

30th Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission Conference

23-24 September 2025 – Riga, Latvia

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

A. Opening formalities

A.1 Opening of Conference

Docs: BSHC30 List of Participants

The Chair of the BSHC *Mr. Janis Krastiņš* opened the 30th Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission Meeting and welcomed the participants. The Chair congratulated Lithuania officially becoming an IHO Member State and joining BSHC, and informed that in order to become a full member of the BSHC, statutes have to be signed. Lithuania expressed their readiness to sign the statutes. Lithuania signed the statutes on the second day of the meeting in presence of all participants and official photo was taken.

The Chair highlighted the importance of the meeting due to ongoing projects and especially plans for continuous cooperation in S-100 implementation in the region.

Delegates from all EU coastal states of the Baltic Sea participated in the Meeting. IHO Secretariat was represented by Secretary-General *Dr. Mathias JONAS* and Observers from UK, US and NZ were also present, as well as industry representatives from USA.

The Chair declared that the meeting has a quorum.

A.2. Welcome from the host country

The CEO of Maritime Administration of Latvia *Mr. Jānis Krastiņš* (LV) told housekeeping issues in relation to the meeting and went through the program practicalities including arrangements for the Conference dinner on Tuesday, 23 September.

A.3. Adoption of the Agenda

Delegates start a discussion regarding participation of industry and Observers and agree that there are topics that should be discussed without industry members' attendance and only between hydrographic offices. It was agreed that the last session of the first day shall be closed session without participation of the industry members.

A.4 Minutes and actions from the BSHC29 Conference

Docs: Minutes of BSHC29.pdf
List of Actions of BSHC29s.pdf

No comments were received, the minutes are approved.

List of actions reviewed.

B.1 Information about the activities of the IHO Report from the IHO secretariat

Docs: IHO Report

Secretary General – Dr. Mathias Jonas (SG) emphasized cooperation with IMO and advanced work on S-100 data production and roadmap.

IHO Council decided to establish the IHO Infrastructure Centre, supported by Republic of Korea funding until 2035.

Draft IHO Strategic Plan 2027–2032 and revision of IHO work structure were introduced. Report covered several areas – capacity development, new partnerships, climate/hydrographic initiatives, and ENC overlap issues on a global scale. IHO Secretariat informed on the latest issues, including new Member States – Gambia, Bahamas, Lithuania.

IHO Portal is working very well. Delegates suggest that there should be a possibility also to delete uploaded files from the portal. Discussion arise regarding documents available on the Portal. BSHC30 after discussion decided that BSHC documents uploaded to the portal shall be available to all registered users of IHO Portal in order to ensure transparency and visibility.

Action BSHC30/1: the Chair to send info to the IHO Secretariat on BSHC docs that are published!

Decision BSHC30/D1: all BSHC docs are available to registered users on IHO portal.

B.2 Information on Council issues of the IHO

Docs: Council Report

Magnus Wallhagen (SE) provided report on Council as a member of Council, on the mandate of BSHC. Report covered several items from the Council-8 meeting 2024 - a key step was the decision to set up an IHO Infrastructure Centre, with generous funding from the Republic of Korea until 2035, although final approval will come at the next Assembly. At the same time, concerns were raised about low financial contributions from member states, which are putting pressure on the Secretariat's work. As reported by the IHO Secretary General, the financial situation has improved since 2024.

Looking forward to Council-9 in October 2025, the Council will consider the draft IHO Strategic Plan for 2027–2032, new guidelines for S-100 sea trials, and proposals to improve security and standards. Broader initiatives include modernizing workforce policies, possible need to reorganize the working groups under HSSC and IRCC, and adding climate and environmental priorities to the IHO's agenda.

The Council encourages all member states to engage actively in upcoming meetings, even as observers, and to help shape the future of global hydrography.

It was agreed that composition of the Council and necessity to amend the BSHC Statutes shall be discussed during the closed session.

Selection of the Council Members was discussed. Recalling circular letter BSHC2/2012, it was agreed that the selection procedure of Council Member from BSHC will take place after Council 9, when the Secretariat of IHO will inform all MS on distribution of Council seats per region.

