



Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Ecosystems and Oceans Science

Dr. Genevieve Béchard  
Director General - Hydrographer General of Canada  
200 Kent St, Ottawa, ON, K1A0E6, Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada  
Science des écosystèmes et des océans

Dr. Geneviève Béchard  
Directrice générale - Hydrographe générale du Canada  
200 Rue Kent, Ottawa, ON, K1A0E6, Canada



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Dear Council Colleagues:

I am looking forward to our Council 5 meeting next week, though it is most unfortunate that we will not be meeting in-person again this year. Regardless, I hope we can enjoy the open and cordial discussions as has become the custom at the IHO Council meetings. Over the past few months I have had the great fortune to talk with most of you. I thoroughly enjoyed these conversations. I am most grateful to each of you for making the time and sharing your thoughts and ideas regarding Council. Your input is invaluable.

With the outstanding support of the IHO Secretariat, particularly, Secretary-General Mathias Jonas and Assistant Director Yves Guillam, and the chairs of HSSC and IRCC, we have put together an agenda that will address the key items for Council with time built in to allow for full discussions on each subject.

Some of the items are:

1. Implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan and the Strategic Performance Indicators (SPIs).

In their submissions, the Secretariat, HSSC, and IRCC have laid out their plans for delivering on the SPIs that have been assigned to them. This is a work in progress and in our discussions at C5- we will need to provide guidance on next steps. It is critical that the SPIs are stabilized so that the maximum amount of data for the indicators can be collected, collated, and prepared for annual reporting and for presentation at A3. This experience is vital to determine if further modifications are required. Council should establish a reporting procedure and this discussion will be greatly aided by the US proposal on the *Council role in Annual Assessment of the implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan*. For those of you who were able to attend last week's IRCC workshop on the Strategic Plan, there were some excellent presentations and discussions on the implementation of the plan from regional and domestic perspectives that feed nicely into the Council discussion. In particular, the role of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) in coordinating implementation was highlighted. I would ask you to reflect on whether additional workshops would be useful, and if so on which topics.

2. Roadmap for S-100 Implementation.

The Roadmap will continue to be an important strategic document for the IHO and Member States (MS). It takes a global view of the management of S-100 development and implementation. Both IRCC and HSSC have proposals related to the Roadmap. I believe it is important for Council to acknowledge that not all MS will be traveling across this map at the same pace. Collectively we have to consider how to support each other in a way that will ensure consistent and complete coverage of S-100 related data when it becomes available. In my conversations with many of you, the importance of the Capacity Building

program- and how IHO supports basic capacity building while also supporting the migration to S-100 was raised in several conversations. The role of the RENCs was also raised, and as such we have invited representatives from the RENCs as observers to C-5.

C5 is a critical meeting to lay the groundwork for our next Assembly meeting in 2023. Next week, we will take stock of what has been accomplished since our last meeting and agree on actions for the coming months. Preparations for A3, including the review and the completion of tasks from A2, must be effectively completed and ready for endorsement at C6 in 2022.

In conclusion, I encourage your participation next week. The agenda covers many topics and I welcome your input during the discussions. The outcomes of C5 will launch us into a very busy period for Council and I am grateful for your continued cooperation and support.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our informal get-together on Monday.

À bientôt!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geneviève Béchard', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dr. Geneviève Béchard,  
Chair IHO Council  
Director General, Canadian Hydrographic Service and  
Hydrographer General of Canada