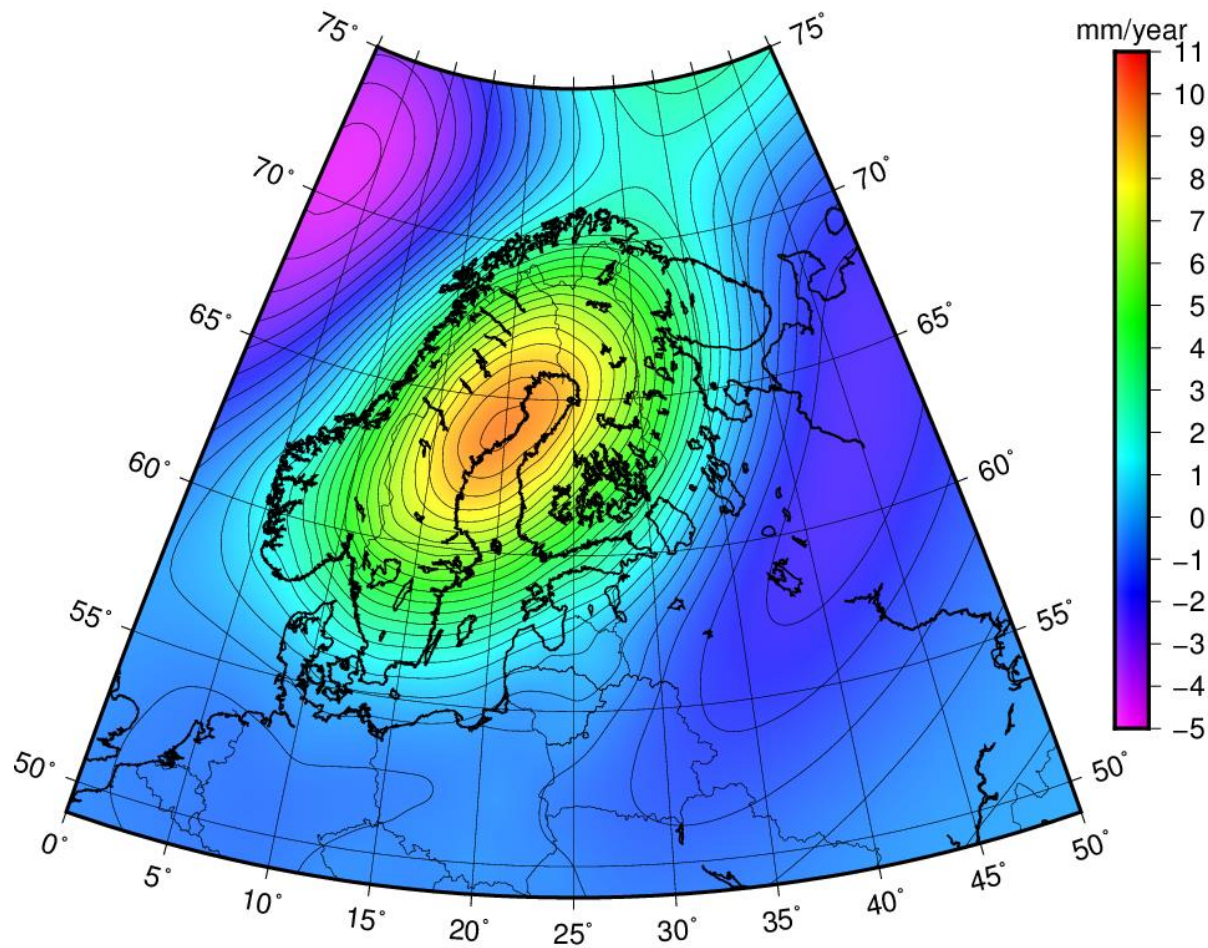
- Class I Upgrade with battery backup
- Class II Upgrade without battery backup
- Class III Unchanged, temporary

- 27 stations (23 SMHI, 3 SMA, 1 CTH)
- 25 stations (21 SMA, 3 GBG, 1 SKB)
- 7 stations (6 SMA, 1 SMHI)

Present water level information are shown in Wind- and Water Information ([ViVa](#))



