

# IHO Strategic Plan

SUMMARY BROCHURE



**Hydrography** is the branch of applied science which deals with the measurement and description of the physical features of oceans, seas, coastal areas, lakes and rivers, as well as with the prediction of their change over time.

The **International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)**, which was established in 1921 and now has 93 member States, is an intergovernmental consultative and technical organization. It supports the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment, and coordinates the setting of hydrographic standards. It also facilitates capacity building of national hydrographic services. The IHO provides an international forum for the improvement of hydrographic services through the discussion and resolution of hydrographic issues and assists member Governments to deliver these services through their national hydrographic offices.



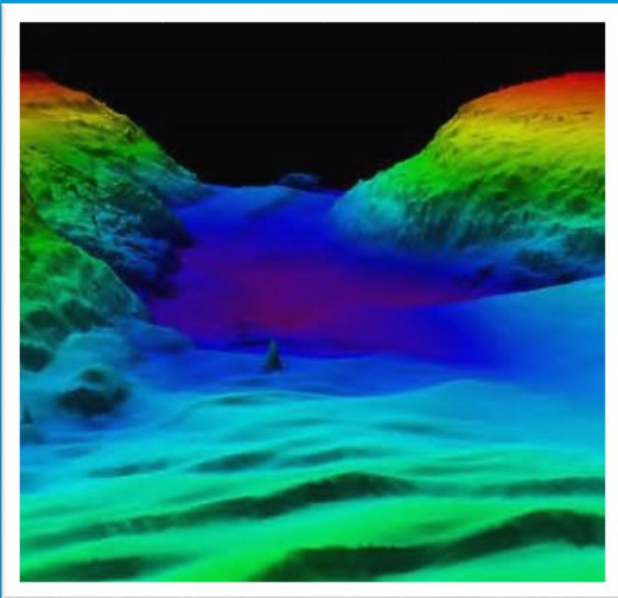
Hydrographic offices are facing significant challenges that shape the context in which the IHO builds the strategy to fulfil its vision:

- Growing needs for hydrographic knowledge, for increasingly diversified customers
- Progress in sensors, carriers and IT technology
- Data revolution, transforming the hydrographic ecosystem of gathering, processing and provision
- Increasing environmental, societal and economic attention to the Ocean

On-going transformation in navigation, such as e-navigation, autonomous shipping, reduction of emissions, lead to a profound evolution of hydrographic services, in a context of high demands for digital data.

## Goal 1

Evolving the hydrographic support for safety and efficiency of maritime navigation, undergoing profound transformation



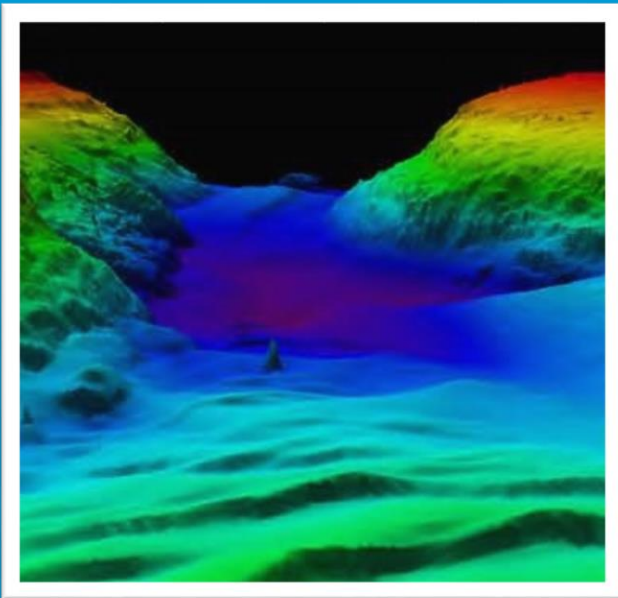
## Target

- 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

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### Strategic Performance Indicator

- Percentage of Member States having operationalized production and distribution of hydrographic data products and services based on IHO Universal Hydrographic Data Model (S-100), under an implementation framework of coordination and agreed timelines (2026: 100%)
- Number of hydrographic data products and services based on the Universal Hydrographic Data Model that cater for the new requirements: autonomous shipping, reduction of emissions
- Percentage of hydrographic data products and services based on the S-100 model that are covered by IHO standards, specifications and guidelines on cyber security (2026: 100%)
- Percentage of navigationally significant areas (e.g. charted traffic separation schemes, anchorages, channels) for which the adequacy of the hydrographic knowledge is assessed through the use of appropriate quality indicators (2026: 100%)
- Ability and capability of Member States to meet the requirements and delivery phases of the S-100 implementation on plan (2026: 50%)

## Goal 2

Increasing the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society



The ever-growing applications of marine data entails that IHO takes a more prominent role in cultivating the use of hydrographic data through cooperative and collaborative efforts and identifying the need for collecting more data.

### Target

- Build a portal to support and promote regional and international cooperation in marine spatial data infrastructures (MSDI)
- Promote new tools and methods to accelerate and increase coverage, consistency, quality of surveys in poorly surveyed areas
- Apply UN shared guiding principles for geospatial information management in order to ensure interoperability and extended use of hydrographic data in combination with other marine-related data

### Strategic Performance Indicator

- Number of hits downloading data/information from the portal
- Percentage of adequately surveyed area per coastal state
- Number of new applications of the new version of Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (S-44)
- Number of HOs reporting success applying the principles in their national contexts (2026: 70%)

# Goal 3

Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean



IHO's ambition is to be an effective and recognized contributor to the major Ocean related challenges identified by the international community.

## Target

- Collaborate with other bodies who deliver capacity-building and training to improve effectiveness of capacity-building activities and programmes
- Improve knowledge of the world's seafloors
- Implement a comprehensive IHO digital communication strategy in order to enhance its visibility and accessibility to its work

## Strategic Performance Indicator

- Percentage of Coastal States that are capable to provide marine safety information (MSI) according to the joint IMO/IHO/WMO manual on MSI (2026 90%)
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- Number of contributors to DCDB who are not hydrographic offices
- Percentage of total sea area that is Seabed 2030 compliant for incorporation into the GEBCO dataset and services
- Number of visits, likes, re-postings associated with the IHO social media sites
- Volume downloaded from the IHO website and Geographical Information System