

STATUTES
OF
THE BALTIC SEA
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(BSHC)

August 1983
(Amended in 2007)

STATUTES OF THE BALTIC SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

Article 1

- a) The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (hereinafter referred to as "The Commission") is established in conformity with Administrative Resolution T 1.2 of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and Decision No. 26 of the XII International Hydrographic Conference. Members of the Commission shall be the countries bordering the Baltic Sea who are Members of the IHO and who accept these Statutes.
- b) The countries bordering the Baltic Sea who are not Members of the IHO but who wish to co-operate in the work of the Commission, and who accept these Statutes, may become Associate Members.

Article 2

The aims of the Commission, which is an integrant part of the IHO, shall be:

- a) To promote friendly and cordial technical co-operation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography and nautical information.
- b) To examine the implications, in its area of interest, of matters of general interest with which the IHO is concerned avoiding any interference with the prerogatives of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and of any other commissions set up by the IHO.
- c) To stimulate all bordering countries to widen hydrographic activity in the area and to encourage them to seek technical advice and assistance from the IHB in establishing and strengthening their hydrographic capabilities.
- d) To facilitate the exchange of information concerning surveys, research or scientific and technical developments, to aid in the planning and organization of hydrographic activities in the widest sense of the term, but without interference in the national responsibilities of each Hydrographic Office.
- e) To carry out certain studies as an IHO Working Group when considered appropriate.

Article 3

Members and Associate Members forming the Commission undertake to participate, of their own free will, on all possible occasions - whether in the form of advice or of assistance – in those hydrographic programmes requiring concerted action, but without prejudice to or interference with their national activities.

Article 4

The Commission shall meet in plenary Conference in the country of one of its Members or Associate Members at least once between two successive ordinary International Hydrographic Conferences.

Article 5

- a) At the end of each Conference, the Members and Associate Members desirous of hosting the following Conference shall put forward their candidatures. Priority shall be given to a country which has not yet hosted a Conference, or to the one which did so the longest time ago.
- b) Members and Associate Members shall be represented at Conferences by heads of Hydrographic Services, or, if they are unable to attend, their authorized representatives. They may also be accompanied by members of their staff, but it is most desirable that their number be kept to a minimum.
- c) The Commission may set up small committees of Members and Associate Members interested in particular projects with the object of examining and executing such projects.
- d) An invitation to attend the Conference shall invariably be addressed to the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau.
- e) The presence of two thirds (2/3) of the Members and Associate Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Article 6

- a) The Conferences of the Commission are conducted by the Chairman. The representative of the country in which the Conference takes place shall be its Vice- Chairman. At the conclusion of the Conference, he shall become Chairman and remain in office until the end of the next Conference.
- b) In the interval between two Conferences, the Chairman shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission regarding all questions to be dealt with by correspondence.
- c) Proposals to be included in the Agenda of a Conference must be sent to the Chairman at least four months before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The Chairman shall prepare the provisional Agenda and forward it to the participants at least one month before the opening of the Conference. The first item shall be the Chairman's report on the activities of the Commission since the last Conference.

- d) The Vice-Chairman shall be responsible for the organization of the Conference.

Article 7

If the Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman, is unable to officiate, he shall be replaced by his successor or his deputy in his office.

Article 8

- a) At the end of the Conference, the Chairman shall read the text of the decisions taken during the Conference, to be adopted by the Members and Associate Members. Decisions can only be made by unanimous agreement.
- b) The Chairman shall despatch within one month of the close of the Conference two copies of the Summary Report of the discussions and decisions taken at the Conference for approval to each of the Members and Associate Members. They shall declare their approval within one month upon receipt. Any objections shall be settled by correspondence.
- c) All decisions become operative after the Chairman of the Conference's written information that the report has been approved.

Article 9

- a) The Agenda shall be adopted by the Commission at the beginning of each Conference.
- b) The Commission may modify, in the course of the Conference, the order in which Agenda items are to be discussed.

Article 10

- a) The Chairman may call an extraordinary session of the Commission when its representatives are assembled for an International Hydrographic Conference.
- b) In the case of urgent matters which cannot be treated by correspondence and which cannot be postponed until the next Conference of the Commission, the Chairman, with the agreement of the Members and Associate Members, shall convene an Extraordinary Meeting, to be held in the country of the next Conference or the place considered most appropriate.
- c) The provisions of Article 6 are not applicable to the meetings defined in paragraphs a) and b) above, which shall be organized and presided over by the Chairman, who will remain in office after the meeting has concluded.

- d) When these meetings do not include all Members and Associate Members, the decisions reached shall be reported by correspondence to those not present and to the next Conference.

Article 11

All expenses connected with the participation of the delegates in the Conference shall be defrayed by their respective countries.

Article 12

Members and Associate Members of the Commission may propose amendments to the present Statutes. These amendments shall be discussed at a Conference and the decisions will be included in the Report of the Conference.

Article 13

The official and working language of the Commission, as well as during the Conference, shall be English.

Article 14

Decisions which, in the opinion of the Commission, may be of interest to the International Hydrographic Organization as a whole shall be brought to the attention of the International Hydrographic Bureau. This fact shall be mentioned as part of the text of the decisions reached.

Article 15

The International Hydrographic Bureau shall be the repository of the Statutes signed by the Members and Associate Members.
