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Q1

During the past century the technical development in hydrography has been tremendous, but I would like to highlight three important milestones. First the establishment of IHO 1921 as the competent organization to standardize hydrographic information. Sweden was one of the founding Member States of the IHO and Sweden was also founding Member State of the first Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC), the Nordic Hydrographic Commission. The establishment of RHCs to implement the standards and measures taken within IHO is the second important milestone I would like to mention. Last but not least the implementation of the first global standard for electronic geographic information, namely the S-57 standard for ENC's, was a remarkable success for the IHO. Already during the 1990-ies, many years before Google Maps was invented, IHO had a standard ready for usage internationally in navigational systems, which we today call ECDIS. This has established IHO as the reliable International Governmental Organization for standardization of existing and future products and services for the e-navigation era.

Q2

The development of the new generation of standards for hydrographic products and services, S-100, is critical to take the next step in the usage of hydrographic information. The existing ENC's, in the S-57 format, is more or less an electronic version of the paper chart. From an HO perspective and also from IHO we know that we and other stakeholders have much more data which could be useful for navigation and also usage beyond navigation. S-100 is needed to standardize these data and to make it possible to combine different datasets in a structured way. This will contribute to not only safer navigation, but also to more efficient navigation when you could optimize your route and optimize the loading of your ship. Optimized routes and optimized loading will also contribute to less environmental impact from the shipping industry. S-100 will also be an important step towards more automated navigation, with machine readable datasets.

Q3

The 12th edition of the IHR, which was issued in November 2014 was a special edition with articles and notes submitted by members of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC). The Editor of that time, Ian W Halls, states in the Editorial that "this edition provides an excellent example for how other regional hydrographic commissions can learn from one another and cooperate". I have always considered the cooperation within the BSHC to be very unique, which has contributed to a well-established political commitment for a re-surveying plan for the Baltic Sea and cooperation projects with substantial EU-funding. This special IHR BSHC edition gives an insight of the level of cooperation within this RHC.
