

IHO File No. S1/6100/2023

**ASSEMBLY CIRCULAR LETTER N°2 Rev1/  
Bis4  
09 March 2023**

**3<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY (A-3)**

**Monaco, NEW DATE: 2-5 May 2023**

**NOMINATION OF DR JOHN NYBERG BY THE  
UNITED STATES of AMERICA FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE IHO**

References:

- A. Assembly Circular Letter No.2 dated 06 May 2022 – *Call for nomination of candidates for the position of IHO Secretary-General and IHO Director.*
- B. General Regulations of the IHO, Article 21
- C. General Regulations of the IHO, Article 26 (a)

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A invited IHO Member States to nominate candidates for the position of IHO Secretary-General and IHO Director and indicated that the names of candidates and their nomination forms will be published as soon as they are received.
2. The USA has nominated **Dr. John NYBERG** to stand for election (Reference C) at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly for the post of Director of the IHO. The nomination form is enclosed.
3. As required by Reference B, the Secretary-General will collate all the nominations received and present a consolidated inventory as part of the documentation for the consideration of the Assembly.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS  
Secretary-General

Annex: Nomination Form from the USA

**Candidature for a post of<sup>1</sup>**

**SECRETARY-  
GENERAL**

**DIRECTOR**

(Article 20 of the General Regulations)



**Candidature à un poste de<sup>1</sup>**

**SECRETAIRE  
GENERAL**

**DIRECTEUR**

(Article 20 du Règlement général)

**GENERAL - GENERALITES**

1. Nominating Member State - *Etat membre qui présente le candidat* : United States

2. Name - *Nom* : Dr. John Everett NYBERG

3. Nationality - *Nationalité* : USA

4. Date of birth - *Date de naissance* : July 10, 1973

5. Titles and decorations - *Titres et décorations* :

Deputy National Hydrographer, NOAA, Office of Coast Survey

The Assistant Secretary of Commerce Order of Sherman's Lagoon | 2017

"Mr. Nyberg is recognized for exceptional leadership of NOAA's charting program. Mr. Nyberg led the Marine Chart Division to complete a 4-year project to load NOAA's charts into an authoritative database. Anticipating the flexibility of this new foundation, he led the development of the National Charting Plan, vetting it broadly through a Federal Register Notice. Mr. Nyberg's strategic confidence and a receptive demeanor has resulted in widespread enthusiasm from employees and stakeholders."

U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award for Superior Federal Service | 2016

"For strategically managing the transition from Government-run paper nautical chart printing and distribution to a digitally based private market."

NOAA Administrator's Award | 2014

"For exceptional public service by providing the most up-to-date maritime publications on a weekly schedule in multiple formats to the mariner."

NOAA Spectrum Achievement Award - Living the Vision | 2009 & 2004

"In recognition of your personal commitment and significant contributions to the NOAA Diversity Initiative."

**EDUCATION AND LANGUAGES - ETUDES ET LANGUES**

6. Education (periods, including specialized or special qualifications) - *Etudes (durée, y compris les qualifications spécialisées ou particulières)* :

Ph.D., Earth Systems & Geo-information Sciences (2022), George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Ph.D. Dissertation: An analysis and examination of cruise infrastructure indicators, flux dynamics, and destination port viability.

Master of Arts, International Business (2006), University of Maryland Global Campus, Adelphi, MD

Bachelor of Arts, Geography (1996), University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

7. Languages (speaking and reading capacity) - *Langues (niveau oral et écrit)* :

English (mother tongue)

Spanish (understand and read at basic level)

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<sup>1</sup> Tick one box or both - <sup>1</sup> Cocher une case ou les deux

## **SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE<sup>2</sup> - SERVICES ET EXPERIENCE<sup>2</sup>**

### **8. Hydrographic service - Services dans l'hydrographie :**

#### **National Service**

##### **2020-present | Deputy Hydrographer, NOAA Office of Coast Survey**

Senior officer providing leadership for NOAA's OCS operations and managing international, legislative, and inter-agency engagements to deliver accurate nautical chart solutions that facilitate safe and efficient maritime commerce on America's oceans and coastal waters. Lead 6 program managers across International Affairs, Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping, Federal Advisory Committee on Hydrographic Survey Review, Coast Survey Communications, and Committee on U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS).