At the Closed Session it was discussed whether there is a need to prepare the amendments to the Statutes of BSHC. Germany kindly proposed to address all MS, inviting to express their opinion on the issue. After collecting and analysing replies from MS, Germany volunteered to submit an input paper for the next meeting (BSHC31) for discussions and decision if such necessity arises.

As long as there is no specific regulation on participation in BSHC Conferences, it is Host's and Chair's

decision whether to accept participation from the industry and to limit the number of the participants in the meeting in total. Chair is invited to inform MS of BSHC about potential participation from industry or other IHO Member States outside Baltic Sea region.

Action BSHC30/2: Invite MS to consider necessity of amendments to the Statutes of BSHC, perform analysis of responses and submits input paper for discussion to BSHC31

Action BSHC30/3: Chair to organise selection procedure of Council Member from BSHC.

Decision BSHC30/D2: To discuss composition of Council and possible amendments to the Statutes in Closed Session.

B.3 Information on the new draft IHO Strategic Plan

Docs: [SPRWG update.pdf](#)

Hendrik Justus STANG (DK), Secretary of the IHO SPRWG, provided a report on the new draft IHO Strategic Plan, with additional comments from SG and SPRWG Vice-Chair Adam Greenland (NZ). Council 9 will review the draft Strategic Plan for 2027–2032, prepared after a year of intensive work by the Strategic Plan Review Working Group (SPRWG). The plan sharpens IHO's goals around digital transformation, S-100 standards, marine spatial data, and workforce development. Member States are now invited to endorse the draft at Council 9 and forward it to the 4th Assembly for final approval. Thanks to those countries who participated in development of SP.

B.4 National Reports

B.4.1 National Report of Denmark

Docs: [National report Denmark.pdf](#)

The Danish Geodata Agency's Hydrographic Office has been busy over the past year, delivering more survey coverage than planned in Danish waters—26,000 km of survey lines against a 22,000 km target—and continuing vital charting in Greenland and the Faroe Islands. In Greenland, surveys focused on key coastal corridors, while in the Faroes, a new 50m resolution depth model was released and notices to mariners are now issued locally.

A major milestone came with Denmark's transition to the Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000, aligning with regional standards. Innovation also played a central role: the release of Denmark's Depth Model 2.0, satellite mapping projects in Greenland, and successful crowd-sourced bathymetry initiatives are reshaping data collection.

Meanwhile, nautical chart production is evolving with print-on-demand solutions, ensuring mariners always access the latest updates. Looking ahead, Denmark has secured long-term funding for Greenlandic charting until 2041, guaranteeing safer navigation in one of the world's most challenging maritime regions.

B.4.2 National Report of Estonia

Docs: [National report Estonia.pdf](#)

Over the past year, the Estonian Transport Administration (ETA) has strengthened its hydrographic capabilities. In 2024, Estonia surveyed more than 1,400 km², covering main shipping routes according to HELCOM Resurvey Plan in the Gulf of Finland and the Gulf of Riga, Lake Peipsi, and harbor areas. All data is managed through the Hydrographic Information System (HIS), which now offers public access to

survey information online.

Estonia's waters are fully covered by ENC's, with 143 cells maintained and over 450 updates in 2024 alone. The country is transitioning its chart portfolio to the BSCD2000 height system, with new paper charts and atlases already produced for harbours and pleasure craft. Navigational warnings continue to be shared via ETA's GIS platform and NAVTEX broadcasts.

Innovation remains a strong focus: Estonia is testing S-57 to S-101 conversion, producing and distributing S-102, S-104, and S-111 datasets through PRIMAR, and contributing to the Baltic Sea e-Nav project.

EE: problems in Gulf of Finland and lake Peipsi with GNSS data

SWE: congrats on publishing S-102, S-104 and S-111!

B.4.3. National Report of Finland

[Docs: National report Finland \(presentation\).pdf](#)

At the 30th Baltic Sea Hydrographic Conference in Riga, Finland highlighted progress in modernizing its hydrographic survey data holdings. Surveys in 2024 covered the Kemi fairway, inland lakes, and shallow coastal areas in the southern Archipelago Sea using LiDAR and multibeam technologies. Chart production continues to align with the Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 implementation, with new ENC and paper chart editions released.