The land-uplift lowers the mean sea level

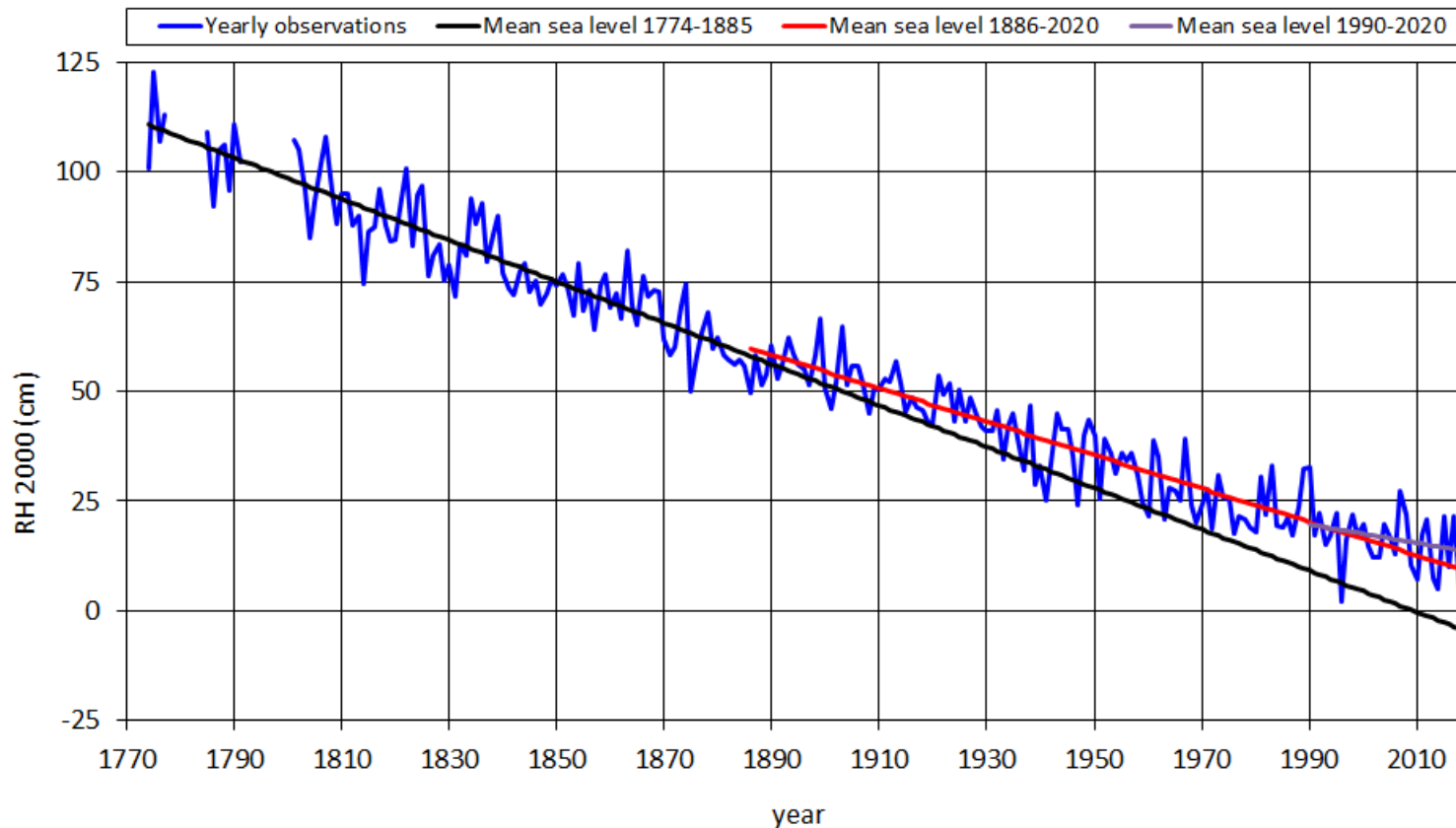


Stockholm

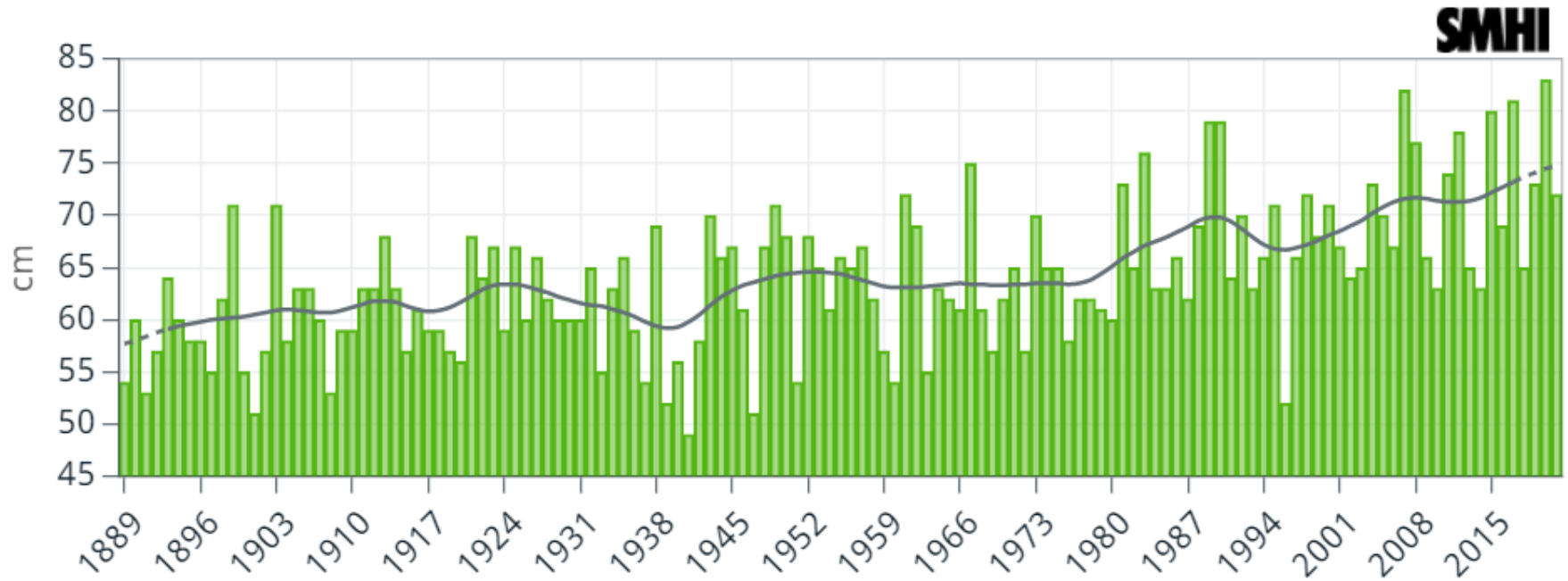
"World's longest sealevel record"

