

Regional product harmonisation guidelines for S-104 and S-111 in the Baltic Sea

NSHC Tidal Working Group

2026-02-03

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Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)



BALTIC SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



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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 ENCs, 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

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Chart Datum, Water level and Currents Working Group (CDWCWG)

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“To implement a common reference system, S-104 and S-111 in the Baltic Sea”



Photo: Chart Datum, Water level and Currents Working Group 2nd meeting, 25-26 March 2025, Tallinn, Estonia

<https://www.bshc.pro/working-groups/cdwcwg>

Members of CDWCWG:

Denmark	Mr Kristian Villadsen Kristmar
Estonia	Mrs Gabriela Kotsulim
Finland	Mr Jyrki Mononen
Finland	Mrs Anni Jokiniemi
Germany	Dr Patrick Westfeld
Latvia	Mr Bruno Špēls
Lithuania	Mr Mindaugas Zakarauskas
Poland	Mr Witold Stasiak
Poland	Mrs Alicja Olszewska
Russia	Mr Leonid Shalnov
Russia	Dr Sergey V. Reshetniak
Sweden	Mr Thomas Hammarklint (Chair)
Sweden	Mr Henrik Tengbert

Observers and Experts:

Estonia	Prof. Artu Ellmann
Estonia	Dr Sander Varbla
Estonia	Dr Nicole Camille Delpeche-Ellmann
Finland	Mr Jarmo Mäkinen
Finland	Dr Jani Särkkä
Finland	Dr Mirjam Bilker-Koivula
Finland	Dr Timo Saari
Germany	Dr Xaver Lange
Germany	Mr Thorben Knoop
Germany	Dr Gunter Liebsch
Germany	Dr Joachim Schwabe
Latvia	Mr Armands Murans
Latvia	Mr Kristis Dzenis
Lithuania	Mr Emilis Tertelis
Lithuania	Mr Romuald Obuchovski
Norway	Mr Aksel Voldsund
Poland	Mr Krzysztof Pyrchla
Poland	Dr Monika Wilde-Piórko
Poland	Dr Malgorzata Szelachowska
Sweden	Dr Jonas Ågren
Sweden	Dr Per-Anders Olsson
Sweden	Mrs Johanna Linders

Implementation status 2025

Summary implementation of BSCD2000, S-104 and S-111 status 2025:

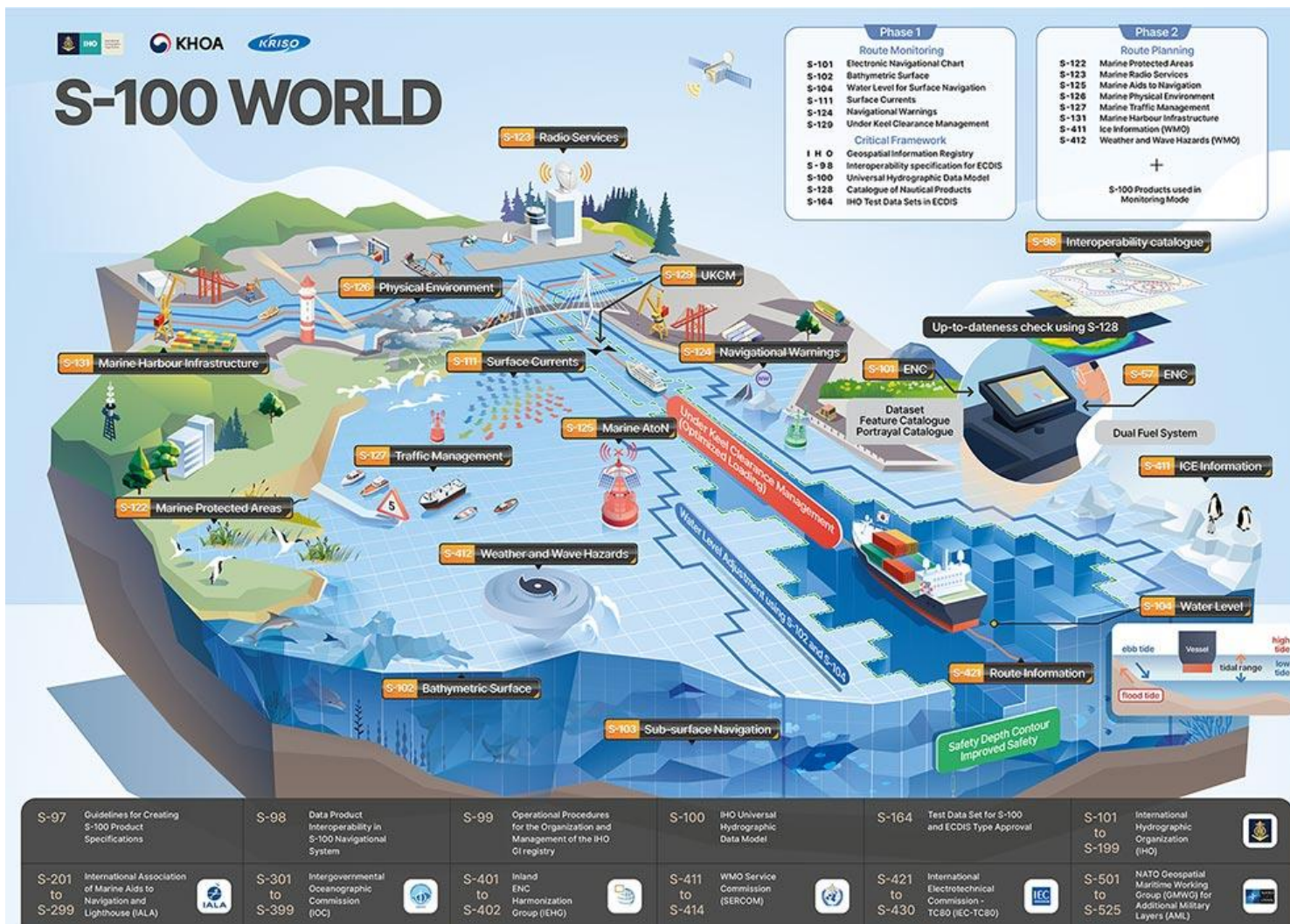
Country	Status BSCD2000 for charts	Status BSCD2000 for water level (see mwreg_boos)	Status S-104/S-111
Denmark	Chart datum in practice close to EVRS-based chart datum (DVR90). BSCD2000 is implemented in ENC and will be implemented in paper charts in the order of reprinting.	All Danish water level stations are connected to DVR90 (approx. BSCD2000). Data distributed to BOOS/CMEMS in relation to DVR90 . Responsibility of Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI), Danish Coastal Authority (Kystdirektoratet) and Danish Environmental Protection Agency (Miljøstyrelsen).	DMI and FCOO (Forsvaret Center for Operativ Oceanografi) is responsible for water level and current information. Have a plan for S-104 and S-111. DGA and DMI coordinates the work.
Estonia	All decisions are taken and the implementation is ongoing. All Berthing and Harbour cells and larger paper scales are in the new height system BSCD2000. Official use in charts and water level information from 2018-01-01. Notices to Mariners 2022-12-01, Info Sheet . Web application Nutimer displays Estonian Transport Administration's official electronic navigational charts.	All Estonian water level stations are connected to EH2000 (BSCD2000). Data distributed to BOOS/CMEMS in relation to BHS77 (old system) . The difference between BHS77 and EH2000 reaches up to 26 cm in the Gulf of Finland. Responsibility of Taltech Marine Systems Institute (MSI) and Estonian Environmental Agency (EEA).	Discussions are ongoing between EMA and MSI. MSI and EEA are responsible for water level and current information. EMA coordinates the work.
Finland	Ongoing. All decisions are taken already in 2008 and 2015. Approach charts from Tornio to Vaasa have been published. The publication status of N2000 charts and Finnish nautical charts portfolio . New video about the N2000 fairway and nautical chart reform.	Water level information provided in both systems, mean sea level (MSL) and N2000 (BSCD2000). The differences between MSL and N2000 is provided as a Table . Water level observations and forecasts will be available in N2000 for the public simultaneously with Traficom nautical charts. Data distributed to BOOS/CMEMS in relation to MSL . Responsibility of Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI).	The first test products of S-104 and S-111 will be created by FMI in the Baltic Sea e-Nav-project until 2026. FMI is responsible for water level and current information. Traficom and FMI coordinates the work.
Germany	EVRS realization in use in practice. The vertical chart datum of BSCD2000 is close to the national height system of Germany (ETRS1989+DHHN2016). All published products will refer to this datum. In August 2021, BSCD2000 was officially introduced as chart datum for German waters in the Baltic Sea . The official introduction was decreed in January 2018 and is binding for all institutions coming under the jurisdiction of the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV).	All German water level stations refers to the national height system DHHN2016 (BSCD2000). Data distributed to BOOS/CMEMS in relation to DHHN2016, but metadata refers to SNN76/Kronstadt (old system) . Responsibility of Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV).	BSH is responsible for water level and current information. BSH coordinates the work.
Latvia	All Paper Charts of Latvia are already implemented to BSCD, LAS-2000,5 since 24.01.2024. All approach and other scale band ENC's are implemented to BSCD2000, LAS-2000,5. Further planned actions are to continue production in BSCD2000, LAS-2000,5 and to implement it into S-100 standard.	All water level stations is connected to LAS-2000,5 (BSCD2000). Data distributed to BOOS/CMEMS in relation to LAS-2000,5 . Responsibility of Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre (LVGMC).	Meeting between MAL and LVGMC officials has been held about S-104 and S-111. MAL coordinates the work.
Lithuania	National height system LAS-07 (BSCD2000) came into force 2016-01-01. BHS-77 still used. The difference between BHS-77 and LAS-07 is well known (about 13 cm) and is also written in nautical charts.	All water level stations is connected to LAS-07 (BSCD2000). Data distributed to BOOS/CMEMS in relation to BHS-77 (old system) . Responsibility of Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service (LHMS).	Data owner has been identified. LHMS is responsible for water level information and Klaipėda University (KU) for currents. L TSA coordinates the work.
Poland	The implementation of BSCD2000 in PL waters are completed. All charts have been updated to the BSCD2000 (PL-EVRF2007-NH). The last chart (chart No. 500 – general band) was updated in December 2024. All bathymetric data have earlier been transferred to the vertical reference system PL-EVRF2007-NH.	All water level stations is connected to PL-EVRF2007-NH (BSCD2000). Data distributed to BOOS/CMEMS in relation to Amsterdam NN55, but metadata refers to BHS77 . The difference between the NN55 and PL-EVRF2007-NH is less than 9 cm. Responsibility of Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMGW-PIB).	Agreement with IMGW and Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IOPAN) to provide observed and modelled water level and surface currents data, respectively. HOPN coordinates the work.
Sweden	Ongoing. All decisions are taken. Many charts (ca 50%) already published. Implementation is a part of the "Chart Improvement Project", to be concluded at the latest in 2030. Information campaigns is ongoing for ports, pilots and other interested parties. Notices to Mariners 2019-05-15 . Several articles written in magazines and on webpages.	All water level information is presented in relation to RH2000 (BSCD2000), since 2019-06-03. Some applications can also present data in relation to mean sea level (MSL). The differences between MSL and RH2000 is provided in this Table . Data distributed to BOOS/CMEMS in relation to BSCD2000 . Responsibility of Swedish Maritime Administration (SMA) and Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI).	Discussions started between SMA and SMHI. SMA and SMHI take part in the BS e-Nav-project in cooperation with FMI on this. We will take further actions in 2025. SMA coordinates the work.