As a capacity building activity Traficom/Finnish HO hosted the 85th Multibeam Sonar Training Course in March 2025, drawing 71 participants from 17 countries.

Looking ahead, Finland is on track to launch S-101 ENC's, S-102 bathymetric surfaces, and S-124 navigational warnings by early 2026. S-124 data sets will be produced by new VILKKU management system. Work on S-104 water levels and S-111 surface currents is also underway at the Finnish Meteorological Institute.

B.4.4 National Report of Germany

[Docs: National report Germany.doc](#)

Germany's Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) provided national report on achievements over the last year. Highlights include the completion of S-125 (Marine Aids to Navigation) and S-127 (Marine Traffic Management) datasets, both now maintained routinely and even supporting printed publications. A new high-definition ENC was released for the port of Mukran, while ENC gridding has been finalized and paper charts are shifting from A1 to larger A0 format. To save resources it has been decided to align national chart series with BA chart collection.

Surveys in 2025 covered key Baltic routes, while 18 wrecks were investigated to ensure safe navigation. BSH is also testing new technologies, including airborne and satellite-derived bathymetry, AI-based seabed analysis, and automated coastline extraction. As part of the Baltic Sea e-Nav project, Germany contributes to the development of S-101 ENC's, S-102 bathymetry, and S-104 water level datasets.

B.4.5 National Report of Latvia

[Docs: National report Latvia.pdf](#)

The Maritime Administration of Latvia's Hydrographic Service has completed 181 km² of surveys in 2025 on HELCOM routes, the Gulf of Riga, and harbour areas. Using its fleet—including the survey vessel *Kristiāns Dāls* and a new USV BlueBoat—the service continues to modernize coastal and port coverage.

Latvia maintains full ENC and paper chart coverage, with new editions released regularly and distributed

through PRIMAR. In 2025, three new ENC's and six new editions were published, alongside updated INT charts. The 8th edition of the *List of Lights in Latvian Waters* was also released, and new leisure craft charts are planned for 2026.

Beyond surveys and charting, Latvia supports the Baltic Sea e-Nav project by testing S-100 production, while its aids to navigation system—around 350 in total—is managed in line with IALA standards, production of new AtoN has been delayed due to low capacity internally.

B.4.6 National Report of Lithuania

Docs: [National report Lithuania.pdf](#)

The Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration's Hydrographic Division has continued large-scale survey work in 2025, covering over 80 km² so far and more than 3,000 km² since 2024 using its survey vessel *Varūna*. However, operations faced continuous GNSS disturbances that disrupted positioning so affecting the surveying.

Lithuania's waters are fully covered by seven ENC's and seven matching paper charts, distributed freely online and via PRIMAR. Two new coastal ENC's are in preparation, and small craft charts have been postponed due to Baltic Sea e-Nav commitments. The Hydrographic Division has already generated S-101 and S-102 test datasets for evaluation and is coordinating with national agencies on future S-104 and S-111 products.

B.4.7 National Report of Poland

Docs: [National report Poland.pdf](#)

The Hydrographic Office of the Polish Navy has finished surveying its last HELCOM Cat. I route (DWR-02) and is now focusing on shallow Cat. III areas critical for navigation safety. Between July 2024 and July 2025, over 800 km² were surveyed using a mix of ships, motorboats, ASVs, and AUVs. In addition, 4,500 km² of bathymetric data from the Marine Habitat Monitoring project was received from the Ministry of Climate and Environment for charting use.

Poland's ENC portfolio now totals 68 cells across all navigational bands, updated weekly and distributed via PRIMAR. Recent outputs include new national paper charts for the Polish coast and approaches, plus updated INT charts. The BSCD2000 vertical reference frame has also been fully implemented.

Looking forward, Poland is preparing for S-100 production: S-101, S-102, S-104, S-111, and S-124 products are scheduled to roll out between 2025 and 2030. Innovation is also high on the agenda, with the commissioning of the Gavia autonomous underwater vehicle for detailed seabed surveys.

