

IHO REPORT

Submitted by the IHO Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: The document contains updates of IHO activities relevant to
GEBCO Project (2017-2018)

Action to be taken : See paragraph 18

Related documents : None

Guiding Committee Membership

1. The IHO Secretariat would like to congratulate and welcome the new members of the Guiding Committee. It is considered that their active contribution will be of great benefit to GEBCO and ocean mapping community.

Status of Membership of the IHO

2. The IHO membership stands at 89. After the last GGC meeting, in 2017 **Seychelles** and in 2018 **Bulgaria** acceded to the IHO Convention and became the 88th and 89th Member States of the IHO respectively. On 1 January 2018 **Dominican Republic** was reinstated as Member State, suspended since 1983. Regrettably, Syria was suspended from Member States rights being in arrears in its contributions now for two consecutive years.

IRCC Activities

3. The tenth meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC10) was held in Goa, India, from 4 to 6 June 2018. The IRCC reviewed the reports and activities of its subordinate bodies and the RHCs and considered the need for enhancing regional coordination and cooperation. The IRCC10 was informed of the activities of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Project in particular the progress on Seabed 2030 Project. IRCC endorsed the final draft version of the B-12 Guideline (*IHO Guideline on Crowd-sourced Bathymetry, Edition 1.0.0*) prior to final approval by the Council and Member States. The Committee also approved the proposed revisions to the CSBWG ToRs and RoPs and tasked the WG to continue its work under the proposed revised ToRs in order to safeguard the implementation phase and future work on Edition 2 of the Guidelines.

4. IRCC also acknowledged the work done by the CSBWG and its Chair, Ms Jennifer Jencks, in the production of the draft CSB Guidance Document. Outcome 10 th Meeting of the IRCC was issued by the IHO Circular Letter 44/2018.

IHO Council Activities

5. The second meeting of the IHO Council (C-2) took place from 9 to 11 October 2018 in London, United Kingdom. In respect of the proposal for the approval of IHO publication B-12 - *IHO Guidelines on Crowdsourced Bathymetry* -, the Council agreed on the inclusion of a caveat on

page 3 of Edition 1.0.0 of the publication: “*This document provides technical guidelines only that in no way supersede or override national or international laws and regulations*”. This statement clarifies that in a technical publication like B-12, the issue is the potential of obstacles to data flows, rather than legal liability in general. The caveat will be included in the first edition of B-12, to allow that this eagerly awaited guidance can be made public on the IHO website. Further discussion resulted in an action to instruct CSBWG to work out more details of the data flow processes. A future Edition 2.0.0 will be submitted to Member States for their approval in due course, containing details with further guidance on data flow processes as agreed by the CSBWG and endorsed by IRCC. The Council acknowledged the work done by the CSBWG in the producing of the draft CSB Guidance Document.

6. Dr Graham Allen, Acting Director, Seabed 2030 Project, introduced the Seabed 2030 project to the C-2 participants. The Council commended Dr Graham Allen for the presentation given on the Seabed 2030 Project and noted his “call to action” to the IHO. The Council tasked the SPRWG to consider the Seabed 2030 Project during the revision process of the Strategic Plan. Outcome of the 2nd Meeting of the IHO Council was issued by IHO Circular Letter 51/2018.

Preparation of the Second IHO Assembly

7. The second IHO Assembly is scheduled to take place from 21 to 24 April 2020. The announcement and draft agenda of the Assembly-2 will be issued in April 2019. The IHO Work Programme for the next 3 year (2021-2023) including the GEBCO Work Programme will be prepared. The Chair of the GGC is invited to prepare draft 3 years GEBCO WP, which will be a part of the IHO WP-3 (IRRC).

IHO Outreach

World Hydrography Day

8. 12. The theme for 2018 is “***Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways***”. This theme was intended to raise awareness for a better understanding of the depth and shape of the seafloor, which is key to a broader understanding of the natural processes and the success of all human activities in, on or under the sea.

