



## Sharing knowledge Encouraging fishermen to help map our planet

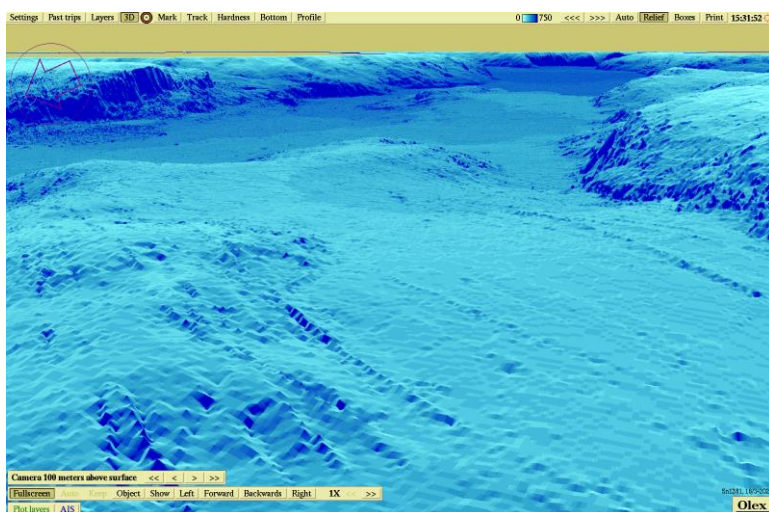
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### SHARING DATA

Fishing vessels can participate in increasing our knowledge of the ocean by sharing depth measurements from their instruments while fishing or transiting. This work can help identify uncharted features such as seamounts and canyons, verify charted information, and help fill the gaps where no data exists.

#### Fishing vessels are professionally manned and well equipped

Most fishing vessels have equipment that can log depth data that can help fill vast knowledge gaps, contribute to scientific research and improve navigational safety, which would in turn benefit other mariners and ocean scientists more generally. Parameters such as depth or position, measured routinely by echo sounders and GPS, can then be stored, uploaded and contributed to global mapping initiatives. Many fishermen already share the bathymetric data they collect at sea with other fishermen through navigation system solutions like Olex. These systems provide excellent opportunities for automated data contributions if its users would agree to that. Data can also be contributed directly to the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB).



© Olex



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***“Getting to know the ocean is the greatest mapping adventure of our times. Many underwater mountain ranges, volcanoes, canyons have yet to be discovered and named”.***

**Dr Mathias Jonas, IHO Secretary General**

The IHO is the umbrella organization for hydrographic offices that produce official nautical charts for mariners. The capacity of most hydrographic offices to map the seabed is mostly limited to coastal and shallow waters. The global endeavor to map all of our planet’s seabed is therefore dependent on many other professional mariners to contribute. Fishermen are such professional mariners, sailing in waters where we lack knowledge accessible to all, and with the equipment that can measure deeper than standard navigation echo sounders. We need to increase our knowledge of the ocean floor to better predict ocean currents, develop climate models and understand our planet.

## GEBCO

GEBCO (The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) aims to provide the most authoritative, publicly available bathymetry data sets for the world’s oceans. More than 80 percent of the world’s oceans is not directly measured. Many places we do not even have one depth sounding per 10X10km. The goal set in the Seabed 2030 project that aims to improve GEBCO, is not to have everything measured in great detail but to be able to produce a 100m grid down to 1500m deep water.

## DATA OWNERSHIP

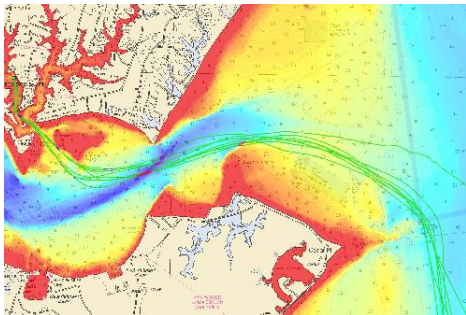
Contributed data should include depth, position and time stamp. While additional information is encouraged, data does not need to include vessel name, IMO number or anything else with the vessel identification prior to uploading to the DCDB database. By contributing data to the DCDB, the provider will not be held liable for the data submitted.



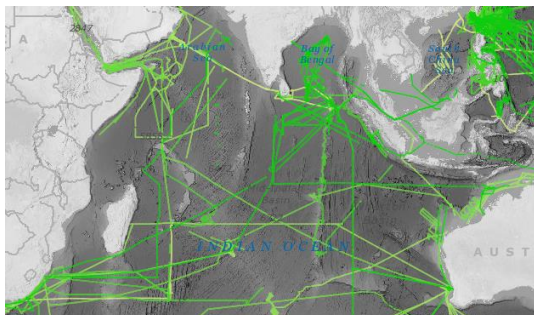
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## FIND OUT MORE

Further information about collecting or contributing data can be found at the IHO DCDB website ([ngdc.noaa.gov/iho/](http://ngdc.noaa.gov/iho/)), by contacting representatives of the IHO Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group at [bathydata@iho.int](mailto:bathydata@iho.int) or by contacting the manufacturer of navigation systems like Olex if you would allow your collected data to be shared in a 100m grid.



NOAA’s Bay Hydro II crowdsourced bathymetry test tracks in green overlaid on multibeam survey data demonstrates how changes can be detected. Image courtesy of NOAA



Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) Viewer showing vessel tracks of bathymetry data contributed via the IHO DCDB.