SMHI

Sealevel Stockholm 1774 - 2020



The sea level rise raises the mean sea level

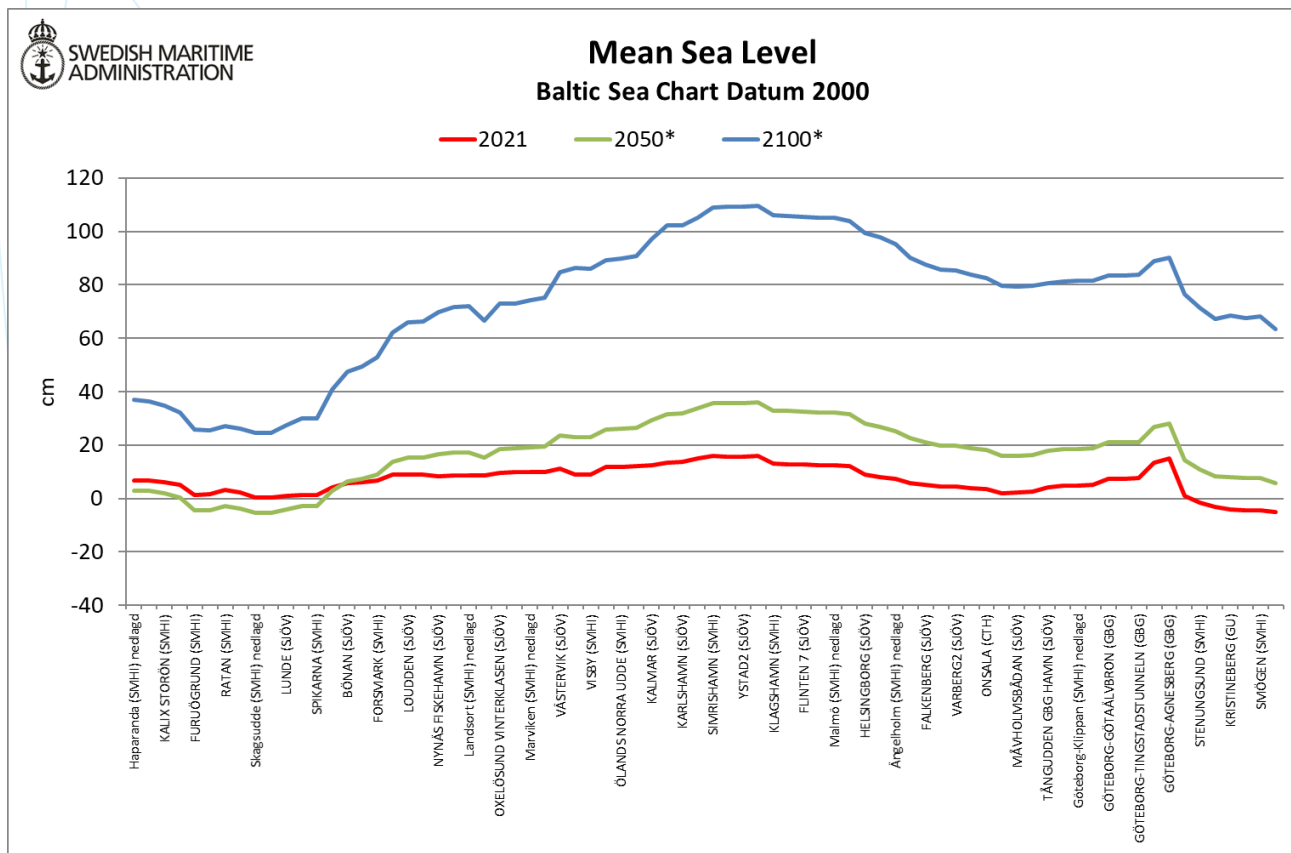


Observed sea level change in Stockholm since 1889

Sea level corrected for the levelled land-uplift (glacial isostatic adjustment)

The black line shows the gauss-filtered (smoothed) average

Changing mean sea level



Calculated mean sea level for the years 2021, 2050 and 2100. * including a predicted sea level rise, +1 m over the years 2020-2100 and correction for the leveled land-uplift.

[Mean sea level relative BSCD2000](#)