Poland reported on recent development in Court, that has taken a decision that copyright of Polish national navigational paper charts does not belong to Polish HO, thus it is free to scan, copy and use those on non-SOLAS vessels. Polish HO is prepared to take all necessary steps to regain the copyright over their national paper chart series.

B.4.8 National Report of Sweden

Docs: [National report Sweden.pdf](#)

The Swedish Hydrographic Office has continued its push to complete full modern surveys of national waters, with Cat.I routes already finalized and Cat.II areas set for completion in 2025. In 2024 alone, 1,300 km² were surveyed, while work has also expanded to shallower Cat.III priority areas. Ten wreck surveys were carried out as part of Sweden's oil clean-up program.

Sweden's ENC portfolio now totals 581 cells, with strong output in 2024: 457 new editions and over 1,100 revisions. Paper chart production remains steady, with 117 charts and 16 small craft series supported by improved update processes. The Depth Information System (DIS) has also been upgraded

to ArcGIS Pro, storing more than 318 billion soundings.

SMA has introduced automated sounding and contour generation using Teledyne Caris Base Editor, expected to cut manual work by 70%. Work has also begun on improved management of Zone of Confidence (ZOC) data to strengthen quality control ahead of releasing new S-100 products such as S-101 and S-102.

Action BSHC30/4: Sweden is invited to share experience in management of Zones of Confidence at the BSHC31.

C.1 HSSC17 Report

Docs: HSSC report.pdf

At its 17th meeting in Stavanger, the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) welcomed over 80 participants from 29 member states, industry, and international partners. A key milestone was the approval of all core Phase 1 S-100 product specifications—including S-101 ENCs, S-102 bathymetry, and S-124 navigational warnings—marking steady progress toward S-100 ECDIS implementation.

The Committee also endorsed guidelines for official S-100 Sea Trial Areas and additional sea trial areas in Australia, France, and the UK, and advanced updates to major standards such as ENC portrayal, chart specifications, and S-57 to S-101 conversion guidance.

A major focus was the establishment of the new IHO Infrastructure Centre in Busan, Korea. With a manager now in place and a technical specialist to be recruited, the Centre will underpin secure data distribution and future S-100 services. Work also continues on a subscription-based IHO Data Protection Scheme to support system developers.

Looking ahead, HSSC will refine Phase 2 of the S-100 Roadmap and work together with IRCC to possibly reorganize its working structures in line with the new IHO Strategic Plan and decisions from Assembly, if approved by Council-9.

C.2 Report of Re-Survey Monitoring Working Group (MWG)

Docs: Report of MWG.pdf

The Monitoring Working Group (MWG) reported steady progress on hydrographic re-surveys across the Baltic Sea ahead of the 30th BSHC Conference in Riga. All EU member states have now completed their Category I surveys, though new routing measures in Lithuanian waters created some additional survey needs.

Recent highlights include Denmark's use of satellite-derived bathymetry in the Kattegat, Finland's alignment of LiDAR and multibeam surveys (saving up to 20% of survey time), and Germany's work on AI-based boulder detection.

Looking ahead, MWG will continue updating the HELCOM Re-Survey Database, seek EU funding for future work, and encourage re-surveys in the South-Eastern Baltic where traffic data reveals new shipping activity. The group also aims to strengthen cooperation with IHO and ensure adoption of the latest S-44 survey standards.

C.3 Report of Chart Datum, Water level and Currents Working Group (CDWCWG)

*Docs: CDWCWG report.pdf
CDWCWG presentation.pdf*

The Chart Datum, Water Level and Currents Working Group (CDWCWG) has made significant progress since BSHC29, with its focus on implementing the Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 (BSCD2000) and preparing for S-104 and S-111. A key milestone was the release of the first BSCD2000 Height Transformation Grid in late 2023, a crucial step for harmonized depth data across the region.

In March 2025, the group met in Tallinn, welcoming new experts and launching a harmonisation subgroup to align S-104 and S-111 development across the Baltic. Cooperation with BOOS and the Baltic Sea e-Nav project is central, with early pilots of water level and current services already underway.