2025-03-25

Future Maritime Services S-100



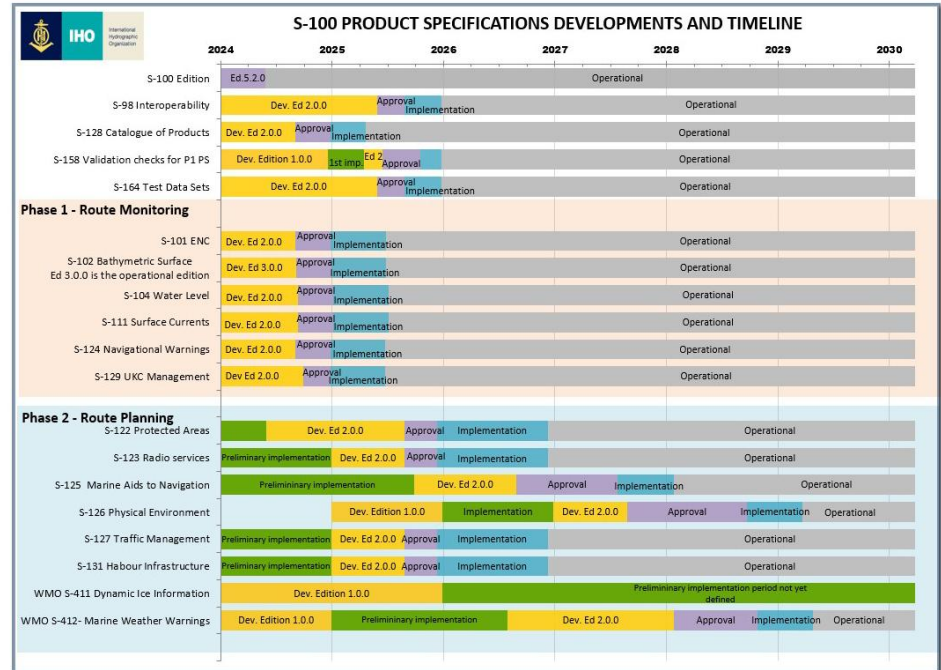
IHO



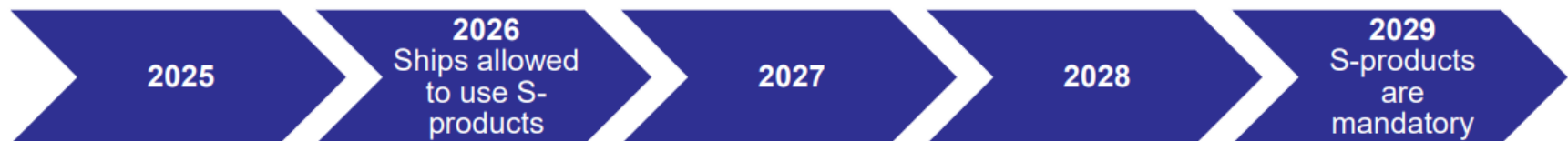
S-100 Implementation

IHO S-100 Implementation Strategy

Table A – IHO list of S-100 products with special focus	
First step – Route monitoring mode	
S-101	Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC)
S-102	Bathymetric Surface
S-104	Water Level Information for Surface Navigation
S-111	Surface Currents
S-124	Navigational Warnings
S-129	Under Keel Clearance Management
Critical Framework	
	IHO Geospatial Information Registry
S-98	Interoperability Specification
S-100	Universal Hydrographic Data Model
S-128	Catalogue of Nautical Products
S-164	Test Data Set for S-100 and ECDIS Type Approval
Second step – Route planning mode	
S-122	Marine Protected Areas
S-123	Marine Radio Services
S-125	Marine Aids to Navigational (AtoN)
S-126	Marine Physical Environment
S-127	Marine Traffic Management
S-131	Marine Harbour Infrastructure