- Conceived and implemented international and legislative strategies and managed international agreements on marine geospatial data/Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) distribution.
  - Devised legislative engagement plan, which was used by staff at OCS headquarters to brief congressional staff on key initiatives and by regional managers in the field to promote and track engagements with stakeholders.
  - Developed and implemented a 3-tiered international strategy delineating goals and objectives, interagency and international partnerships, and resource management, producing measurable outcomes since rollout.
- Prioritized continuous progress on U.S. maritime commerce objectives through leadership roles in UN and IHO working groups and active contributions with International Center for Electronic Navigational Charts (IC-ENC).
- Contributed to crafting first U.S.-NOAA proposal for commitment to UNESCO's International Decade of Ocean Science (IOC) framework to create improved conditions for sustainable ocean development globally.
- Served as acting designated federal official for the Hydrographic Survey Review Panel, which included ~100 public participants providing guidance on NOAA's priorities and related issues in the marine transportation domain.

##### **2010-2020 | Chief and Deputy Chief of NOAA Office of Coast Survey Marine Chart Division**

Provided oversight for MCD strategy and operations to produce thousands of mapping and charting products, conduct nautical charts research, and disseminate U.S. ocean-mapping data in multiple geospatial formats. Built and led multicultural team of 10 direct reports and 96 indirect reports including student interns, entry-level cartographers, mid-level managers, and contractors. Managed \$15 million annual budget, property assets, human resources tasks, and diversity and inclusion training initiatives.

- Transformed MCD from a raster product, paper-chart organization to one propelling ENC as its signature product, successfully decreasing the rate of unapplied applications.
- Completed the build of the first U.S. Electronic Navigational Chart database, loading over 1,000 ENCs into a database driven production system – the largest of its kind at the time.
- Drafted agreement and negotiated responsibilities for U.S. membership to the International Center for Electronic Navigational Charting – the agreement provides redundant systems for data distribution, ISO certified quality control, and access to an internationally recognized center of excellence.
- Facilitated transition of MCD operations to 100% telework and rollout of weekly virtual meetings for employees during COVID-19 pandemic, which increased product production rates in 2020 vs. 2019 and maintained high employee morale. Enabled 100%+ output/input ratios for 5 out of 6 branches and higher ENC applications during 17 out of 22 weeks.
- Built and led implementation of 10-year improvement plan for U.S. Nautical Charting Program, which in its second year of implementation was widely accepted by industrial partners (including the Hydrographic Federal Advisory Committee), U.S. congressional members, and chart users.
- Facilitated first MCD offsite retreat for 20 selected cartographers, GIS specialists, and mid-level

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<sup>2</sup> All service and experience relevant to the nomination and which provide an indication of the extent to which the candidate is qualified to serve as Secretary-General or Director. - <sup>2</sup>Tout service et toute expérience en rapport avec la candidature donnant une indication de la mesure dans laquelle le candidat est qualifié pour occuper le poste de Secrétaire général ou de Directeur.

managers that provided an inclusive forum for planning major workflow and technology changes and identifying creative solutions to resolve MCD's operational and technical issues.

- Produced U.S. Arctic Nautical Charting plan, which included hydrographic survey, geodesy, and tide information about existing, recently added, or proposed new ENC coverage in U.S. Arctic waters.
- Increased opportunities to network with cartographic charting programs across IHO Member States.
  - Hosted 3 annual international capacity-building training sessions on geospatial analysis and hydrographic remote sensing techniques for 36 students from around the world.
  - Headed the U.S. delegation through first bilateral engagement on ocean mapping with Cuba in over 50 years.
  - Hosted Nigerian Navy cartographer at MCD headquarters to enable skill-building needed to train staff in Nigeria.

#### **2007-2010 | Deputy Chief, NOAA Navigation Services Division**

Steered NSD operations and staff to deliver customer-driven maritime support services that ensured navigational safety, environmental protection, and efficient flow of commerce through national waterways. Managed \$7 million budget, 50+ employees, property assets valued at \$10 million, and diversity and inclusion initiatives.