Difference between old reference system and BSCD2000

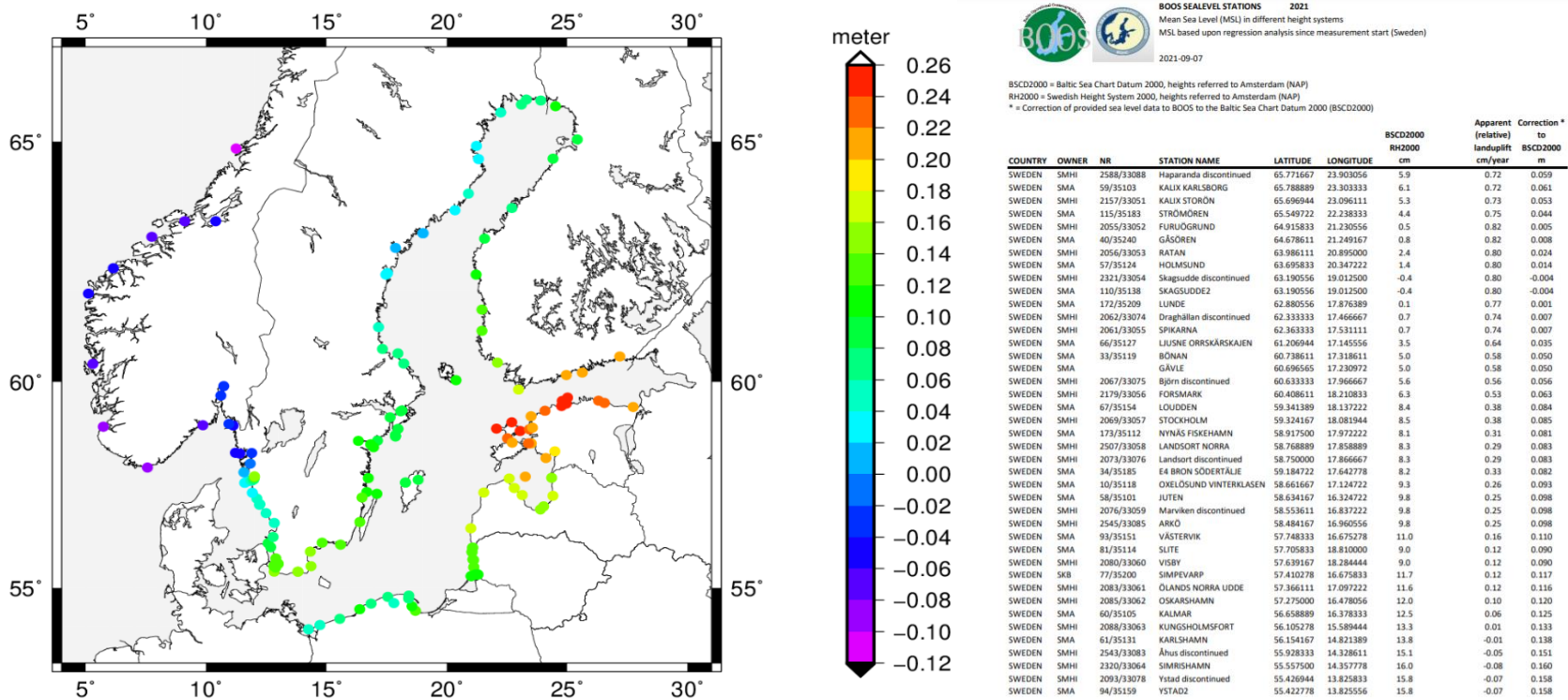


Fig. 4b: Differences between the reference levels of the old national chart datums with respect to Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 (BSCD2000). In Sweden and Finland, the old reference levels are equal to Mean Sea Level transferred to year 2021 (according to different national conventions). The values from Norway shows the Mean Sea Level over the period 1996-2014, relative NN2000/BSCD2000. In Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Kronstadt reference level is used as old chart datum. In Poland, the local Polish Height System Amsterdam NN₅₅ is used as chart datum. Notice how postglacial rebound reduces the magnitude of the mean sea level in the Bay of Bothnia; it is now just a few cm near the land uplift maximum. The values are shown in this [Table](#).

Reference levels in Skagerack

- Norwegian reference datum (LAT-20) ca 50-60 cm below BSCD2000
- Danish LAT ca 30 cm below BSCD2000

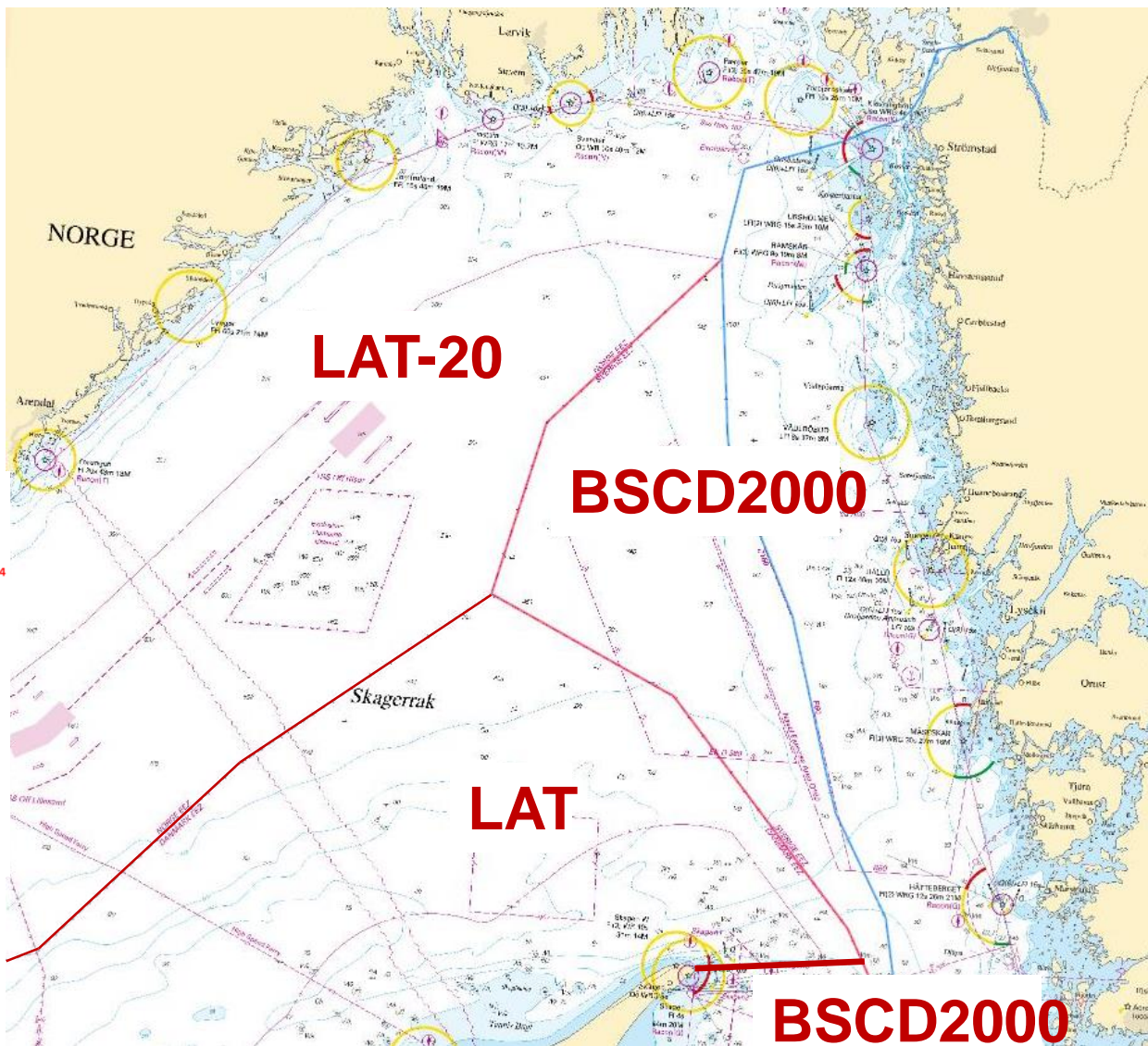
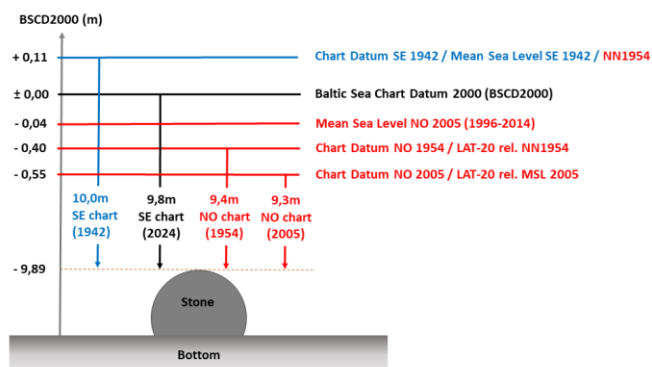