This S-100 timeline is updated: 02/07/2024



S-100 Implementation Sweden

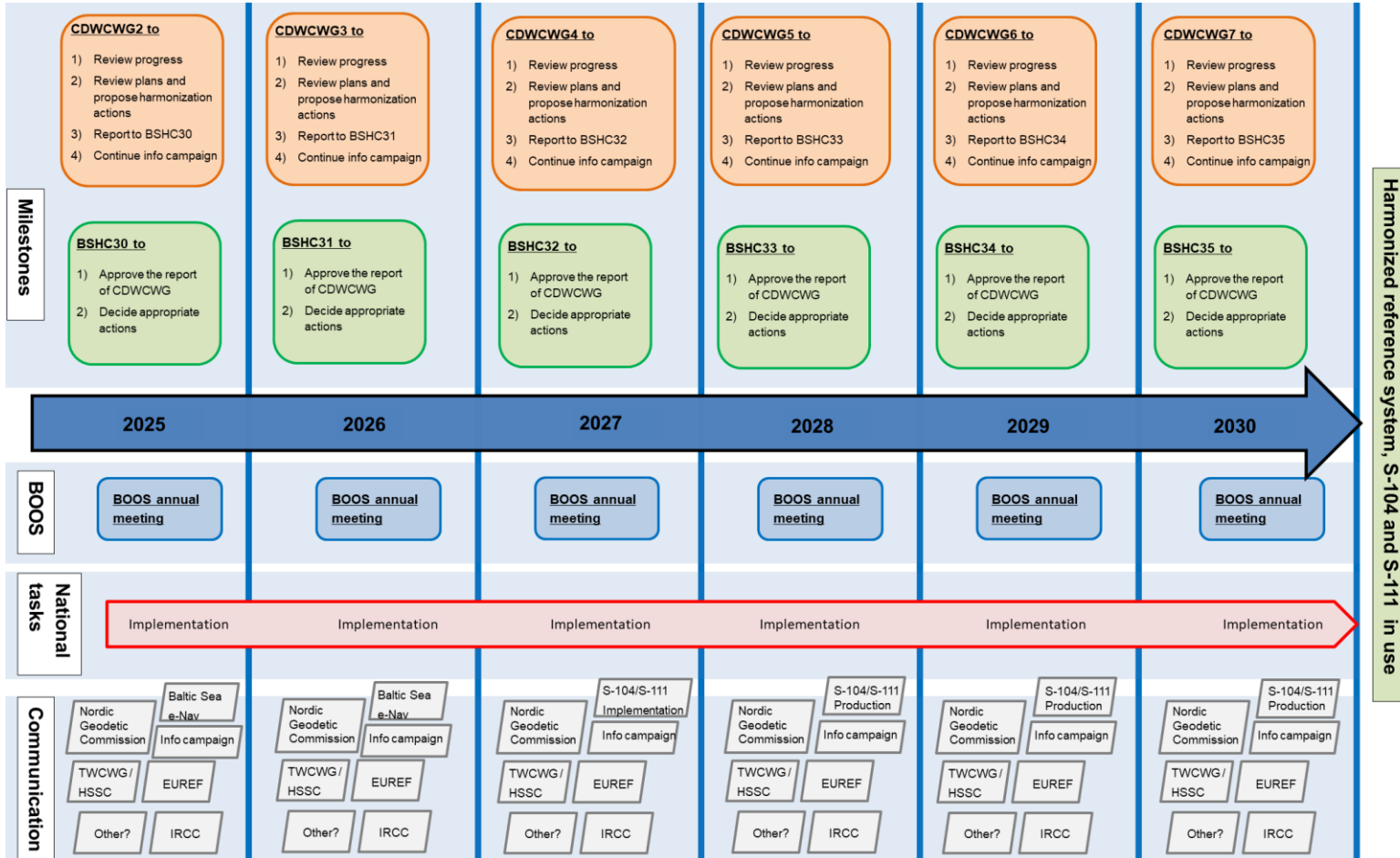
Products	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
ENC S-101									
Bathymetry S-102									
Ensuring confidentiality rules for S-102									
Catalogue of Nautical Products S-128 via PRIMAR									
Water Level S-104 (in cooperation with SMHI*)									
Surface Currents S-111 (in cooperation with SMHI*)									
Navigational Warnings S-124									
Marine Protected Areas S-122 (in cooperation with SwAM*)									
Marine Radio Services S-123									
Marine Traffic Management S-127									
Marine Harbour Infrastructure S-131									

*SMHI – Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, SwAM – Swedish Agency Marine and Water Management