Looking ahead, the group will refine regional product guidelines, update its roadmap through 2030, and continue guiding member states on adopting BSCD2000, while building stronger links with North Sea partners to ensure harmonised solutions.

Next meeting in person is planned in March 2026 in Riga, Latvia.

Action BSHC30/5: Chair is tasked to share with NSHC findings on product harmonisation guidelines for S-104 and S-111.

Decision BSHC30/D3: To approve amended ToR (with small comments) of BSCDWCWG

Decision BSHC30/D4: To endorse product harmonization guidelines for S-104 and S-111, with the aim to approve at the next BSHC Conference

C.4 Report on e-Nav

Docs: e-Nav report.pdf

The Baltic Sea e-Nav partnership, led by Sweden with partners also from Germany, Finland, Denmark, Estonia, and Latvia, is entering its final phase. The project is building full production capability for S-100 products: S-101 ENCs, S-102 bathymetry, and in Finland, S-104 water levels and S-111 surface currents.

In 2025, pilot tests in Finland using Furuno's upgraded prototype ECDIS confirmed the added value of S-100 products—greater safety margins, more efficient routing, and fewer nuisance alerts. Harmonisation rules for S-101 have been finalised, while S-102 guidelines are still being refined.

By 2026, mariners will see S-101 ENCs and S-102 bathymetry across the Baltic's main shipping routes, with FMI rolling out S-104 and S-111 services for Finnish waters.

SE indicated that the project is "on track" timewise, results so far have proven necessity of the cooperation in early S100 production.

All MS joined thanking SE for great value and excellent lead.

C.5 Status of S-100 Implementation and National Coordination

All member states reported their plans and progress in respect to S100. It was agreed to include this as an agenda item for the next BSHC meeting. No further decision or action required.

D.1 Actions requested by IRCC

Docs: [DK info paper IRCC recommendations.pdf](#)

Thomas Dehling in capacity of Chairman of IRCC provided the report on the last IRCC meeting that was held in IHB premises, Monaco. In the report Thomas Dehling addressed also IRCC Recommendations to RHCs. Within his report, Agenda item **D7 IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee issues review** was covered.

Denmark raised a question (see INF paper submitted by DK) with regards to recommendation IRCC17/042 suggesting that water level adjustment products should become “mandatory.” But what does *mandatory* truly mean? INF paper triggered intensive discussion among BSHC attendees, although DK did not request to solve the discussion at BSHC, but informed on their plan to submit an INF Paper to WENDWG16 in 2026. It was agreed that Denmark will share their info paper to WENDWG16 for possible co-sponsorship by other BSHC member states.

BSHC took a common decision to support proposal from Recommendation IRCC17/094 – annual IRCC meeting, year before Assembly, to be held at the IHO Secretariat’s Premises in Monaco.

Poland provided information on S101 Training course that is planned to be held in Poland and kindly supported by PRIMAR Capacity Building Fund. The training course is scheduled mid October 2025.

Action BSHC30/6: Denmark to share their draft paper to WENDWG16 linked to IRCC Recommendation 042 for possible co-sponsorship by other BSHC member states

Decision BSHC30/D5: BSHC supports proposal to organize IRCC Meeting in Monaco every preceding year before the Assembly

D.2 Status report of the IHO-EU Network Report (IENWG)

Docs: [IHO-EU Network report.pdf](#)

In May 2025, Members of IENWG gathered in Cork, Ireland, alongside European Maritime Day, to strengthen ties between the International Hydrographic Organization and the European Union. IENWG discussed how EU policies and new technologies are reshaping hydrography. They discussed drone-based surveying in Madeira, the long-term vision for EMODnet, and innovative projects in the Baltic Sea and France linked to the S-100 data model. Issues such as remote hydrography regulations, seabed infrastructure security, and capacity building were also on the table. The importance of growing cooperation between Hydrographic Offices and European Union was emphasised.

D.3 VILKKU – A System for Navigational Warnings

Docs: [System for National Warnings, Finland.pdf](#)

Finland provided the report on a new management system for Navigational Warnings. The aging warning system is being replaced by **VILKKU**, a modern platform built on the international S-124 standard. Developed by Fintraffic VTS, it will provide ships with harmonized, real-time navigational warnings. The first version is expected to go live by the end of 2025, but discussions continue how best to share data, synchronize bulletins, and handle special cases.

