



Our date: 2nd June 2022
Our reference: 22-00013-18

BSHC Letter 2/2022

Extraordinary Decision:

Temporarily Suspend all BSHC-related Activities with the Russian Federation

References:

1. BSHC Letter 1/2022
<http://www.bshc.pro/>
2. IHO Resolution 2/1997 (as amended) Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions
<https://iho.int/uploads/user/pubs/misc/M3-E-01042022.pdf>
3. Statutes of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission
https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/RHC/BSHC/MISC/BSHC_Statutes_Sep-21.pdf

As you previously have been informed (Ref. 1) all meetings of BSHC bodies and working groups under the BSHC umbrella were suspended with immediate effect until further notice.

IHO Resolution 2/1997 (Ref. 2) encourages the establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) by IHO Member States (MS) who have common regional interests in data collecting or nautical charting in a particular region. A key objective of Commissions is to promote technical cooperation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography, and nautical information in support of safety of navigation and all other marine purposes. Commissions operate independently of the IHO and are governed by their own agreed-upon statutes.

The BSHC developed its statutes (Ref. 3), using Res. 2/1997 as a foundation, and are predicated on a spirit of friendly and cordial cooperation, and BSHC conducts its work with respect for the sovereign rights of Member States. Presently the Baltic Sea MS of the European Union have unanimously come to the conclusion that collaboration with the Russian Federation is considered no longer technically possible under the current situation in Ukraine.

In order for the work of the Commission to continue the Baltic Sea Member States of the European Union which are also BSHC MS (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland and Sweden) and BSHC associated MS (Lithuania), after intense reflection, have decided to temporarily suspend all of their BSHC-related activities with the Russian Federation. This decision comes into force at the date of this letter and will be evaluated continually vis-à-vis the international situation.

It is hoped that this measure will be of a short duration and that full cooperation can resume in the near future.

During this period, the BSHC remains committed to carefully monitor the situation in the Baltic Sea in order to provide any potential contribution to maintain the safety of navigation and to safeguard the protection of environment.

Distribution (by BSHC Chair): BSHC Members and Associate Members

Copy: IHO Secretariat, for publication on the IHO BSHC website

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magnus Wallhagen', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Magnus Wallhagen

BSHC Chair