

## Hydrographic Data Provision

### 1. Background

The provision of hydrographic data to the different users and for different uses has been on the agenda within IHO for quite a while, especially at IRCC and HSSC. Currently the topic enjoys a prominent visibility, partially initiated through “Seabed 2030”. This paper reflects the ongoing issues.

### 2. Analysis/Discussion

The discussions mainly focus on:

- policy on data gathering restrictions
- release of data into the public domain
- Crowd Sourced Bathymetry (CSB)
- bathymetric data from research vessels when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities
- contribution of bathymetric data in shallower coastal areas in order to support the production of higher resolution gridded data products (GEBCO, EU)

### 3. Conclusions

BSHC is already very active in many fields of the topics mentioned. In some aspects BSHC is even setting the pace. However, BSHC should consider possible improvements and further steps.

### 4. Recommendations

IRCC recommends BSHC and all other RHCs to

- encourage IHO Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB
- request IHO Member States to state their policy on data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction to enable CSB activities to be undertaken
- request IHO Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities
- request the IHO Member States to promote a scaled trial of CSB data collection as a follow on to earlier pilot programs (need better wording anyway)
- continue to encourage Member States to organize contribution of bathymetric data in shallower coastal areas to GEBCO via IHO DCDB in order to support the production of higher resolution gridded data products of GEBCO.

## **5. Action Required of BSHC**

### **The Commission is invited to**

- a) take note of the report
  - b) encourage IHO Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB
  - c) request IHO Member States to state their policy on data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction to enable CSB activities to be undertaken
  - d) request IHO Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities
  - e) continue to encourage Member States to organize contribution of bathymetric data in shallower coastal areas to GEBCO via IHO DCDB in order to support the production of higher resolution gridded data products of GEBCO.
  - f) Give further guidance on the development of hydrographic data provision
  - g) take any other action considered appropriate
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