

## Promotion of the use of ECDIS on the Baltic Sea

(29 May 2007)

1. The DNV has made a comprehensive study on the ENC coverage. This study has been sent to IMO NAV53. Main conclusions are that the current and near future the global coverage of suitable ENC lie between 82% and 94%. The coverage along selected routes varied from 28% to 100%, with four of the eleven routes having 100% coverage. Implementation of ECDIS was also found cost effective. [DNV Report No. 2007-0304; available also on IHO web pages].
2. Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden have sent to IMO NAV53 a proposal for mandatory ECDIS by 2010 – 2013 [NAV 53/14/]. This proposal is based to the findings of the DNV study that the ENC coverage is shown to be sufficient.
3. IHO XVII Conference Resolution (based on PRO 22) states “IHO Strongly supports the efforts by IMO to introduce mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS, emphasizing that a significant coverage of ENCs is already in place and will be further improved by 2010, as indicated in the DNV report and supported by IHO assessments, and secondly that the acceptance of mandatory carriage requirements will further accelerate the production of ENCs”.
4. Finland has plans to propose to the next HELCOM Ministerial meeting (in November 2007) actions to strengthen the requirements of the Copenhagen Declaration to use ECDIS on Baltic Sea.
5. The new Finnish government established after the elections in March 2007 has made in its Government Programme policy statements to strongly support the safety of navigation and the protection of the environment on the Baltic Sea. Practical actions for these are e.g.
  - to promote the use of ECDIS and ENC,
  - to proceed rapidly with the re-surveys on main routes and areas
  - to improve the quality of depth information on printed and digital charts.
6. As an example, the preliminary analysis of the recent tanker accident on Gulf of Finland (M/T *Propontis* case) shows that this accident could have been avoided if a type approved ECDIS has been in use on board of the ship.
7. If found acceptable, all HOs are asked to contact the relevant official HELCOM representatives in their country (e.g. Ministry of Environment) and support possible actions to promote the use of ECDIS with ENCs on the Baltic Sea.

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

The BSHC 12<sup>th</sup> Conference is requested to consider this information and to take appropriate actions.

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