



Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission/BSICCWG

Approved by the BSHC 28th Conference, 19 – 21 September 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE for the BALTIC SEA INTERNATIONAL CHARTING COORDINATION WORKING GROUP (REGION E)

1. Background

- 1.1 The *Baltic Sea* Hydrographic Commission recognizes the need to actively develop and maintain official nautical charts, in both paper and digital formats, that support ships engaged on international voyages in its region. Accordingly, it appoints and directs a working group to undertake this task. The working group shall be named the *Baltic Sea* International Charting Coordination Working Group (BSICCWG).
- 1.2 The BSICCWG is a subsidiary body of the *Baltic Sea* Hydrographic Commission. It shall conduct its work in accordance with these Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure. The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission may clarify or amend these generic Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the BSICCWG in order for these to be made specifically relevant and applicable to its region. Its work is subject to the Hydrographic Commission's approval.

2. Terms of Reference

- 2.1 To study issues related to nautical charting of the region, in particular overarching S-100 coordination (gathering plans from Member States and reporting as WEND representative of the BSHC). To specifically coordinate of S-101 ENCs and S-102 Bathymetry as well as to coordinate production of paper charts (INT charts) and S-57 ENCs, that support ships engaged on international voyages.
- 2.2 To develop and maintain an integrated international chart scheme for the region for ENCs (S-57 and S-101) and INT charts.
- 2.3 To harmonize similar content of S-102 Bathymetry products in the Baltic Sea.
- 2.4 To reach decisions on the maintenance and updating of the documents for which it is responsible.
- 2.5 To provide advice on chart schemes to individual Member States, in order to encourage adherence to IHO charting regulations, specifications and standards, and to promote and coordinate the production of international (INT) charts, ENCs (S-57, S-101), S-102 Bathymetry and applicable additional S-100 layers for navigation in accordance with the WEND-100 Principles.
- 2.6 To develop proposals for new or amended chart schemes to meet evolving user needs (for example, the introduction of new or amended routeing measures, the confirmed developments of international ports).
- 2.7 To coordinate the development and maintenance of ENC schemes, by regional

agreement, to ensure consistent parameters are used in the compilation of ENC. To report on an annual basis to the BSHC of the implementation of ENC harmonization actions needed for the consistent implementation of S-101 ENCs in the region.

To act as the custodian and maintainer of official version-controlled catalogues, depicting the status of published and planned charts, subject to formal review and approval by Member States of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission. However, the ENC catalogues may be maintained by RENCs subject to Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission's approval. Also to maintain the IHO Online Catalogue for ENCs and INT Charts in the region and to provide advice to the IHO Secretariat on any amendments required.

To provide advice to the IHO Secretariat on any amendments required to maintain S-11 Part B: INTERNATIONAL Chart Web Catalogue (for example, scale, limits, numbering) and, as appropriate, any corresponding ENC catalogue.

- 2.8 To provide advice to Chair NCWG and IHO Secretariat on any amendments required to maintain S-11.
- 2.9 To undertake professional consideration of new information of interest to the BSICCWG which may impact its business and responsibilities.

3 Rules of Procedure

- 3.1 Membership is open to all members and associate members (Member States) of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission wishing to be represented. Each Member State shall be represented through a single point of contact. Noting the technical nature of the Group's work, participation should be limited to representatives of Hydrographic Offices concerned with nautical charting.
- 3.2 The Coordinator will monitor membership to encourage active participation by all chart-producing Member States within the Region.
- 3.3 Non-Governmental International Organizations recognized by the IHO may participate as observers in BSICCWG activities, where matters of special interest to the NGIO concerned are being considered (IHO Resolution 5/1957 as amended, rule 6.c refers).
- 3.4 The Coordinator role shall be held by a Member State participating in the BSICCWG. The election of the Coordinator, or the reconfirmation of the existing Coordinator, shall be decided by the *Baltic Sea* Hydrographic Commission at an ordinary meeting or, where a meeting is not convened, by correspondence. Election shall be determined by a simple majority of Member States present and voting (or responding, where determined by correspondence).
- 3.5 Normally, a Vice-Coordinator is not required to be appointed. However, if a Vice-Coordinator is appointed by the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission:
 - Election to the post will be by the same method as for the Coordinator;
 - The Vice-Coordinator shall act as the Coordinator, with the same powers and duties, in the event that the Coordinator is unable to carry out the duties;
 - The Coordinator and Vice-Coordinator will decide between them the organization of the work entailed in these posts, or these may be defined by the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission.
- 3.6 Conduct of business will be primarily by correspondence and meetings. If meetings are required, these should be planned with due regard to efficiency and obtaining the fullest

membership support (for example, by holding meetings in association with other working group meetings of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission. All members shall inform the Coordinator in advance of their intention to attend meetings of the BSICCWG. The working language shall be English.

3.7 Draft proposals will be circulated for review and comment to:

- All members of the BSICCWG and, where appropriate, all members of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission;
- Coordinators of adjoining regional ICCWG, if the scheme impacts on those regions (for example, to ensure consistency and coherence of coverage across regional boundaries, for the allocation of chart numbers);
- Hydrographic Offices producing or printing charts of the Region;
- Chair NCWG, if independent advice is required.

3.8 Decisions shall be made by consensus.

3.9 Where required, a Work Plan should be developed and maintained. This should include task priorities and the expected time frames for progressing tasks. The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission may delegate tasks to the BSICCWG as it sees fit; it is also available to provide guidance on request (for example, in respect of priorities).

3.10 The Coordinator will report progress to meetings of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission and at other reasonable times, on request. Reports shall include but are not limited to:

- An updated Regional INT Chart Catalogue;
- An update of the ENC Catalogue relevant to the Region (if not undertaken by RENCs);
- Changes made to the scheme of INT Charts for the Region, approved by the BSICCWG since the last report, together with a summary of reasons;
- Changes made to the ENC scheme for the Region, approved by the BSICCWG since the last report, together with a summary of reasons;
- To report overarching S-100 coordination (gathering plans from Member States and reporting as WEND representative of the BSHC)
- To report on an annual basis to the BSHC of the implementation of ENC harmonization actions needed for the consistent implementation of S-101 ENCs and S-102 in the region.
- An updated Work Plan (if used).

3.11 All participants, including Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission members and associate members where not directly represented in the BSICCWG, shall keep the Coordinator informed of any information relevant to the BSICCWG. This may include:

- Submitting proposals for new INT Charts, or amendments (for example, to limits, scale of portrayal) to existing INT Charts, in the Region;
- Requesting new INT Chart numbers for new charts that are planned;
- Reporting the status of production of international charts (INT Charts and ENCs).

3.12 BSICCWG members shall respond in a timely manner to all reasonable requests for advice from the Coordinator (for example, requests for updating the Catalogue of the INT Charts of the Region, change in points of contact), abiding by all reasonable stated deadlines.

3.13 The work shall be done in accordance with:

- IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended: 'Principles of the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND)', to ensure a world-wide consistent level of high-quality, updated ENC's;
- S-57: 'IHO Transfer Standard for Digital Hydrographic Data';
- S-11 Part A: 'Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International (INT) Charts and ENC Schemes';
- S-11 Part B- INTERNATIONAL Chart Web Catalogue.
- S-4: 'Chart Specifications of the IHO and Regulations for International (INT) Charts', which provides the internationally-agreed product specification for both national and international (INT) charts;
- S-65 : 'Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) "Production, Maintenance and Distribution Guidance"'.
- S-101: ENC Product Specification
- S-102: Bathymetric Surface Product Specification
- Roadmap for the S-100 Implementation Decade