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CIRCULAR LETTER 35/2023
23 October 2023

**WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY
REPORT ON MEMBER STATES ACTIVITIES IN 2023 AND
THE PROPOSED THEME FOR 2024**

References:

- A. IHO CL 01/2023 dated 12 January - *Theme for WHD 2023 and Media Outreach*
- B. Decision C7/33 of the 7th meeting of the IHO Council, Monaco, 17-19 October 2023

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the theme of World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2023 was “**Hydrography - underpinning the digital twin of the ocean**”. The theme was designed to highlight how hydrography and oceanography could work together for mutual benefit, with hydrography being a building block for the digital twin.
2. National events in connection with World Hydrography Day 2023, as reported by Member States, are available at: <https://iho.int/en/whd-2023-celebrations-around-the-world>.
3. At the 7th IHO Council meeting in Monaco, from 17 to 19 October 2023, the Secretary-General proposed the following theme for WHD 2024:
“Hydrographic Information -Enhancing Safety and Efficiency in Marine Activities”
4. This theme is proposed to highlight that - as per Decision 8 of the third IHO Assembly in May 2023 - Goal Number 1 of the [Strategic Plan](#) and it targets shall have the highest priority in the implementation of the 2024–2026 Work Programme, which means priority in:
 - application of material and human resources;
 - liaison with public sector and industry partners;
 - promotion of concerted regional approaches including increased collaboration with the RENCs; and
 - support of test beds delivering best practice examples for the production, maintenance and distribution of all prioritized S-100 derivatives.
5. In consideration of the on-going transformation in navigation, such as e-navigation, autonomous shipping, reduction of emissions, lead to profound evolution of hydrographic services, and in a context of high demands for digital data, the IHO is committed to,
 - Deliver standards for hydrographic data and specifications of hydrographic products; support their regular production; and coordinate regional and global services for their provision.

- Develop standards, specifications and guidelines in the areas of data assurance, including cyber security and data quality assessment.
 - Use capacity building and training to develop and increase the ability of Member States to support safety and efficiency of maritime navigation
 - Motivate the maritime community including international organizations, academia and industry to contribute actively to the development and use of new standardized maritime data products and services.
6. The IHO Council endorsed this proposal and invited the IHO Secretariat to circulate the theme to IHO Member States by IHO Circular Letter. (Reference B¹, Decision and Action C7/33).
7. Member States are requested to note the endorsement of the IHO Council, consider the proposed theme for WHD 2024 and provide their comments, if any, to the Secretariat **no later than 31 December 2023**. The Secretariat would also welcome any comments and suggestions aimed at improving the impact and the organization of annual WHD celebrations.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

¹ Available at www.iho.int > IHO Council > C-7 > Documents > Post Meeting Documents > Summary Report