



**IHO File No. S3/8151 & S3/7198 & S3/0104**

**CIRCULAR LETTER N° 41  
24 October 2022**

**ADOPTION OF EDITION 6.1.0 of S-44 – IHO STANDARDS FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS and EDITION 3.0.0 of B-12 – GUIDANCE FOR CROWDSOURCED BATHYMETRY**

References:

- A. IHO CL 25/2022 dated 24 June 2022 – *Call for the approval of edition 6.1.0 of S-44 - IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys and Edition 3.0.0 of B-12 – Guidance on Crowdsourced bathymetry*
- B. IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended – *Principles and Procedures for making changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications.*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The approval of Member States of Edition 6.1.0 of S-44 - *IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys* and Edition 3.0.0 of B-12 – *Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry* - was requested by IHO Circular Letter in Reference A in application of the process for the development and maintenance of technical standards (Reference B).
2. The Secretariat would like to thank the following 39 Members that replied to Reference A: Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Columbia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.
3. Edition 6.1.0 of S-44 received unanimous approval from 39 Member States with two Member States providing comments and Edition 3.0.0 of B-12 was approved by 37 Member States with 6 Member States providing comments. These comments and the outcome of their review by the Working Groups and IHO Secretariat are provided in Annex A to this Circular Letter.
4. When Reference A was issued, there were 98 Member States of the IHO with three States suspended. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the IHO, the minimum number of affirmative votes required is 31. As a result, Edition 6.1.0 of S-44 and Edition 3.0.0 of B-12 have been adopted.

5. The final versions of Edition 6.1.0 of S-44 and Edition 3.0.0 of B-12 will be published on the IHO website > Publications > Standards and Specifications (<https://iho.int/en/standards-and-specifications> ).

On behalf of the Secretary-General  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abri KAMPFER', written in a cursive style.

Abri KAMPFER  
Director

Annex A: Members' responses to IHO CL 25/2022 and comments from the WGs Chairs and IHO Secretariat

**MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES TO IHO CL 25/2022 AND COMMENTS  
FROM THE WORKING GROUPS' CHAIRS and IHO SECRETARIAT**

<b>S-44, Ed. 6.1.0</b>	<b>IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys</b>
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**CANADA** (Vote = YES)

What is the timeline for this document to be published in French?

Comments by the HSWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The translation of S-44 Ed. 6.1.0 is being undertaken by France who have advised that it will be available soon after the publication enters into force.

**FRANCE** (Vote = YES)

The French version of the new edition of the S-44 publication will be drafted by France and made available soon after its approval.

Comments by the HSWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The HSWG Chair and IHO Secretariat thank France for their contribution.

<b>B-12 Ed. 3.0.0</b>	<b>Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry</b>
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**CANADA** (Vote = YES)

CA thanks the CSBWG for the preparation of this document.

Comments by the CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Canada for their contribution.

**CHILE** (Vote = Yes)

(Original in Spanish) Chile accepts the regulations for bathymetric data acquired on the high seas, but not in waters under national jurisdiction, both inland and at port entrances, where navigational safety is at stake.

Comments by the CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat acknowledge Chile's position.

## **CROATIA** (Vote = No)

The vote was carried out in accordance with our statement presented in Annex B to IHO CL 11/2019, IHO File S3/2649. In the meantime, there have been no changes in the national regulation.

### Comments by the CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat acknowledge Croatia's position.

## **DENMARK** (Vote = YES)

Future editions of B-12 should better distinguish between general guidance on crowdsourced bathymetry data and the 'IHO crowdsourced bathymetry initiative'. This latter includes the data submission to DCDB through Trusted Nodes and the dedication to the public domain (CC0 1.0) among other provisions. Similarly, the next IHO CSB questionnaire should pose distinct questions related to general commitment to CSB and to the 'IHO crowdsourced bathymetry initiative' (as described in B-12 3.0.0, chapters 1 and 5).

### Comments by the CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat thank Denmark for their comments and contribution to revising B-12. Denmark's suggestions will be factored into the future work of the CSBWG and the evolution of the IHO CSB initiative.

## **GREECE** (Vote = YES)

Greece provided the following two comments:

1. Greece understands the reference to "within their national waters" (Section 1.2, para2) as meaning "within waters of their national jurisdiction".
2. Greece reiterates that, "in accordance with the international law of the sea, CSB data, collected by third parties within waters of Greek jurisdiction should not be stored, but should be immediately discarded, being the result of an unauthorized activity".

### Comments by the CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat confirm Greece's interpretation of the phrase "within their national waters" and confirm that the correct legal phraseology will be used in the final publication.

The CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat note Greece's caveats relating to data storage.

## **USA** (Vote = YES)

USA provided a series of edits as relates to the use of the phrase "within waters under national jurisdiction" as opposed to the phrase "within their national waters".

### Comments by the CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat:

The CSBWG Chair and IHO Secretariat note that given these suggested edits are non-contentious and represent a clarification, all of the changes will be applied in the final version.