



North Sea – Baltic Sea – MSDI working Group

*Thoughts on the future and why
international collaboration is damn hard...*

**36th North Sea Hydrographic
Commission meeting
29 – 30 March 2023**

Short on the group

- Christian Thellufsen temporarily chairman since Jens Peter Hartmann stopped in 2022
- MSDI working group under Baltic Sea HC and North Sea HC
- Members: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland, Germany
- Focus on monitoring status of MSDI, policy development, integration of information and regional cooperation
- A different presentation today than usual

I met a patient with some fever...

- A very ambitious work program decided in 2021 – but no one had yet signed up for the work tasks
- Terms of References had not been updated in 8 years – a lot have happened since then!
- Some member countries did not find the group valuable



Shout out for
meeting
19 January 2023

At a crossroad

1. Carry on as usual
2. Change the course
3. Close the group with a huge shoulder clap



1/3: No added value
1/3: Continue with a sharper focus
1/3: Follow the majority's decision

Plan for the group now

- Core Group established: Ellen Vos (NL), Njål Tengs-Hagir (NO), Juha Tiihonen (FI), Christian Thellufsen (DK)
- Tasks:
 - Simplify and specify group's goals
 - Consider changes to Terms of Reference
- Next Meeting: 31 March
- Postponed due to planned discussion on the group during the NSHC Meeting

Agenda

- Election of the new chairman
- Discussion of the direction of the work program and the level of ambition in the group
- New Terms of References?
- Selection of topics for the new (simple) work program

Why is the MSDI patient feeling sick?

- Numerous groups on MSDI today – where to focus?
- General few resources for international work
- Hydrografic organisations have different focus – some deal with MSDI - some don't
- Too ambitious work program
- Often change of members in the group
- Different ambitions among the member – a few do most of the work

Take aways for other working groups

- Set a realistic level of ambition and be very concrete on your goals
- A closer relationship in regard to focus and “health” between the HCs and the sub-groups probably will be beneficial
- Evaluate often within the group

Is this group the only one with fever?





Thank you