



ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

AGENDA ITEM 5.2.2

UPDATE ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



IHO

IHO'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OCEAN DECADE

[LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

International
Hydrographic
Organization

Contributions to the UN Ocean Decade fall primarily under IHO Strategic Plan Goal 3, “Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean”,

however, such activity also undoubtedly supports the targets of Goal 2, “Increasing the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society”.



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PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES (1)

- **GEBCO and SB2030.** GEBCO principally contributes to the UN Ocean Decade through its partnership with the Nippon Foundation in delivering SB2030.
- In 2024, the percentage coverage of the GEBCO Grid was increased from 24.9% to 26.1%, an increase of 1.2% or 4.34 million km² – equivalent to an area the size of the European Union.
- **IHO's CSB Initiative as a UN Decade Contribution.**

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES (2)**

GEBCO Participation in IOC' Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS). IOC's International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) has requested that the GEBCO grid be included in ODIS.

Depth as an EOVS. The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) defines the scope of the ocean parameters that they monitor through a series of Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs). Depth is not currently one of these variables (Ref. paper C8 5.2.2C – Proposal for inclusion of Depth as an EOVS)



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PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES (3)

Empowering Women in Hydrography Project.

Reported under Agenda Item 5.2.1

Participation in Ocean Decade Conference April 2024.

Two official satellite-events: one in partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on ocean mapping:

The seabed data we need for the ocean we want

and the second co-hosted with IMO's World Maritime University on achieving gender equality in ocean sciences:

Empowering Women for the Ocean Decade:

Achieving Gender Equality in Ocean Sciences and Policy Making.



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PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES (4)

United Nations Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information (UN IGIF-Hydro).

The IGIF-Hydro was produced by the UN GGIM Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information with strong participation from the IHO MSDI WG and IHO Member States. It aims to serve as a reference for the efficient use of geospatial information by all countries to facilitate decision-making in support of sustainable oceans and seas, coastal zones, deltas and tributaries, and inland water bodies and waterways.



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PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES (5)

Other Member State Activities.

In addition, there are certainly activities that IHO MS are undertaking that contribute formally or informally to the UN Ocean Decade. To date, 39 Countries have formed National Decade Committees (NDCs), many of the IHO MS.

Future Engagement.

In 2025, the UN will hold its 3rd Ocean Conference in Nice, Co-hosted with the Governments of France and Costa Rica. This presents an ideal opportunity for continued engagement as referred to in paper
C8 5.2.2B – Participation in 3rd UN Oceans Conference

**ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL**

C-8 is invited to:

- take note of the activities coordinated by subsidiary bodies and the IHO Secretariat,
- Consider developing a register of MS who are part of a national Ocean Decade Committee and individual MS activities/formal contributions.
- Request the SPRWG consider the need for specific SPIs that measure contributions to the UN Ocean Decade.