CDWCWG Roadmap

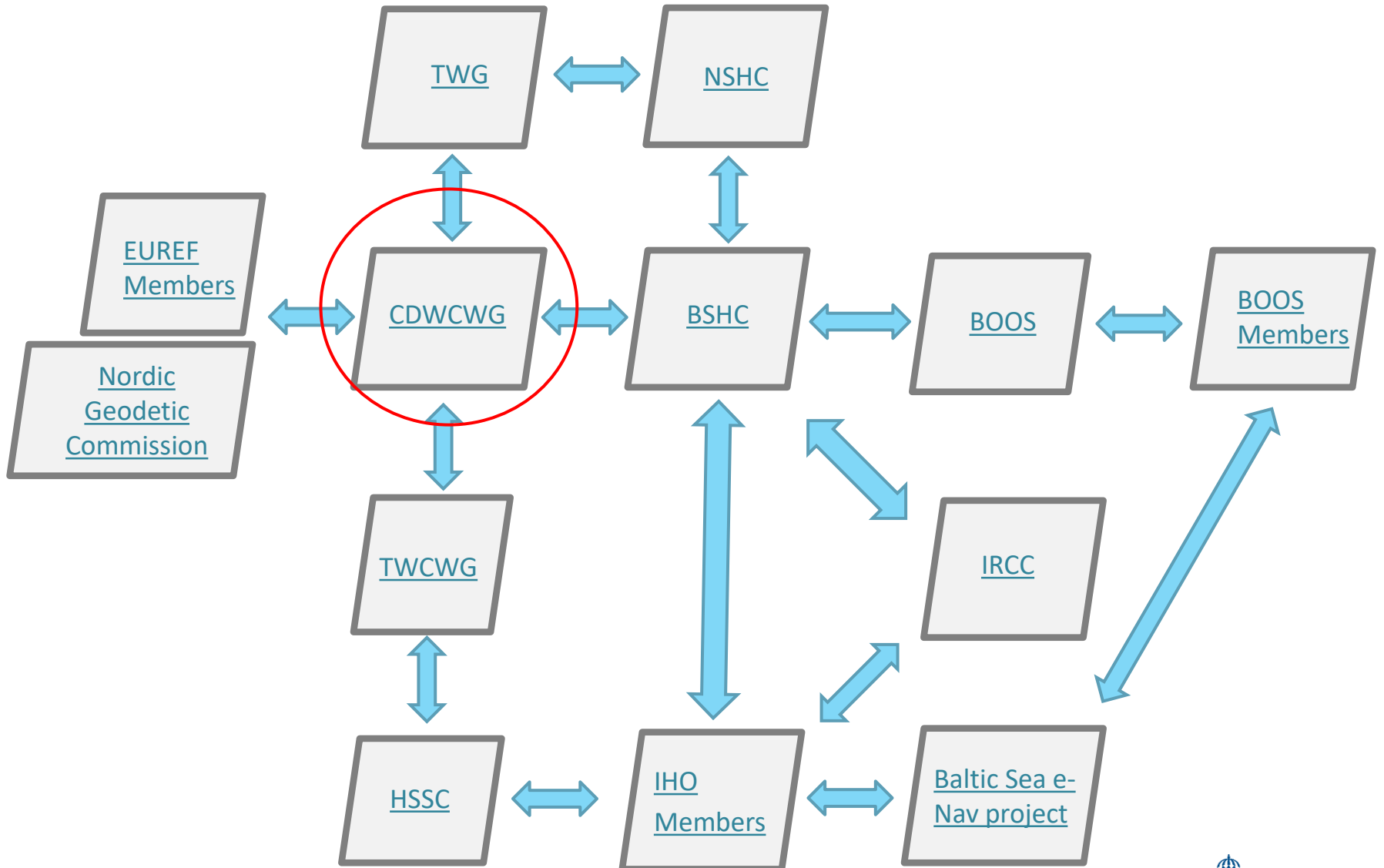
RoadMap

BSHC CDWCWG / Harmonized Reference System / S-104 and S-111 Implementation / Time Line 2024-10-11



Harmonized reference system, S-104 and S-111 in use

CDWCWG International relations



Real Time Hydrographic and Environmental Information Service

Infrastructure



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union

Gravity surveys

Hydrographic surveys

Bathymetry database

Geoid model

Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000

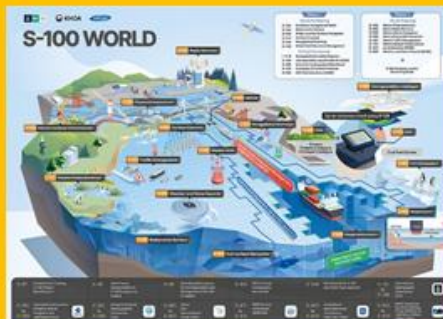
Oceanographic observations

Oceanographic model



COPERNICUS MARINE ENVIRONMENT MONITORING SERVICE
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S-100 products