Chart datum Skagerrak (Swedish-Norwegian border)






New reference level in Sweden

SMA and SMHI presents sea level data relative BSCD2000 since 3rd June 2019



SMHI oceanographic warning and forecasting service

- A transition to BSCD2000 (RH 2000) has been implemented at SMHI, where forecasts, warnings and current sea level are issued relative BSCD2000.
- A new impact-based and regional adapted warning system has also been introduced, which includes yellow, orange and red warning, where red is the most serious.

Högt vattenstånd   

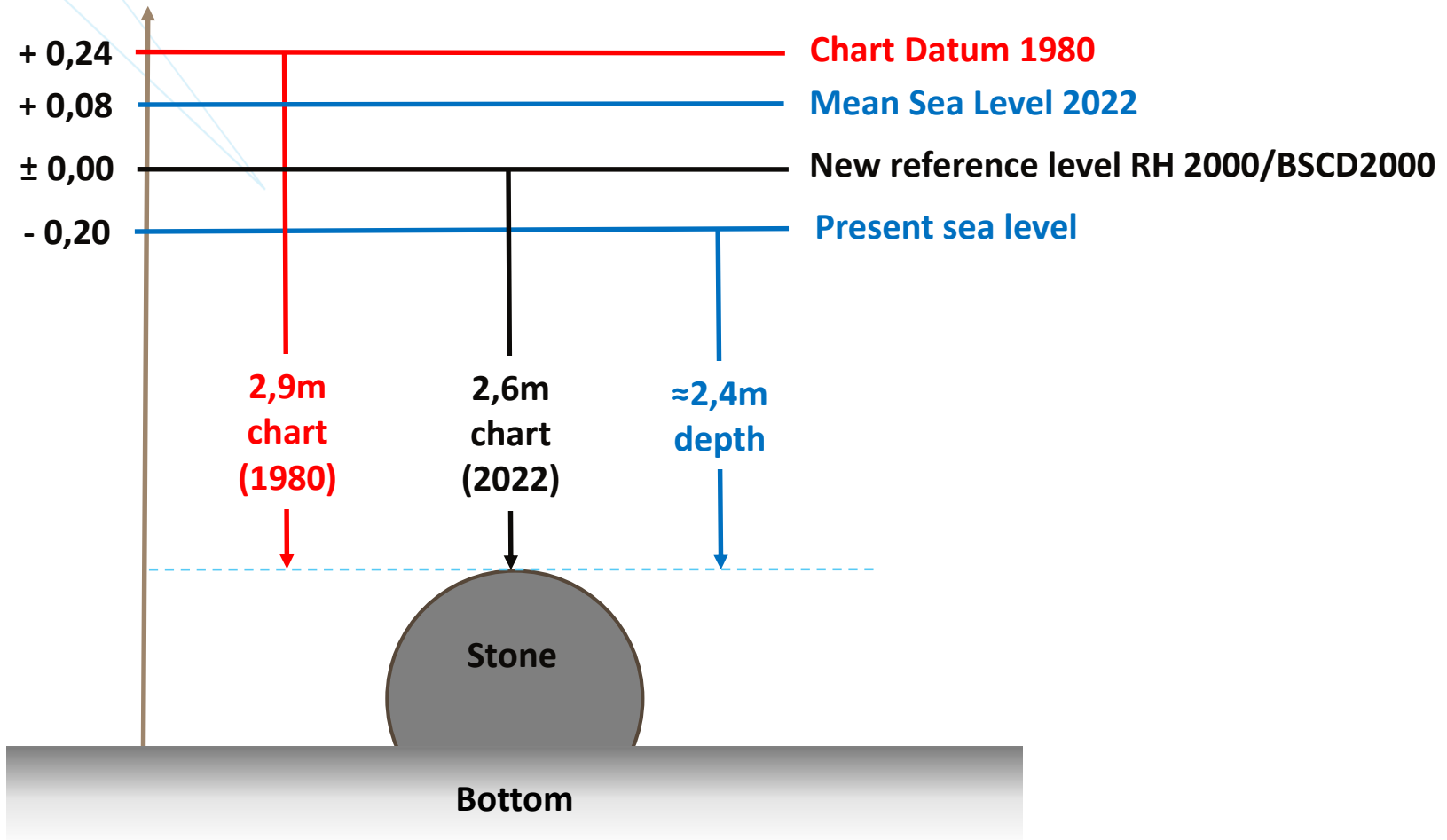
Varningsnivå	Gul	Orange	Röd
Område	cm i RH 2000		
Grupp 1 (Västra Götalands län, Hallands län, Skåne län)	90	130	180
Grupp 2 (Kalmar län, Östergötlands län, Gotlands län, Södermanlands län, Stockholms län)	80	110	-
Grupp 3 (Blekinge län, Uppsala län, Gävleborgs län, Västernorrlands län)	90	130	-
Grupp 4 (Västerbottens län, Norrbottens län)	100	150	-