- Orchestrated representation of NOAA and OCS at 10+ maritime customer-outreach events per year, including Annapolis Boat Show and Port of N.Y. - N.J. Port Industry Day; managed budget, show selection, and staffing.
- Managed multiple customer satisfaction surveys of over 6,000 participants each to improve products and services.
- Oversaw acquisition of new \$2 million hydrographic survey vessel (Bay Hydrographer II), small hydrographic survey boats, hydrographic surveys, and other equipment to support NOAA's navigation response teams.

#### **2001-2007 | Technical Advisor, NOAA Navigation Services Division**

Provided technical and management advice on geospatial research, policies, best practices, hydrographic surveys, nautical charting, sailing directions, and maritime customer outreach for U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS). Managed all aspects of NSD contractors' program.

- Worked on board U.S. Coast Guard ship in 2005 and 2007, collecting GPS, GIS, survey, and charting data from Guam and Northern Marianas Islands in the Pacific Ocean to align charting features with modern vertical datums.
- Designed and implemented a new workflow management system for the U.S. Coast Pilot, which produced each geographic region's Coast Pilot edition from a central data repository and distributed geospatial/cartographic data in multiple formats.

#### **1998-2001 | Coast Pilot Cartographer**

Responsible for the compilation and review of nautical information for US sailing directions.

### **International Hydrographic Organization and other International Activities**

#### **2022-present | Vice-President of the UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee Board of Directors**

Determines the relevant regional issues for the management of geospatial information, and takes the necessary measures to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits derived from its use. The foregoing is based on the exchange of knowledge, experiences and technologies by the Member States, which supports the establishment of the Geospatial Data Infrastructures in the Americas and other national initiatives, in addition to the contributions to the debates in UN-GGIM.

#### **2022 - present | Chair, International Center for Electronic Navigational Charts**

##### **2021-2022 | Vice-Chair**

Aid ENC producers in harmonizing the quality control and distribution of high-quality ENCs, production support, validation, distribution, and revenue management.

#### **2020-present | Vice-Chair, Inter-Regional Coordination Committee**

##### **2017-present | U.S. Representative**

Advance the IHO mission of overseeing IHO's capacity-building strategy, promoting wider use and collection of marine data, and supporting policy matters related to the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND).

#### **2019-2023 | Chair, Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database Working**

Group

2016-2019 | **Vice-Chair**

2015-2019 | **U.S. Head of Delegation**

Monitor and advise IRCC on the development of adequate ENC coverage to meet the SOLAS V/19 carriage requirements for ECDIS. Manage the transition of IHO principles regarding the distribution and production of S1xx products and services.

2018-present | **Co-Chair, United Nations-GGIM Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information**

2014-present | **U.S. Advisor, UN-GGIM Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

Facilitate global consistency and quality of marine geospatial information and to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable geospatial information including for the marine environment in support of national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2018 | **IHO Council, U.S. Head of Delegation**

2012-2018 | **Chair, Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Chart Coordination Committee**

Supported development/maintenance of official nautical charts including integrated international (INT) and ENC chart schemes. Developed annual status reports on regional/national capabilities and nautical chart building progress.

2016-2020 | **U.S. National Committee Member, International Cartographic Association**

Proposed and supported strategies and tactics to increase use of cartography and geographic information science to provide the maximum benefit to society.

2010-2014 | **U.S. Head of Delegation, Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee**

Coordinated the implementation of the strategic direction of developing, improving, promulgating and promoting clear, uniform, global hydrographic standards to enhance safety of navigation at sea, protection of the marine environment, maritime security and economic development.

2001-2008 | **Secretary, Standardization of Nautical Publications Working Group**

2008-2009 | **Vice-Chair**

Developed and maintained guidance, resolutions, and specifications for nautical publication information to provide shipboard users up-to-date information to plan and execute safe journeys.