Bathymetry

S-101 ENC

S-102 Bathymetric Surface

Water Level

S-104 Water Level Information for Surface Navigation

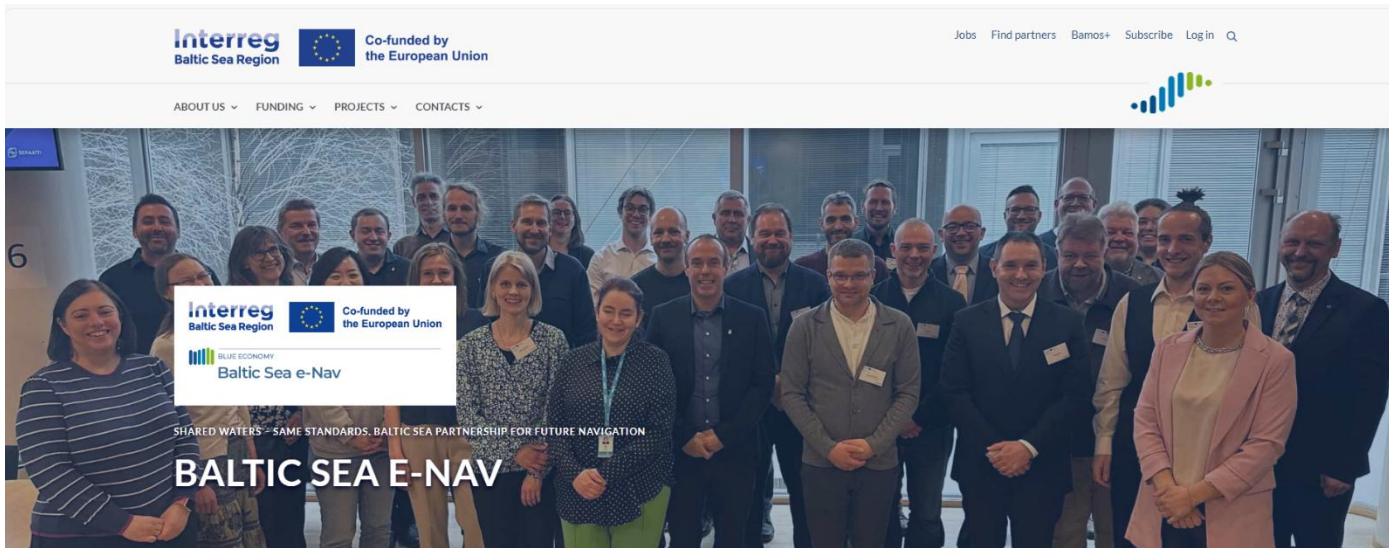
Surface Currents

S-111 Surface Currents

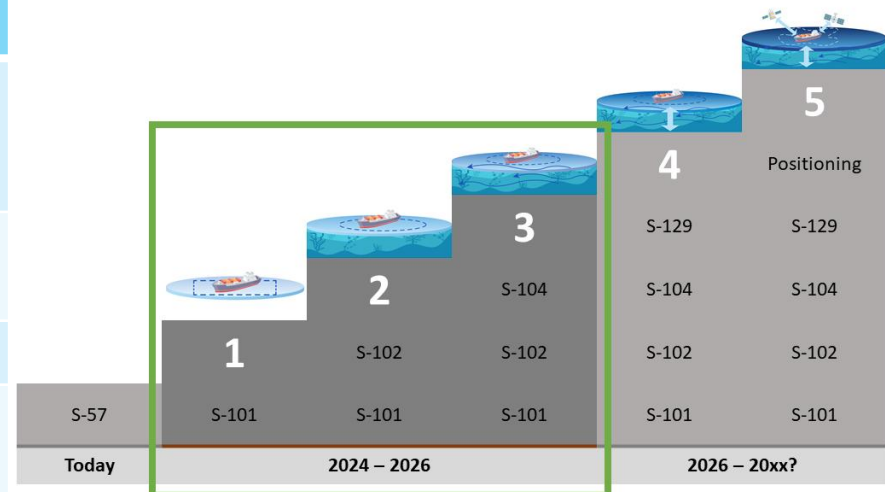
Under Keel Clearance

S-129 Under Keel Clearance Management (UKCM)

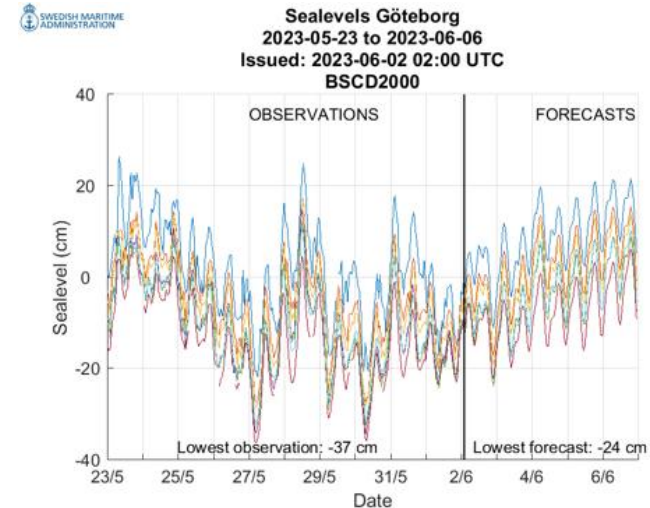
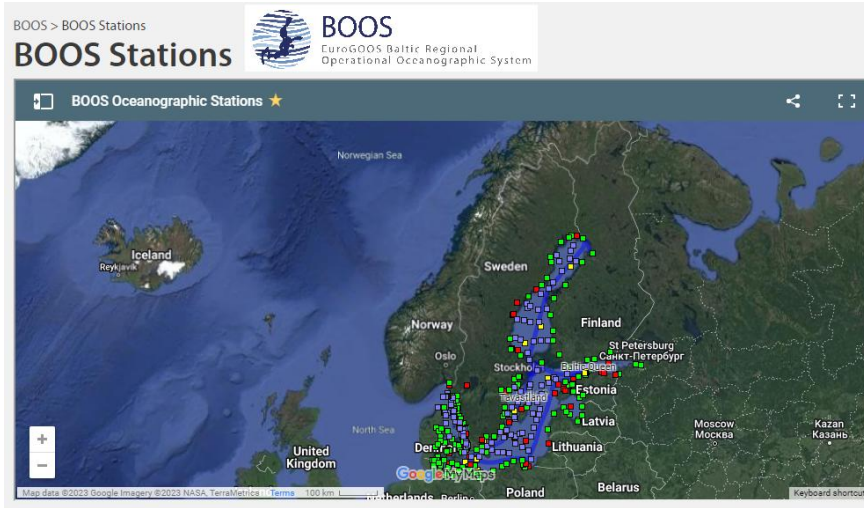
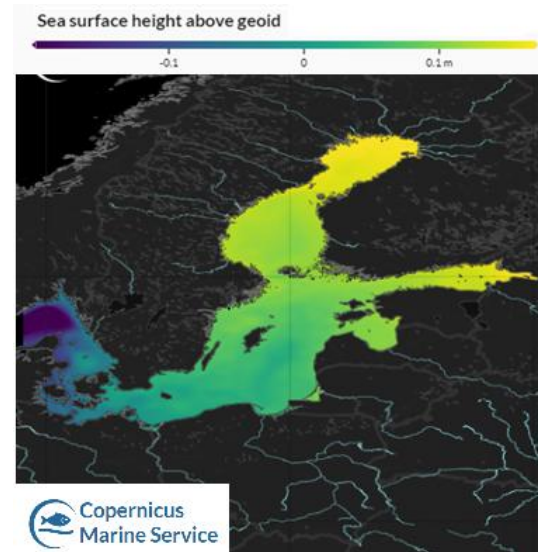
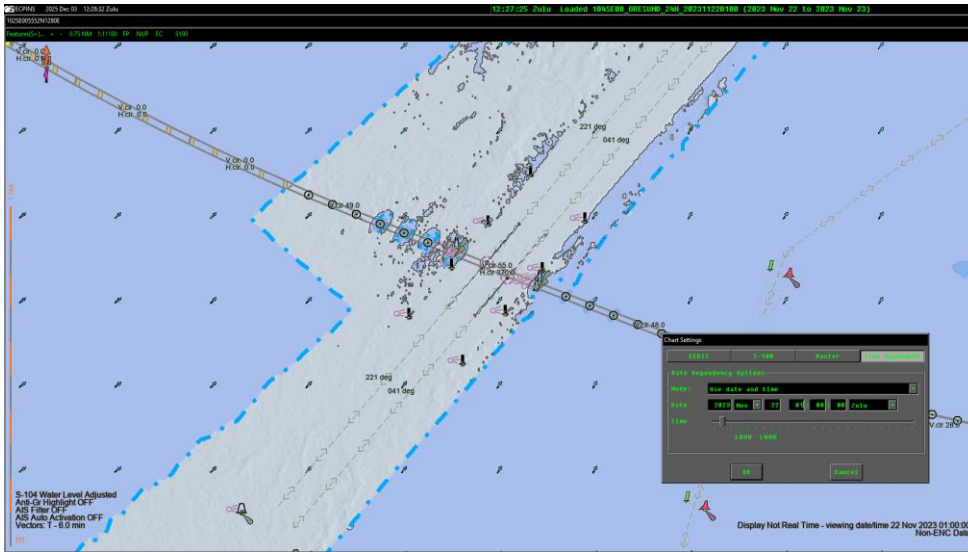
Baltic Sea e-Nav Interreg project 2023-2026