Lågt vattenstånd 

Varningsnivå	Gul
Område	cm i RH 2000
Skagerrak, Kattegatt, Södra Östersjön, Mellersta Östersjön, Norra Östersjön, Ålands hav	-80
Sydvästra Östersjön, Öresund, Bälten	-50
Södra Bottenhavet, Norra Bottenhavet, Norra Kvarnen, Bottenviken	-90

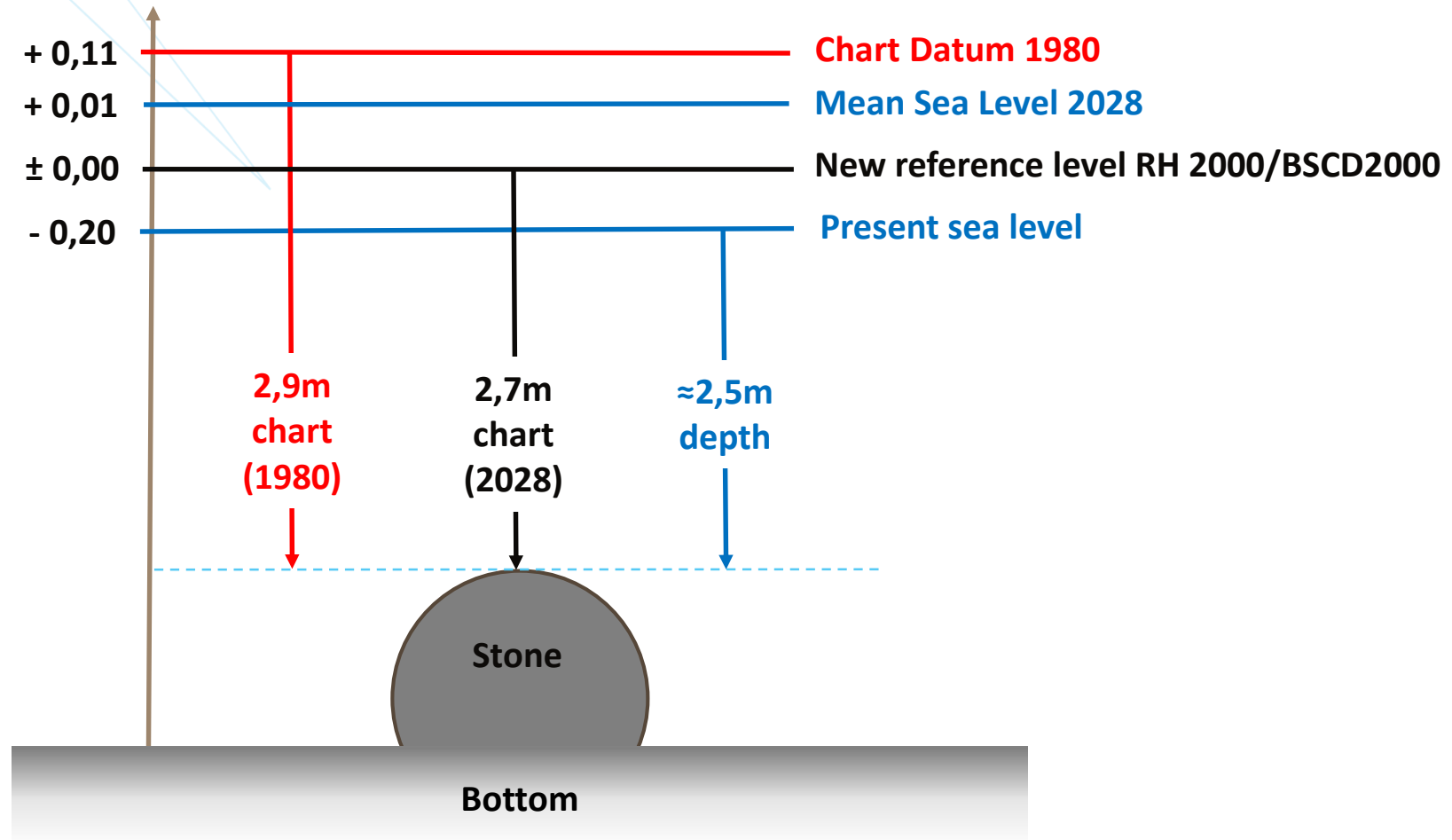
Transition to RH 2000/BSCD2000 in charts and sea level