9. Non-Hydrographic service - *Services autres qu'hydrographiques* :

2004 – present	Office of Coast Survey Diversity and Inclusion Committee
2004 – 2006	Committee Chair
2014 – present	American Association of Geographers
2014 – 2017	Northbrook II Condo Board
2002 – 2015	Washington DC Squash Club
1994 – 1996	University of Florida - Gamma Theta Upsilon Geographic Honor Society
1996	President

10. Scientific Activities - *Activités scientifiques* :

Select Publications and Presentations

- Nyberg, J., Pe'eri, S., Slocum, S.L. and Rice, M.** Geographic Factors for Managing Cruise Ship Destination Port to Attraction Passenger Transfer in the Caribbean Region. *Proc. Int. Cartogr. Assoc.*, 4:77, 2021.
- Nyberg, J., Rice, S.** Mini-review: Planning and Preparation for Cruising Infrastructure: Cuba as a Case Study. *Journal of Tourism & Hospitality*, S3:002, 2021.
- Nyberg, J., Pe'eri, S., Slocum, S.L., Rice, M., Komwa, M., and Sun, D.** Planning and Preparation for Cruising Infrastructure: Cuba as a Case Study. *Sustainability*, 13(5):2951, 2021.
- Nyberg, J., Pe'eri, S., Catoire S. M., Harmon C.** An Overview of the NOAA ENC Re-scheming Plan. *International Hydrographic Review*, November Edition, 2020.
- Pe'eri, S., **Nyberg, J.**, Weston, N. NOAA's Certification program in Marine Cartography. Abstract of the 29th International Cartographic Conference, 2019.
- Nyberg, J.** Beyond Charting: Nautical Charting Information For the 21st Century. *Environment Coastal & Offshore (ECO) Online Magazine*, 2018.

- Nyberg, J.** NOAA steps up charting with digital upgrades, new services. *Professional Mariner – Journal of the Maritime Industry*, 2017.
- Nyberg, J., Pe'eri, S., Rice, M.** Cruising to Cuba - Predicting Impacts of Cruise Ship Tourism to New Destinations. Association of American Geographers Conference, 2017.
- Nyberg, J., Harmon, C., Pe'eri, S., Brown M.** NOAA's National Charting Plan – A Strategy to Transform Nautical Charting. International Cartographic Conference, 2017.
- Klemm, A., Pe'eri, S., Sartor, C., Nyberg, J., Barber, J.** Chart Adequacy Procedure using Publicly available Information - Canadian Hydrographic Conference, 2016.
- Pe'eri S., Madore B., Nyberg J., Snyder L, Parrish C, and Smith S.** Identifying Bathymetric Differences over Alaska's North Slope using a Satellite-derived Bathymetry Multi-temporal Approach. *J. of Coastal Research*, 76: 56–63, 2016.
- Nyberg, J. et al.** Chart adequacy evaluation over the coastal water of Haiti using satellite-derived bathymetry. NOAA Technical Memorandum NOS CS 35, 2016
- Nyberg, J. et al.** Nautical Chart Adequacy Procedure. International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) GEBCO Cookbook, 2016.
- Nyberg, J. et al.** Port Infrastructure and Hydrography. Cruise Line International Association Conference, 2015.
- Nyberg, J. et al.** Nautical Chart Adequacy Evaluation Using Publicly Available Data. U.S. Hydrographic Conference, 2015.
- Nyberg, J. et al.** Risk: Modern Ships & Aging Data. 10th Annual Harbor Safety Committee Conference, 2008.

### **CANDIDATE'S POSITION - POSITION DU CANDIDAT**

Dear Hydrographers, Nautical Cartographers, Geospatial Managers, and Friends,

I am asking for your support to serve as one of the two Directors of the International Hydrographic Organization. I have dedicated the entirety of my twenty-five year career to public service, specifically in the fields of hydrography, nautical cartography, international partnerships, and marine geospatial data management. Some of the proudest moments in my career have been the result of my work with the IHO. I have had the privilege of representing my country on dozens of working groups and committees in positions ranging from subject matter expert to head of delegation. I have also been fortunate to serve in a variety of positions from working group secretary to chair.

I take great pride and count myself lucky to have discovered hydrography and charting early in my professional life. To have spent a career that is intertwined with two of my lifelong passions, geographic study and boating, has simply been fantastic. Growing up in Florida, I spent my formative years boating with my father. I am happy to say that I still spend many days on the water and consider myself a recreational mariner. I recognize that boating for recreation differs from spending a life at sea, however, I appreciate that my experience brings a different perspective to our work, one that recognizes the challenges facing the estimated 30 million recreational mariners around the world. My boating experience, coupled with my education in geoinformation science and international business management, has worked well for me throughout my NOAA career, and I believe they would also be of great benefit to the IHO and its Member States.