Goal	Period
Develop production capabilities for S-101 ENC, S-102 bathymetry and to some extent S-104 water level	2023-2025
Establish harmonization rules for S-10x-products, under the BSHC umbrella	2024-2026
Test, evaluate and refine the S-10x products	2025
Commercial rollout for S-101 and S-102 in the Baltic Sea. S-104 in parts of FI.	2026



S-104 Water Level



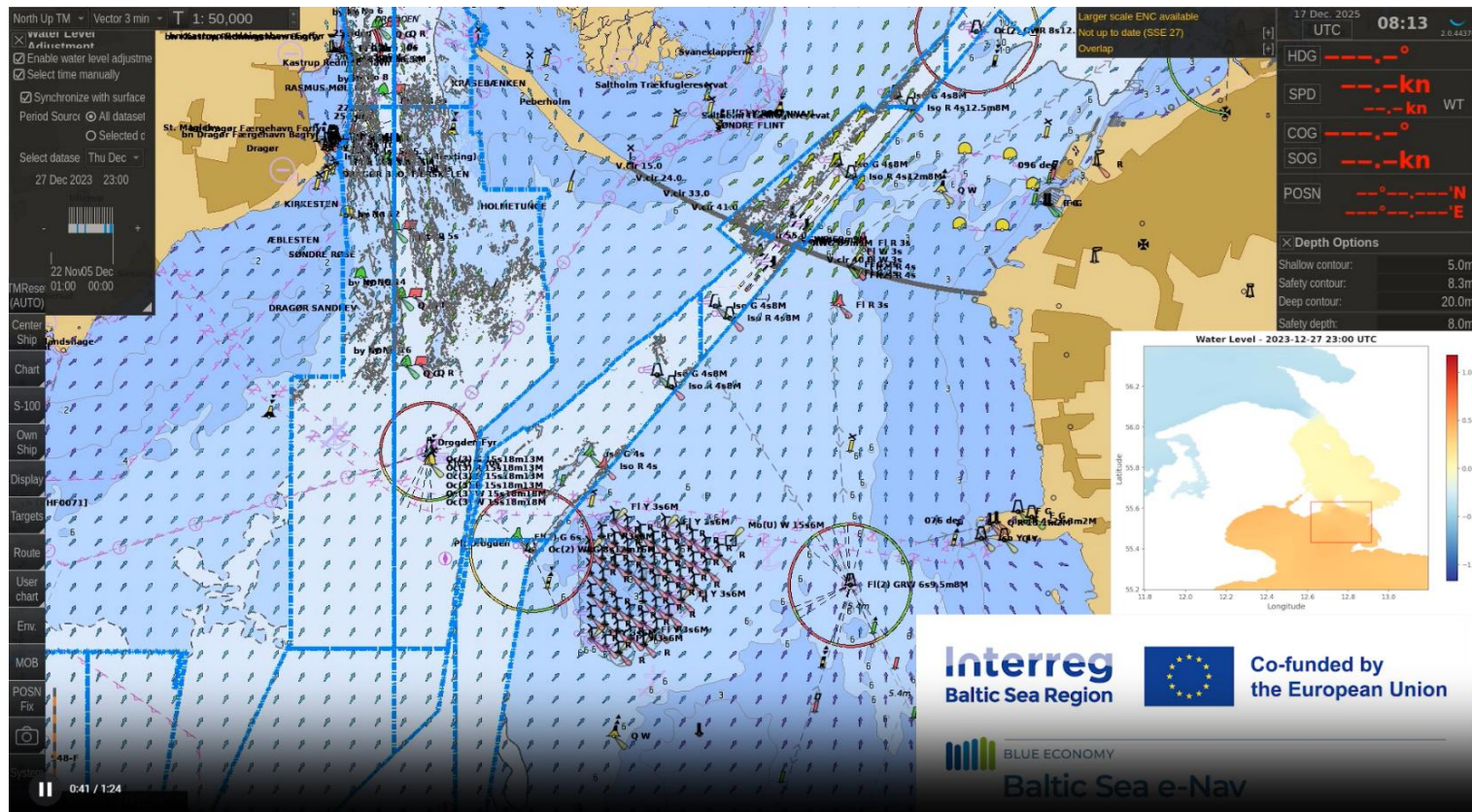
PRIMAR's uploading scheme of S-1xx products

