

IHO File No. S3/8151/MSDIWG

CIRCULAR LETTER 33/2023
12 October 2023

ADOPTION OF EDITION 3.0.0 OF IHO PUBLICATION C-17
Spatial Data Infrastructures "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices

References:

- A. IHO CL 21/2023 dated 12 July – *Call for approval of edition 3.0.0 of IHO Publication C-17- Spatial Data Infrastructures "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices.*
- B. Decisions, Actions and Recommendations of IRCC15 (June 2023)

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A proposed the adoption of Edition 3.0.0 of IHO Publication *C-17- Spatial Data Infrastructures "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices* – as recommended by the IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG) and endorsed by IRCC.
2. The IHO Secretariat thanks the 36 Member States that replied to Reference A: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, IR of Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka and Sweden. All 36 Member States supported the adoption of Edition 3.0.0 of C-17, some with comments that will be provided to the IHO MSDIWG.
3. When the Reference was issued, there were 98 Member States of the IHO with two States suspended. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the IHO as amended, the minimum number of affirmative votes required is 32. As a result, the proposed Edition 3.0.0 of C-17 has been adopted.
4. Edition 3.0.0 of IHO Publication C-17 (*English version only*) is available on the IHO website > Publications > Capacity Building Publication (<https://iho.int/en/capacity-building-publications>)

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,



Luigi SINAPI
Director

Annex: Member State's responses to IHO CL 21/2023 and comments from the Chair of the MSDIWG.

Copy: MSDIWG Chair

**MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES TO IHO CL 21/2023 AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR
OF THE MARINE SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURES WORKING GROUP (MSDIWG)**

ADOPTION OF EDITION 3.0.0 OF IHO PUBLICATION C-17

Spatial Data Infrastructures "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices

Italy (Vote = Yes)

As previously indicated by IIM delegate in the drafting team, it is asked to consider the opportunity to cancel the bibliography paragraph at page 44. The references are already present in the document.

Comment from the Chair of the MSDIWG:

The MSDIWG Chair thanks Italy for the invaluable support on the drafting team as well as the helpful contribution that was already considered in the final version.

Mauritius (Vote = Yes)

The Government of Mauritius through the Department of Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration & Exploration has set up a Ocean Observatory E Platform to facilitate data discovery and data sharing. It also supports the Marine Spatial Planning initiative of the Government of Mauritius.

Comment from the Chair of the MSDIWG:

The MSDIWG Chair thanks Mauritius for the support and the information provided.

Netherlands (Vote = Yes)

The Netherlands highly appreciates the work that has been done to produce this update of C-17 with Member States, industry and academia involved. As stated in paragraph 2.1 and chapter 6 this work directly contributes to IHO Strategic Goals 2 and 3, navigating the edges of the turbulent waters of the technological and societal changes on the one hand and the steady waters of policy and standards at the other hand. The connection made between the (earlier) four pillars of MSDI and the nine Strategic Pathways of IGIF(-Hydro) in paragraph 3.3. and Chapter 4 contributes to integrate the value of hydrographic data and knowledge into the wider geospatial community (at the UN level). However, we recommend that the document should be fully understandable without the need to consult external documentation. As an example, Paragraphs 4.2.1.4/5 should contain the relevant information that is referred to in the current very limited text. This would be a limited administrative task that would greatly help to get the message to the reader.

Comment from the Chair of the MSDIWG:

The MSDIWG Chair thanks Netherlands for the comment that will be evaluated by the MSDIWG to eventually be incorporated in the next edition of C-17.

Portugal (Vote = Yes)

Portugal appreciates the work done by the team involved in the revision of C-17 IHO publication.

Comment from the Chair of the MSDIWG:

The MSDIWG Chair thanks Portugal for the support.