



Explore the Full Strategic Plan
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International Hydrographic Organization

-  4b quai Antoine 1er, Monaco 98000
-  (+377) 93 10 81 00
-  info@iho.int
-  www.iho.int


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INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION



ABOUT THE IHO

Over 80% of global trade moves by sea. Accurate, timely ocean data is not optional — it is essential to safe navigation, environmental protection, and a thriving blue economy.

The IHO is the world's intergovernmental authority in hydrography, working since 1921 to ensure all seas, oceans, and navigable waters are surveyed, charted, and accessible to all.

OUR VISION

To be the authoritative worldwide hydrographic body, advancing maritime safety, ocean science, and the sustainable use of the marine environment.

OUR MISSION

To create a global environment in which States provide adequate, standardized, and timely hydrographic data — and ensure their widest possible use.

PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

This Strategic Plan sets the course for the IHO from 2027 to 2032 — a period of profound transformation in world hydrography, driven by the global rollout of the S-100 digital data standard, expanding ocean science needs, and growing capacity requirements across Member States.

The Plan defines 3 strategic goals and measurable targets, providing a clear framework to monitor progress through 2032.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2027-2032

Charting the course for safe, sustainable, and data-rich oceans



IHO

International
Hydrographic
Organization

100+ Member States working together for safer oceans

GOAL 1

Navigate the Digital Transition

Safety & Efficiency of modern maritime navigation



KEY TARGETS

- Develop & promote S-100 hydrographic standards for digital marine navigation
- Support all Member States through the S-100 transition with training & tools
- Implement e-navigation ENDS products compliant with IMO SOLAS requirements
- Coordinate global & regional distribution of S-100-based data services

Performance Indicator

70% of Member States producing S-100 Route Monitoring products by 2032

GOAL 2

Map the Unknown

Ocean science, society & sustainable marine management



KEY TARGETS

- Complete a high-resolution global seafloor map aligned with UN Ocean Decade
- Enhance the Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) for open data access
- Advance innovative survey methods — uncrewed systems, autonomous technology
- Expand partnerships with maritime & ocean stakeholders for data interoperability

Performance Indicator

80% of Member States contributing a minimum of one GIS layer to IHO GIS services

GOAL 3

Build for the Future

People, infrastructure & global hydrographic capacity



KEY TARGETS

- Establish fully operational S-100 technical infrastructure globally
- Enable all coastal States to achieve Phase 1 of IHO Capacity Building Strategy
- Develop Country Profiles to characterize hydrography in every coastal State
- Strengthen diverse, qualified representation across IHO bodies & Secretariat

Performance Indicator

90% of Coastal States achieve Phase 1 of the IHO Capacity Building Strategy by 2030