D.4 Report of the Baltic Sea Maritime Safety Information Working Group (BSMSIWG) *Docs: [BSMSIWG report.pdf](#)*

Sweden provided the report on Baltic Sea Maritime Safety Information Working Group activities. The group met in June and prepared for its first in-person gathering in Hamburg that autumn. One of the biggest challenges was the rising number of navigational warnings—over a thousand in 2024—straining the NAVTEX system. On top of that, GNSS jamming and spoofing in the Baltic has created new risks, with Finland even reporting near-miss incidents. Alongside tackling these threats, the group coordinated the rollout of the new S-124 standard and adjusted the official borders of the Baltic Sea sub-area.

UKHO informed all participants that Russian Federation has stopped publishing Notices to Mariners, and publishes them only on Russian military website with no access from other countries.

D.5 Report of BSHC representative to WENDWG

Docs: [WENDWG report.pdf](#)

Finland (Jarmo Makinen) provided the report on WENDWG issues. WENDWG15 meeting took place in Wollongong, Australia. The WEND Working Group focused on preparing for the transition to S-100 era. While progress was evident—especially in the Baltic region - many challenges emerged: uneven readiness among countries, over 500 overlapping ENC's, and uncertainty about how best to deliver the new products to mariners. Industry and regulators debated whether distribution should follow strict international standards or flexible market-driven models. Despite delays in technical tools, the group agreed that harmonized solutions and better communication with mariners are essential for a smooth transition.

D.6 Report of Baltic Sea INT Chart Coordination Working Group

Docs:

D.6. *[S102 Regional harmonisation guidelines.pdf](#)*

D.6.ANX1 *[S101 Harmonisation guidelines.pdf](#)*

D.6.REP *[BSICCWG report.pdf](#)*

Jarmo Makinen (Finland) presented report of BSICCWG. This year WG gathered in Klaipėda. Each country presented its plans for S-101 electronic charts and S-102 bathymetric data—some ready to launch in 2026, others still testing and refining systems. The group debated how to harmonize charting practices, reduce overlaps, and manage the slow decline of traditional paper charts.

BSHC29/2024 tasked BSICCWG to prepare product harmonization guidelines for S101 and S102. Working on both documents it was realized that additional experience would be very helpful in respect to S102. Chair of BSICCWG invited all MS to consider proposing additional experts in order to continue updating both draft harmonization guidelines. Documents were provided for BSHC30 to be approved.

BSHC30 was requested by the Chair of BSICCWG to approve both documents. It was decided to discuss and approve both guidelines separately. Commission decided to approve S101 harmonization guidelines, no specific comments provided. Discussing S102 harmonization guidelines Denmark invited to note their comments provided preparing document and expressed opinion that document should be updated during the course. It was agreed that both S101 and S102 will be living documents and BSHC30 approves 1st version of those. It was also decided that both documents require continuous follow-up and update.

WG Chair Jarmo Mäkinen once again informed BSHC about his plans to leave the post (because of retirement) and invited all MS to consider candidates for both Chair and Vice-chair of BSICCWG. It was agreed to provide names of potential candidates for chair and vice-chair of BSICCWG till the end of October 2025 and the to organize voting in order to approve new leaders of the WG.

Chair of BSHC30 on behalf of all MS expressed gratitude and appreciation to Jarmo Makinen for outstanding service through all these years for the quality, achievements and results. Chair also expressed his confidence that Jarmo Makinen will share his knowledge and experience to successors.