Service Aspect	S-101 Service	S-102 Service	S-104 Service	S-111 Service	Comments
Available and Operational	Now	Now	Now	Now	
Current Suppliers	Canada	Canada, Estonia, Norway	Canada, Estonia	Canada, Estonia	
Upload Mechanism	PRIMAR VPN, API	PRIMAR VPN, API	PRIMAR VPN, API	PRIMAR VPN, API	
Accepted Versions	2.0.0	3.0.0	2.0.0	2.0.0	
Validation Type	PRIMAR Upload Checks/External Validation Tools	PRIMAR Upload Checks/External Validation Tools	PRIMAR Upload Checks/External Validation Tools	PRIMAR Upload Checks/External Validation Tools	
Validation Speed	Updates 1 day New Editon 2 days New Cells 3 days	Immediate Auto-release	Immediate Auto-release	Immediate Auto-release	If S-102, S-104 and S-111 pass the upload checks they can be released straight away if auto-release is used. S-101 same as for S-57.
Release Schedule	Live/Continuous	Live/Continuous	Live/Continuous	Live/Continuous	Since the suppliers in most cases have access to release their data themselves, the release schedule is set to live/continuous for all products
Release Format	S-100 Exchange Set	S-100 Exchange Set	S-100 Exchange Set	S-100 Exchange Set	
Release to	Distribution Network	Distribution Network	Distribution Network	Distribution Network	
S-128 Generation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Digitally signed by PRIMAR	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Baltic Sea e-Nav Testbed Öresund

Animations of S-102 (bathymetry) , S-104 (water levels) and S-111 (surface currents):

- [Öresund 2023-11-22–2023-11-23](#) | [observations](#)
- [Öresund 2023-12-21–2024-01-03](#) | [observations](#)
- [Öresund 2024-09-30](#) | [observations](#)



Outcome from BSHC30/2025

Actions given from BSHC30 to CDWCWG:

- Share with NSHC findings on [Product harmonisation guidelines for S-104 and S-111](#) (BSHC30/5)

Decisions taken related to CDWCWG:

- To approve the amended [Terms of Reference](#) (with small comments) of CDWCWG (BSHC30/D3)
- To endorse [Product harmonisation guidelines for S-104 and S-111](#), with the aim to be approved at next year´s BSHC Conference (BSHC30/D4)

Other news:

- Lithuania is now a member of IHO and hence a full member of BSHC (BSHC30/B)
- BSHC30 elected Mr. Tomas Kolendo from Lithuania as the next BSHC Chair (BSHC30/F)
- Mr. Thomas Dehling from Germany was elected as Vice-Chair (BSHC30/F).

Regional product harmonisation guidelines for S-104 and S-111



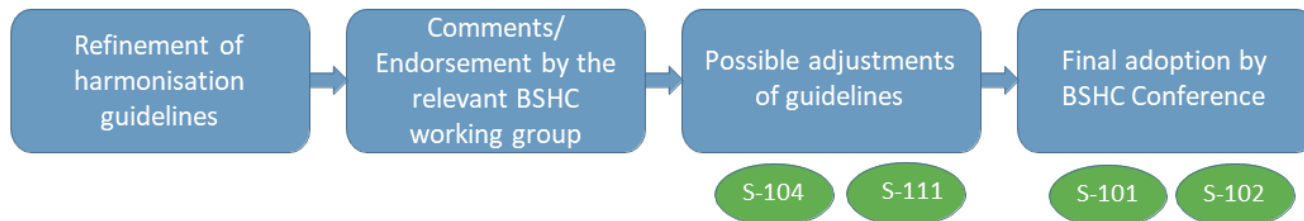
Regional product harmonisation guidelines for S-104 and S-111

Harmonisation activities



- Activity lead of harmonisation activities: Traficom
 - A2.3 Refinement of regional product harmonisation guidelines
 - A3.2 Formally adopt regional product harmonisation guidelines and establish delivery capabilities
- Standard-specific task forces (S-101, S-102, S-104 & S-111)

Workflow and status of harmonisation activities:



Regional product harmonisation guidelines for S-104 and S-111

Summary of the harmonisation recommendations for S-104 and S-111

1. Recommendation: *Baltic Sea Chart Datum 2000 (BSCD2000) should be used as vertical reference system for water level information in S-104.*
2. Recommendation: *For S-111, the current values should be presented at a given depth relative the sea surface.*
3. Recommendation: *Same horizontal reference system should be used for S-104 and S-102.*
4. Recommendation: *It is recommended to provide a S-104 water level and S-111 surface currents products based on sufficient resolution and reliable quality required to resolve the oceanographic conditions in the area.*
5. Recommendation: *The data producers or Hydrographic Offices are responsible for the production and delivery of S-104 water level and S-111 surface currents within their area of responsibility for the production of ENCs.*
6. Recommendation: *Neighbouring countries should agree on harmonisation of data coverage and reduce differences of S-104 water level and S-111 surface currents products meeting at borders of areas of responsibility. No data overlap should occur across borders.*
7. Recommendation: *It is recommended that every time a model run is finalized (typical every six hours, covering at least five days of data), the S-104 water level and S-111 surface currents products will be updated and delivered to the RENC to be made available for the end-users. If a model run is very delayed or incorrect, a cancellation of the products should be considered.*
8. Recommendation: *It is recommended to continuously monitor and validate the quality of the S-104 water level and S-111 surface currents products to ensure usability and trust.*
9. Recommendation: *Set uncertainty values in the metadata of the S-104 water level and S-111 surface currents products, to provide mariners with valuable information, enabling them to determine which data is more reliable or up to date for safe navigation.*
10. Recommendation: *The data producer or the Hydrographic Office should perform a technical validation according to S-158 of the produced S-104 and S-111 data files (HDF5-format), put a signature, i.e. create and attach a signature file (xml-format) for each data file and deliver the wrapped data set to the RENC.*
11. Recommendation: *The Hydrographic Offices and data producers aim to have continuous S-104 water level and S-111 surface current products, especially in areas where S-102 bathymetric surface are available. Therefore, the Hydrographic Offices and data producers are recommended on defining parameters (e.g. coverage and resolution adjustments or by interpolating) to assure continuous surface, ensuring usability for mariners.*

Future navigation



Thanks!



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