9. At the second IHO Council meeting in October, the Secretary General proposed the theme for WHD 2019 as follows: “***Hydrographic information to drive marine knowledge***”. The theme signals the eminent role of hydrographic data in combination with information provided by adjacent maritime domains and advertises the benefits of making hydrographic data accessible to the widest possible audience for use that goes well beyond safety of navigation. It will also acknowledge the increasing interest being shown by the UN-Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in marine geospatial data.

10. Following comprehensive redesign, the IHO website, including GIS-services will be renewed on 21 June 2019 coincides with WHD-2019. The new website, which would have versions in both English and French, would have a functional but creative design that paid respect to tradition and was fit for modern technology. The IHO emblem had also been slightly modified and will be in effect at the WHD-2019.

IHO Centenary Celebrations (IHO-100)

11. The years 2019 and 2021 will be important in the history of the International Hydrographic Organization. 2019 will mark the centenary of the 1st International Hydrographic Conference, which was held in London in 1919 and 2021 will be the centenary of the establishment of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) in 1921 in Monaco as precursor of the modern IHO.

12. The IHO Secretariat has already undertaken the preparations for the centenary celebrations of the International Hydrographic Organization ranging from 2019 to 2021 as important milestones of the IHO. In this respect, it is planned to organize workshops, exhibitions, outreach events and similar activities from 2019 to 2021, either independently or jointly with sister institutions and agencies. The "peak-of-the-peak" will be World Hydrography Day (WHD) on 21 June 2021. There will also be an opportunity to present IHO's achievements at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021 and at the IMO Assembly in November 2021.

13. The main activities scheduled for the IHO centenary celebrations, coordinated by the IHO Secretariat are as follows:

- To hold an exhibition on "*Historical Nautical Charts and Mediterranean*" which will be displayed at the Monaco Yacht Club from 1 to 13 April 2019,
- To organize an international Symposium on "*A Historical Approach for Measurements and Protection of Oceans and World Waters*" is scheduled to be held at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco from 20 to 21 June 2019 (in conjunction with the World Hydrography Day),
- To highlight the centenary celebrations as part of the media and press-campaign associated the Council meetings in 2019 and 2021.
- To organize a half day special session on IHO-100 at the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly (A-2) in April 2020.
- To prepare, publish and distribute an IHO Prestige Book on "*100 Years of International Cooperation in Hydrography*".

The centenary events could also be linked with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) which has been coordinated by the IOC of UNESCO.

International Hydrographic Review

14. The International Hydrographic Review (IHR) provides an opportunity for Regional Hydrographic Commissions, Member States and IHO Subordinate Organs to publicize technical and other achievements. The current digital editions of the IHR are available from the IHO website in PDF and free of charge (www.iho.int/download). As announced in the 2017 IHO Annual Report, the IHO Secretariat has been working with the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, in a project to develop a digital repository of the complete library of the IHR. Work led by Dr Dave Wells with the UNB has now been completed and the volumes from 1923 to 2018 are available at <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>.

15. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the IHO Secretariat (ihreview@iho.int) with a copy to the Editor (ian.halls1@defence.au.gov). The deadlines are:

- End of January for the May Edition;
- End of July for the November Edition.

16. The IHO Secretariat would like to re-emphasise the importance of GEBCO representation at RHC meetings in order to raise awareness of the programme and to assist in obtaining additional data. The IHO Secretariat notes the efforts being made by GEBCO members to attend RHC meetings.

IHO/IOC Coordination

17. The Secretariats of the IHO and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) has continued working closely on GEBCO, Seabed 2030 and other ocean related activities. The IHO was represented at the 51th Session of the Executive Council of the IOC held in Paris, France in June 2018 and actively supported the discussions on United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

Action Requested of the GGC

18. The GGC is invited to:

- a. Note this report;
- b. Consider submitting articles to the IHR;
- c. Continue to attend and support the RHC meetings;
- d. Take any other actions as considered appropriate.