RH 2000/BSCD2000 (m) Stockholm 2022



Transition to RH 2000/BSCD2000 in charts and sea level

RH 2000/BSCD2000 (m) Göteborg-Torshammen 2025



Notices to mariners

Example from Sweden, 2019-05-15

* 14040

**Sweden. not area bound. New reference system for sea level, nautical charts and warnings.
BSCD2000 / RH 2000.**

Expired notices: 2019:754/13917

See: 2018:716/13140

As of June 3, 2019, the Swedish national height system 'Rikets Höjdsystem 2000', or RH 2000 (international name 'Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000', BSCD2000) will constitute the reference level for observations and forecasts of the water level in Swedish waters.

The zero level in RH 2000 is fixedly linked to land, and is not affected by land uplift, changes in sea level or geographical variations.

The change means that observations, forecasts, and warnings in the Swedish Maritime Administration's and Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute's (SMHI) viewing services from 3 June 2019, or soon thereafter, refer to the new reference level and no longer to the 'mean sea level'.

The Swedish Maritime Administration is gradually adapting the charts to the new reference system. This is a time consuming process which will take several years to complete. During the transition period, it is important to know which reference level is used in the different charts. If the text 'Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000', or 'BSCD2000' is printed in the chart, the update has been performed.

More information: www.sjofartsverket.se/RH2000 and www.smhi.se

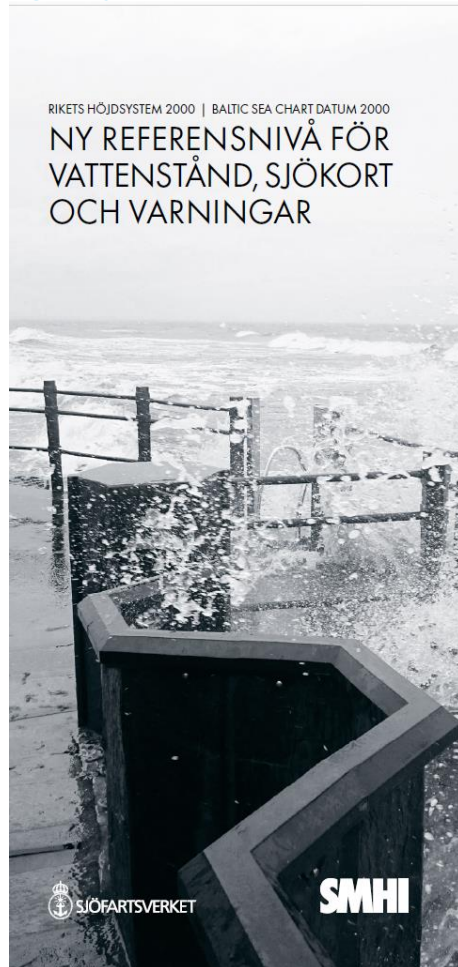
www.sjofartsverket.se/RH2000 www.smhi.se

SMHI och Sjöfartsverket. Publ. 15 May 2019



New info sheets about the transition to BSCD2000 as the new reference level for sea level, nautical charts and warnings