[Action BSHC30/7: Inform Chair on a candidate for a new chair of BSICCWG](#)

[Action BSHC30/8: Organize voting via correspondence in order to appoint new Chair and Vice-Chair of BSICCWG](#)

[Action BSHC30/9: Reconsider additional representatives in BSICCWG with a competency in maintaining S102 harmonization guidelines](#)

Decision BSHC30/D6: BSHC30 adopts BSHC S101 harmonization guidelines submitted by BSICCWG as 1st edition, requires continuous follow-up and update

Decision BSHC30/D7: BSHC30 adopts BSHCs S102 harmonization guidelines submitted by BSICCWG, as 1st edition, requires continuous follow-up and update, DK comments noted

D.7 IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee issues review

This agenda item was covered together with D.1

D.8 BSHC Website

Docs: BSHC Website report

Sweden provided report on BSHC website. There have not been any major interruptions over the last year. Managed by Sweden's SMA, it continues to host working group updates—most notably for CDWCWG and BSCD2000—while drawing nearly 11,000 visits from around the world. Though the site has experienced a few attempted cyberattacks, none caused disruption.

As it regards future of BSHC website it was agreed that it should be considered and discussed how to utilize potential of IHO Portal. Sweden agreed to provide initial discussion paper for BSHC31. Chair invited to correct the list of Members of BSHC as Lithuania has joined IHO and signed statutes of BSHC.

Action BSHC30/10: Provide initial ideas how to utilize IHO portal for BSHC

Action BSHC30/11: Correct info on BSHC website (www.bshc.pro) regarding Lithuania's full membership in BSHC

D.9 Report on GEBCO, EMODNET, CSB

Docs: EMODNet, CSB and GEBCO report

Sweden presented report on this agenda item. Sweden, as regional coordinator, oversaw the EMODnet project, reminding partners to deliver updated data by early 2026 for the next digital terrain model. Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry was also in focus: although hundreds of ships already contribute depth data, the potential is vast if more merchant vessels join in. Meanwhile, GEBCO released its 2025 global grid, blending EMODnet and crowdsourced data. It was agreed to move action items BSHC29/15 and BSHC29/16 to Permanent Action List of BSHC

The Seabed 2030 initiative calls on to complete global ocean mapping by the end of the decade. Sweden invited to take a decision to signing MoU with Seabed 2030. SE, DE, FI and DK informed about their readiness to sign such a MoU. Similar MoU has been signed by Nordic Hydrographic Commission in 2024. EE, LV, LT and PL in general were not against signing the MoU, but indicated that additional time is required to find out details. It was agreed that EE, LV, LT, and PL will indicate their position on signing the MoU till the end of October 2025. It was also agreed that Chair of BSHC could sign the MoU with SEABED2030 at the next BSHC31 meeting 2026 on behalf of all member states thus trying to find less complicated procedure.

Action BSHC30/12: Consider signing the MoU of SEABED 2030 Project and report to BSHC31. Chair would sign the MoU on Behalf of BSHC

Decision BSHC30/D8: If EE, LV, LT, PL confirm that BSHC should sign a MoU with the SEABED 2030 Project the BSHC Chair should sign such a MoU.

F. Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair reminded that according to statutes Vice-Chair becomes the next Chair at the end of the regular BSHC meeting. Janis Krastins invited BSHC30 to elect Mr. Tomas Kolendo as the next Chair of BSHC, Commission by the acclamation approved the decision. Participants were also informed that according to the list it is proposed that Germany takes the position of Vice-Chair. Again, by acclamation Thomas Dehling was approved as Vice-Chair of BSHC.

Decision BSHC30/D9: To elect Tomas Kolendo (Lithuania) as Chair of BSHC and Thomas Dehling (Germany) as Vice-Chair of BSHC

G. Place and date of next Conference

Lithuania invited BSHC31 to Lithuania. Dates for BSHC31 was agreed to be September 2026, 22-24 (Tuesday-Thursday), the place will be specified.

Decision BSHC30/D10: The BSHC31 will be held in Lithuania on 22-24 of September 2026 in Lithuania. The detailed information on the city will be provided later, closer to the event.

Prior closure of the meeting IHO Secretary General Dr. Mathias Jonas requested a floor informing participants of the meeting that he will retire from his post in September 2026. He expressed his gratitude and happiness for being able to be once a Member of BSHC and still enjoying coming back already in different status for cooperative spirit and excellent working environment in this RHC.

All participants of the meeting thanked Dr. Mathias Jonas for his passionate involvement both as member and as IHO Secretary-General and expressed their hopes to cooperate in one or another way in future and wished all the best for his retirement.