



IHO File No. S3/2513

CIRCULAR LETTER 26/2023

25 August 2023

**INVITATION TO THE “MAP THE GAPS” SYMPOSIUM – 7-8 NOVEMBER 2023 -
MONACO**

Dear Hydrographer,

1. On 7 and 8 November 2023, the IHO will host the "Map the Gaps" Symposium as part of the 2023 GEBCO week. The symposium will be held at the historic Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and is being delivered in collaboration with the Map the Gaps not-for-profit organisation. It is generously supported by the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project and is organised in partnership with the Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert 1er Foundation.
2. This two day event will bring together experts in seabed mapping from across the public, private, academic and civil society sectors. It will also include a special showcase day on the latest developments in CrowdSourced Bathymetry, with the aim of exploring novel approaches to completing the last great mapping endeavour on our planet, a complete map of the oceans.
3. Two goals of the IHO's Strategic plan speak directly to the aims of GEBCO, Goal 2 - "Increasing the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society" and Goal 3 - "Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean". The GEBCO grid is widely accepted as being the base-layer to support Challenge 8 of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development - "create a digital representation of the ocean".
4. Taking place during the 120th year of GEBCO, this event promises to be the pinnacle of the anniversary celebrations. It will provide an inspiring environment for our community to come together, share knowledge and experience in order to build the relationships required for the continuation of this most important mission.
5. We invite you to consider participation at this important event in the topics described in the draft agenda available directly at the map the gaps website. Link for registration: <https://www.mapthegaps.org/symposium-2023>. Deadline for registration is 29 September 2023
6. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Director Mr Sam Harper, GEBCO Secretary (samuel.harper@iho.int).

Yours sincerely,

Luigi SINAPI
Director