Svensk



English



A uniform reference system from land to sea

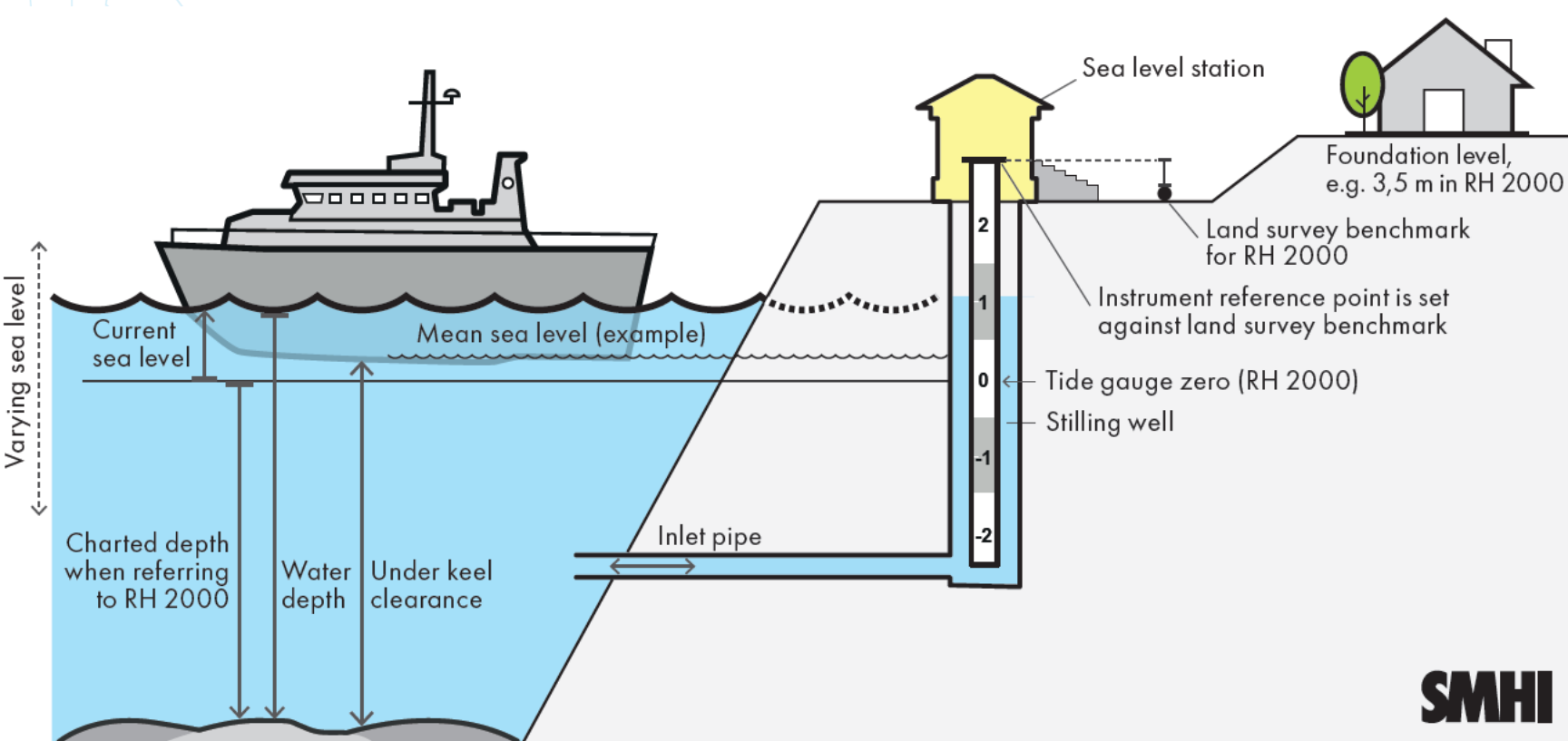
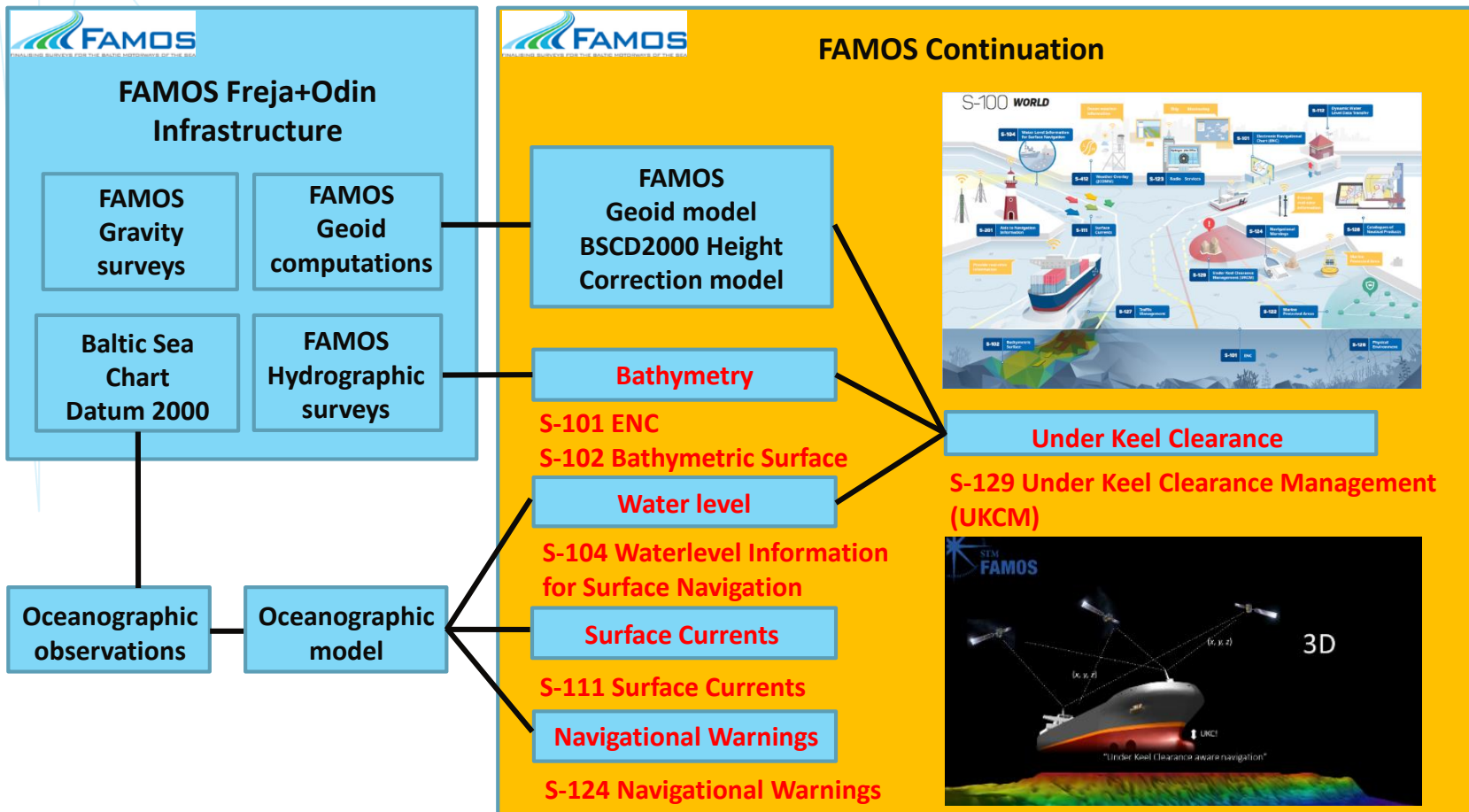


Illustration Veronica Wörn SMHI

SMHI

FAMOS Continuation



Thanks!



Thomas Hammarklint

Swedish Maritime Administration (SMA)

Thomas.Hammarklint@sjofartsverket.se