

REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETINGS

Submitted by GEBCO Secretary

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of forthcoming IHO Regional Hydrographic Commission meetings.

Action to be taken: See paragraph 4

Related documents: GGC ToRs and RoPs dated 11 September 2015

1. The current Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee include, in the goals, the GGC is to:
 4. Encourage and facilitate ocean mapping cooperation leading to the exchange and preservation of bathymetric data and associated metadata;
 5. Foster collaboration among individuals and organizations with established and developing expertise so as to assist local and regional mapping efforts to attain a global standard of quality;
 6. Identify oceanic areas that are insufficiently mapped and recommend to appropriate ocean-going organizations and institutions that such areas are surveyed;
 7. Promote education and training in ocean mapping through high level courses in Ocean Bathymetry acknowledged by the IHO and IOC; and
 8. Bring together the ocean mapping community and users of bathymetry thereby leading to products that are more widely used.
2. The ToR also state, in articles, that the GGC shall:
 5. Stimulate the flow of data relevant to the GEBCO Project by actively identifying sources of new data and encouraging and promoting the release of data to appropriate data banks, with the objective of ensuring that maximum available data are provided to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB);
 11. Engage with regional mapping projects to encourage their compatibility with, and eventual inclusion in, GEBCO products; and
 14. Take all practical opportunities to advocate the scientific and societal benefits of mapping the seafloor.
3. The Secretariat of the IHO encourages targeted participation of appropriate GEBCO personnel in Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) meetings to achieve these goals and obligations. Details of recent and forthcoming RHC meetings are at Annex A.
4. The GGC is invited to:

- a. **Note** the information provided;
- b. **Identify and prioritise** RHC meetings at which participation is deemed advantageous;
- c. **Identify** appropriate individuals and **allocate** the necessary resources to support their participation; and
- d. Take any other **Action** deemed appropriate.

Annex:

- A. Table of recent and forthcoming RHC meetings.

Commission	2018			2019			2020		
	Location	Date	Attending	Location	Date	Attending	Location	Date	Attending
Arctic	<i>Svalbard, Norway</i>	<i>11-13 Sep</i>		Russia	17-19 Sep				
Baltic Sea	<i>Aalborg, Denmark</i>	<i>28-30 Aug</i>		tbd	10-12 Sep				
East Asia	<i>Putrajaya, Malaysia</i>	<i>18-20 Sep</i>		-	-				
<i>East Atlantic</i>	<i>Lagos, Nigeria</i>	<i>17-19 Oct</i>		-	-		Lisbon, Portugal	28 Sep-2 Oct	
Meso American and Caribbean	Cartagena, Columbia	26 Nov-1 Dec							
<i>Mediterranean and Black Sea</i>	-	-	-	Cádiz, Spain	18-20 Jun		-	-	-
Nordic	<i>Norrköping, Sweden</i>	<i>10-12 Apr</i>	No	Helsinki, Finland	9-11 Apr	No			
North Indian Ocean	<i>Goa, India</i>	<i>9-12 Apr</i>	Yes (tbc)	Muscat, Oman	25-28 Mar	Yes (tbc)			
North Sea	<i>Ostend, Belgium</i>	<i>27-28 Mar</i>	Yes BODC	-	-	-	Reykjavik, Iceland	Mar	
ROPME Sea Area	-	-	-	Islamabad, Pakistan	18-20 Feb	Yes (tbc)	-	-	-
South Africa and Islands	<i>Seychelles</i>	<i>27-30 Aug</i>		Nairobi, Kenya	Aug				
South East Pacific	-	-	-	Chile	tbc		-	-	-
South West Atlantic	<i>Montevideo, Uruguay</i>	<i>5-6 Apr</i>	Yes (tbc)	Buenos Aires, Argentina	11-12 Apr				
South West Pacific	<i>Nuku'alofa, Tonga</i>	<i>21-23 Feb</i>	Yes (tbc)	Alofi, Niue	13-14 Feb				
USA and Canada	<i>Victoria, BC, Canada</i>	<i>26 Mar</i>		Biloxi, Mississippi, USA	19-22 Mar				
Antarctica	<i>Niterói, Brazil</i>	<i>26-28 Jun</i>		Prague, Czech Republic	3-5 Jul				

Meetings in italics have already taken place.