



## UN OCEAN CONFERENCE Lisbon, 27 June – 1 July

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022	
Task 1.1.12.1	Maintain relationship with the United Nations (UN) organizations including the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the WG on Marine Geospatial Information (WG-MGI)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Ocean Conference took place in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June to 1 July 2022. With the goal of ensuring that seabed mapping and hydrography were appropriately represented and that the IHO’s leadership in these domains was recognised, the IHO Secretariat co-organized two events during the week. It also took the opportunity to meet various actors within the field of ocean science and meet with MS representatives.

Secretary General Mathias Jonas, Assistant Director Sam Harper, and Public Relations and Communication Officer Sarah Jones Couture attended the conference, organized the first side-event and helped raise the visibility of the IHO and its work.

The IHO in partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute organized a side-event on seabed mapping & marine data to support multifunctional spatial planning on Tuesday 28 June 2022. Organized in partnership with IOC-UNESCO, Sweden, the African Union Commission, and the United Kingdom, the event looked at the role of marine data to inform the competing needs of a broad range of ocean stakeholders. Participants discussed activities, innovations and challenges, as well as technologies and monitoring systems. It examined how improved data could inform the organization of the marine space to ensure a more sustainable use of ecosystems. Co-moderated by Dr Karina Barquet, Team Leader: Water, Coasts and Ocean, at the Stockholm Environment Institute and IHO Assistant Director Sam Harper speakers included:



*Sam Harper, Dr Mathias Jonas and Sarah Jones Couture*





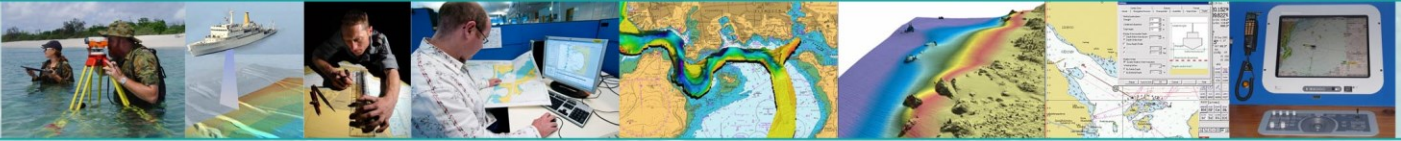
- Dr Mathias JONAS, Secretary-General, IHO: keynote address
- Dr Vladimir RYABININ, Executive Secretary, IOC UNESCO
- Rear Admiral Rhett HATCHER, UK National Hydrographer, UK Hydrographic Office, United Kingdom
- Helen ÅGREN, Ambassador for the Ocean, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden
- Linda Etta, Blue Economy Coordinator, African Union Commission
- James Joliffe, Space and Oceans Unit, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD
- Nadine Monsanto, Director for Blue Economy, Belize
- Dr Philip Osano, Director SEI Africa: concluding remarks

The event was well attended and the room was at capacity.



*The IHO side-event on seabed mapping.*





On Wednesday 29 June, the IHO also co-organized with the Nippon Foundation GEBCO Seabed 2030 project a side event on Mapping for people and planet. Moderated by Dr Dawn Wright (Esri, US) and Kiliparti Ramakrishna (WHOI, US), speakers included Tinah Martin (Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Madagascar), Nina Jensen (REV Ocean, Norway), Lisa Levin (Scripps, US), David Millar (Fugro, US), Oliver Steeds (Nekton, UK), Tion Uriam (Ministry of Information, Communications & Transport, Kiribati) and Rick Spinrad (NOAA, US). IHO Secretary-General Dr Mathias Jonas provided closing remarks.

A secondary aim of attending the UN Ocean Conference was to maintain and build the IHO's strategic network and understanding of developments within the field of ocean science and the UN Ocean Decade.

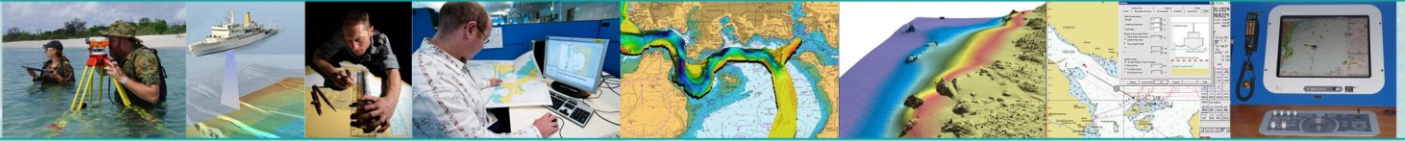
The essential role that ocean mapping plays in underpinning ocean science and related activities is becoming a mainstream concept. The presence of the IHO at the conference showcased the hydrographic community's domain expertise, providing extensive opportunities to build our network and gather an understanding of emerging trends and initiatives within the UN Ocean Decade and broader 2030 Agenda.

During the conference, the IHO delegation met with representatives of the WMO, the Pacific Community, as well as MS representatives such as Portugal, Mauritius, Monaco and the UK. Two specific items for further investigation include:

**Inclusion of depth as an Essential Ocean Variable (EOV).** Within the framework of the UN Ocean Decade, significant attention is being paid to the importance of data to inform science and decision making. Whilst the importance of bathymetry is well understood, it is also the case that it is often left out of discussions relating to taking an infrastructure approach (i.e. sustainable funding and greater focus) to 'Ocean Observing'. Whilst different observing systems collect various different data, the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) steering committee has identified a number of Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) in order to prioritise investment through the Ocean Decade. In discussion with key stakeholders, it was suggested that depth could be added to the list of EOVs, with the IHO and IOC as leads under the auspices of GEBCO.

**IHO Contribution to the OECDs 'The Ocean Economy in 2045' report.** In 2016, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development published the seminal report entitled 'The Ocean Economy in 2030'. For the first time, this report explored the growth prospects for the ocean economy, its capacity for future employment creation and innovation, and its role in addressing global challenges. Further, it examined the risks and uncertainties surrounding the future development of ocean industries and the innovations and actions required in science and technology to support their progress. One area that was not explicitly described was the role of seabed mapping data and hydrography in underpinning blue growth and sustainable development. This report became the catalyst and evidence base from which many nations revised or developed their oceans governance policies (and associated funding priorities). In 2023, the OECD will begin work on the revision of this report entitled 'the Ocean Economy in 2045'. Given the importance placed upon seabed mapping at the conference, the IHO has been asked to consider being the key point of contact for a dedicated section relating to seabed mapping and





hydrography. Work will not start until 2023, but will entail coordinating a literature review, helping to convene a dedicated workshop and otherwise supporting the OECD team with the provision of subject matter expertise. The intention is that the report will be launched at the next UN Ocean Conference that President Macron has committed to host.



*Participants at the UN Ocean Conference*