

## Baltic Sea Motorways

### *Experiences with outsourced HELCOM surveys*

### *in the Gulf of Finland*

(29 May 2007)

#### Introduction

Finnish Maritime Administration has completed a pilot study project together with Estonian Maritime Administration and Swedish Maritime Administration of an outsourced hydrographic survey in Finnish and Estonian EEZ on the Gulf of Finland. This study is co-financed by EU TEN-T.



The area in question was almost 4.000 km<sup>2</sup> open and fairly deep sea area on the Gulf of Finland, see Annex 1. The survey specifications were IHO S-44 (edition 4) Order 1.

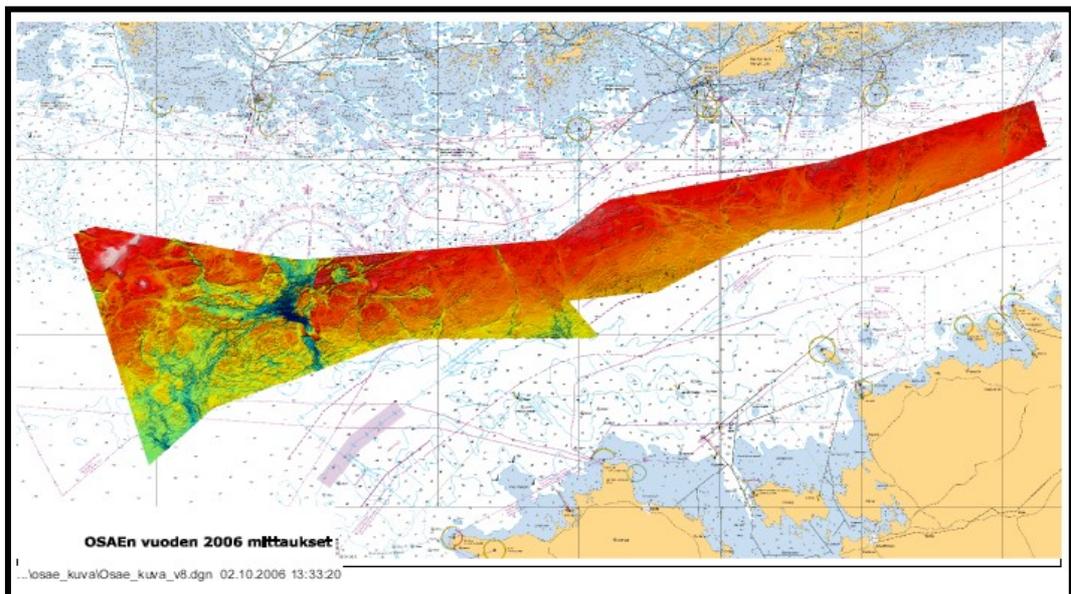
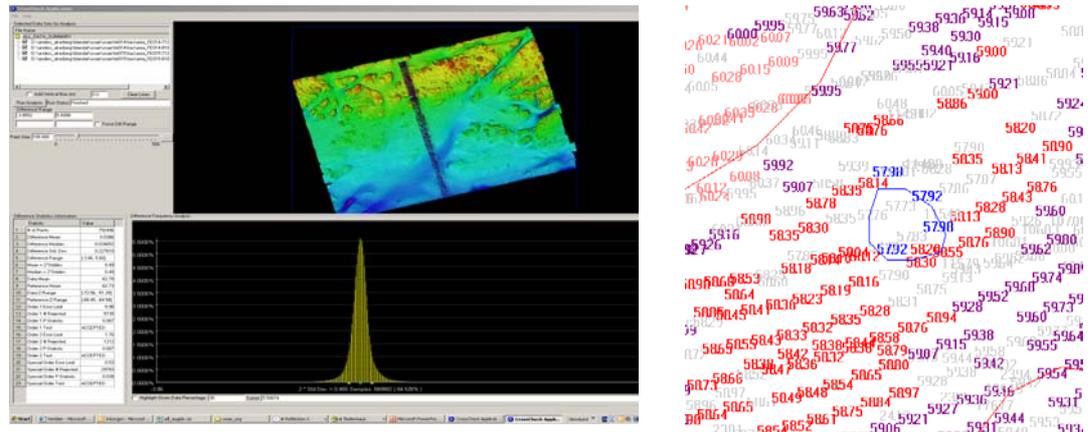


Fig. 1. Area surveyed during the Pilot project in 2006.

Invitations to this project were sent to 6 vendors and 5 of them delivered an acceptable tender. The contract of 1,35 Mill € was made with Offshore Survey and Engineering, OSAE GmbH, Bremen, Germany (now FUGRO OSAE GmbH).



Field surveys were made during June – September 2006. Guidance for quality control and for data filtering during surveys was given by the FMA. Final Quality Control was done by the FMA Chart Data Management by validating the data over some 5 man-months. Data was approved in February 2007.



**Fig 2.** Data processing and validation.

Together with the actual field survey, vertical reference level was studied and discussed among the Baltic Sea coastal countries and automated data processing techniques were sampled.

Main conclusions:

- o Found that commercial markets for open sea surveys on the Baltic Sea exists;
- o Common data analysis experiences were found within HOs;
- o Findings and recommendations in automated bathymetric data processing techniques;
- o Updates in data validation process and descriptions, when outsourced surveys;
- o Recommendations to a move towards a common vertical reference system for the Baltic Sea;

Deliverables of the project:

- o Sample specifications for invitation to tender, with national exceptions
- o Sample contract documents.
- o A common survey data format is proposed and to be studied further

A report will be ready at the end of June 2007, but main issues of the project will be presented at the BSHC 12<sup>th</sup> Conference.

**Actions required from the BSHC 12<sup>th</sup> Conference:**

The BSHC 12<sup>th</sup> Conference is requested to take a note on this report.