

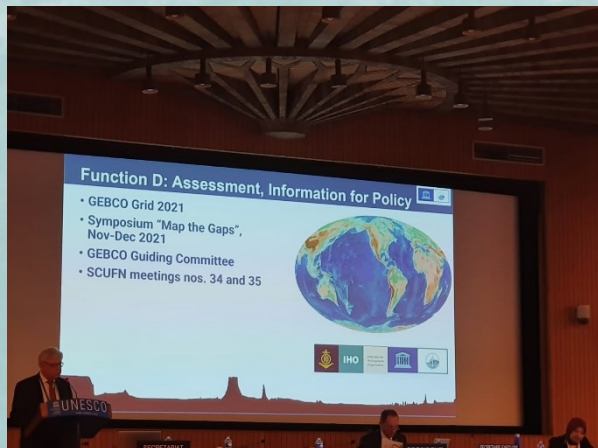


55TH IOC COUNCIL Paris, France, 13-17 June

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022	
Task 1.1.9	Maintain relationship with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, including:
Task 1.1.9.2	Executive Council

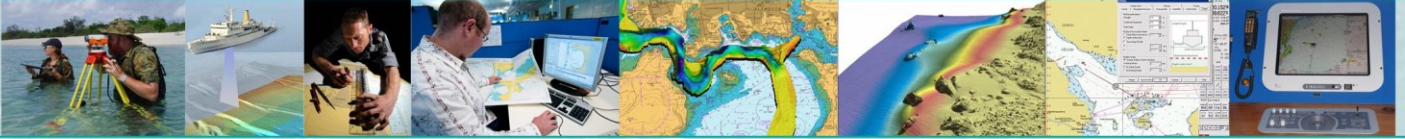
The 55th meeting of the IOC UNESCO Executive Council was held in Paris from 13 to 17 June 2022, at the UNESCO headquarters. In addition to the IOC members and observers, the IHO Secretariat participated at the Council as Observer, and was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Samuel Harper. The Vice Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee, Marzia Rovere (Italy), also attended.

After the welcome speech of the Deputy Director General of UNESCO, Mr Xing QU, who addressed the IOC Council participants on the importance to protect the Oceans in this special Decade and how Ocean data can guide Institutions and Governments and inspire the young generation. Dr Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC Executive Secretary, reported on the work accomplished since the Thirty-first session of the IOC Assembly (July 2021–May 2022).



IHO participating at the 55th IOC Council & part of the presentation of IOC Report since the Thirty-first session of the IOC Assembly (July 2021–May 2022)

The pilot edition of the "State of the Ocean Report 2022" was presented. It highlighted the need for objective data which can be used as a benchmark to monitor changes in the marine environment, and stated that although society is aware in principle of what is happening in the ocean and what should be done about it, the quantitative description of the ocean is



incomplete and, as a result, current knowledge is insufficient to effectively inform solutions to the ocean issues that humanity is facing. The data on the physics and features of the ocean, gathered by IHO Member States, can be used to target actions and increase the impact of initiatives.

Director Sinapi provided an update on the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), a joint programme between the IHO and IOC UNESCO, which aims to produce a high definition map of all the worlds' oceans. In addition, he informed the Executive Council of the creation of the Sub-Committee on Education and Training (SCET) and the GEBCO Governance review. The terms of reference for the creation of the SCET and the Governance review were endorsed by the Council members and the results will be reported by the IOC Executive Secretary to the IOC Assembly in 2023.

Assistant Director Harper presented the opportunity for the IHO Secretariat to participate in the discussion on the challenges of operating ocean observing systems within the Marine Science Research provisions of UNCLOS, and to share the IHO experience in promoting the Crowdsourced Bathymetry initiative.

Participants also discussed the new Ocean Decade Progress Report and considered opportunities for future collaboration and contributions, as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO is the "home" of ocean science within the UN, and is uniquely positioned to initiate and coordinate a much needed periodic publication to inform the world about the current state of the ocean, and to do so in a more dynamic way than was previously possible.