



Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ecosystems and Oceans Science
Dr. Geneviève Bécharde
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 Bécharde
Directrice générale-Hydrographe générale du Canada
200 Rue Kent, Ottawa, ON, K1A0E6, Canada



October 3, 2022

Dear Council Colleagues:

First and foremost, I hope that this note finds you, your families, and your colleagues healthy and safe.

Later this month, for the first time since Assembly 2, Council will be meeting face to face in Monaco. I look forward to seeing many of you again, and to meeting some of you for the first time in-person.

Most of you generously took the time to talk to me in the lead-up to this, the 6th Meeting of the IHO Council (C6). These preparatory calls provided an opportunity for us to discuss priorities for the meeting. Some of the common themes included: implementation of the S-100 roadmap, in particular how we transition to S-101 ENC production and services, and how we communicate the world-wide picture of dual fuel ENC provision from 2026 onward; the need to start discussing how S-100 services beyond S-101 will be delivered, both within the IHO community but also with other data providers and with our users; the future of the paper chart. I thank you for sharing your thoughts with me and encourage you to contribute these actively during C6 discussions.

This Council meeting takes on a special importance as our last meeting before Assembly 3. Despite the covid pandemic, Council has addressed all of the items it was tasked with from A2. At C6, we will take stock of progress and consider decisions and recommendations for A3. Here are some key C6 agenda items we should be mindful of:

1. We must be ready to meet the demands for products, services, and coverage that will come with the start of the IMO's S-100 implementation on 1 January 2026. Based on the reports and recommendations of the HSSC and IRCC, Council is asked to consider and approve revisions to the S-100 Roadmap and to prioritize the efforts of the IHO organs, the Secretariat, IHO Member States, and the Regional Hydrographic Commissions to prepare for S-100 implementation.
2. Council, as the overall custodian of the IHO Strategic Plan (SP), will report to Assembly 3 on the progress towards the SP 2020-2026 goals and targets. C6 will recognize work done to better understand the implementation of the SP and will consider if further refinements of the Strategic Performance Indicators (SPIs) might be required. A reminder that in line with the planning cycle for the Strategic Plan, A3 will be asked to task the next Council with providing recommendations and updates on the SP for A4 in 2026.

3. Several items will touch on the preparation for Assembly, including the 3-year work programme and budget and the establishment of the new 2023-2026 IHO Council. How we communicate effectively the 2020-2023 IHO Council achievements and decisions will be considered throughout C6. Our messages will need to be clear and concise. The Strategic Plan and associated indicators, and the S-100 roadmap are critical communication tools.

There are three additional items that I would like to bring to your attention with this letter.

First, on Tuesday October 18 during the lunch period, there will be an informal meeting at the IHO Secretariat on the question of Hydrographic Interest. There are no proposals on this issue at C6. Therefore, interested parties present are invited to discuss how best to proceed on this matter. The result of these considerations can be communicated to Council later in the week, for information only. Delegations interested in participating are invited to pre-register for this side meeting **no later than Friday 14 October** to caroline.fontanili@iho.int (number of participants, dietary requirements if any).

On Wednesday, October 19, we have invited an expert, Mr Pierre Bahurel, Director General of Mercator Ocean International, to present on the *Digital Twin of the Ocean* initiative. This relevant topic will inform discussions on how technology is evolving and what this can mean for hydrographic services.

Finally, the Secretariat in conjunction with local officials have established a set of health protocols to ensure we have as safe a meeting as possible. These may change depending on the situation at the time of the meeting. The Secretariat will provide guidance and updates. We kindly request your cooperation and patience.

In conclusion, I am looking forward to an exciting and productive meeting. I look forward to many lively discussions, from the optional brainstorming session on Monday afternoon through to the conclusion of the plenary on Thursday and during coffee breaks, lunches, and informal get-togethers in between. Welcome, everyone!



À bientôt,

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