If given the chance to serve as one of the IHO Directors, I would work to keep five major themes in the forefront of my thinking; organizational business acumen, diversity and inclusion, realizing the 2030 agenda, leave no Member State behind, and recognizing the increased opportunity that our data provides.

**Organizational Business Acumen** – In order for the IHO to serve the Member States, we should always be striving to improve our business processes. This needs to be a constant consideration for any organization, particularly one, like the IHO, that supports an innovative industry with a wide range of Member State priorities. In joining the IHO, Member States are making an investment in their national geospatial infrastructures. In doing so, they have already considered marine geospatial information to be a critical element of that infrastructure and that investing in the IHO will provide value. I believe that it is the responsibility of the IHO Directing Committee to help Member States realize that investment by ensuring that the IHO business model respects current financial boundaries and looks for new opportunities to expand them, including new partnerships, service offerings, and increased membership. We must recognize that IHO membership growth is not infinite and that increasing dues is an option that is not acceptable for many, so the consideration of a modified, well managed, business model is important if we wish to expand our ability to offer an increase in capacity building and standards development.

**Diversity and Inclusion** – If we want the world to be motivated to participate in our field of work, it is important for people to see themselves represented in it. A diverse organization respects gender, culture, and regional representation, but it must also include and respect varying levels of experience and opinion. I believe that encouraging a diversity of opinion, not only increases participation but provides checks and balances when developing the principles and actions that guide our work. The IHO should strive to ensure that diverse

representation exists across the organization, including working level participation, secretariat level staffing, and the leadership structure. The IHO should craft a plan for diversity and inclusion at all levels.

Realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Marine Transportation – The sustainable development goals outline a series of challenges for the world, everything from eliminating poverty to organizing climate action. The IHO's answer to this is and should continue to be its plan to complete the full transition to S-100 based products and services by 2030. A successful implementation of the S-100 data model will facilitate safer, more efficient and environmentally friendly marine transportation through improved data interoperability, increased data availability, and expanded global capacity. This can only happen if we make sure that we are coordinating our efforts with private sector partners, IMO, Regional ENC Coordinating Centers, and all Member States.

Leave no Member State behind – We live in an exciting time for hydrography. We are developing new standards, navigation systems, and data collection techniques, all while continuously discovering new uses for our data. IHO Member State capabilities and access to resources varies extensively and we must recognize that we will all be better off if we address these challenges together. This doesn't mean that every Member State needs to take the same approach to problem solving, but we should do our best to make sure that there is equitable access to capacity building, data sharing opportunities, and Member State representation. Moving into the post-pandemic world, we need to make sure that we are providing universal opportunity for access when it comes to IHO participation. The pandemic showed that we can make progress virtually, however, it has also shown that that virtual progress is limited. We need to make sure that virtual participants are not omitted from the decision-making process and that we do our best to facilitate in-person interactions.

Recognize the increased opportunity that our data provides – Our data and standards provide opportunity far beyond navigational use. We have made great strides in our acknowledgement and management of marine spatial data infrastructure, but it is time for the IHO to double our efforts. Many of our members have been active participants in the UN-GGIM, GEBCO Seabed 2030, and the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. These initiatives all help to highlight the wide variety of uses for hydrographic data, many beyond navigation. I strongly believe that the value of our data, however, extends beyond its uses. By telling the story of hydrography through the countless array of value propositions, we build interest in our field of work. We need more coral scientists, marine debris experts, wind energy managers, aquaculture farmers, and aspiring explorers to become hydrographic champions because they understand how important it is to their fields of interest.

I am applying for this position at the peak of my NOAA career because I believe I have the energy, determination, and requisite experience to help the IHO and its Member States realize the aspirations of its 2021-2026 Strategic Plan and beyond. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to offer my best professional years as part of the IHO Directing Committee.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - RENSEIGNEMENTS COMPLEMENTAIRES  
(if any) (le cas échéant)**

Date : February 15, 2023

Signature of candidate - *Signature du candidat* :



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Forwarding Authority - *Autorité qui transmet* :

.....  
The Honorable Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State  
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Signature of forwarding authority – *Signature de l'autorité qui transmet* :

