

CSBWG Work Item E
Support CSB/SB2030 Coordinators in their RHC engagement
Submitted by Jennifer Jencks & Belen Jimenez

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details on activities conducted related to support CSB/SB2030 Coordinators in their RHC engagement

Action to be taken: See below

Related documents:

[IRCC 14 \(2022\) Proposal to Stand Up a CSB Team](#);
[IRCC 12 \(2020\) Paper on raising the awareness of CSB](#)
[RHC Coordinators Spreadsheet](#)
[IHO RHC Website](#)

Introduction/Overview

At CSBWG13 (10-13 Jan 2023), the working group agreed to focus on 11 work items. Jennifer Jencks, Evert Flier, Belen Jimenez, Anthony Klemm and Denis Hains volunteered to work on *Item E: Support CSB/SB2030 Coordinators in their RHC engagement*.

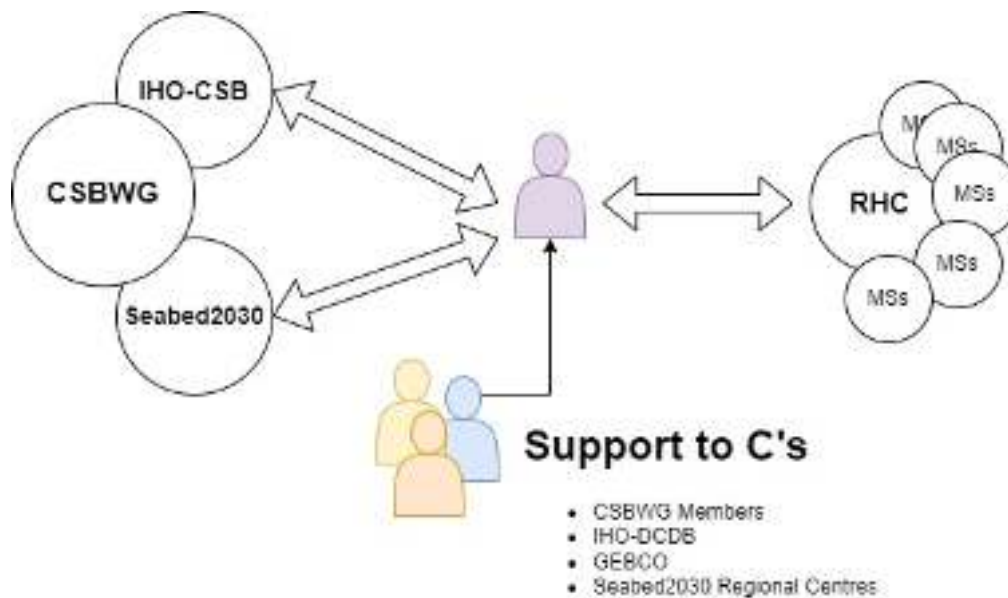
The team met in April to discuss the focus of the group and agreed upon the following activities to be presented to IRCC:

Work Item	Title	Priority <i>H-high M-medium L-low</i>	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status <i>P-planned O-ongoing C-completed S-Superseded</i>
E-1	Revisit and update (if necessary) the original intent of the CSB/SB2030 Coordinator (Co) role.	H	Revisit current definition of Co role & make the necessary changes (if any) to accommodate the current situation and experience since last defined	2023	December 2023	O
E-2	Work with each Co to develop a regional strategy to aim to achieve the goals of the CSBWG and SB2030	H	Define responsibilities from CSBWG and Seabed2030 and make a plan on how will we support Cos	2023	December 2023	P
E-3	Raise awareness of CSB in IHO Capacity Building Subcommittee	M	Consolidate and develop guidance for other coastal States	2024	June 2024	P

Work Item E-1:
Revisit and update (if necessary) the original intent of the CSB/SB2030 Coordinator (Co) role

It was acknowledged by the team that there is a need for re-visiting the Coordinator role. Clearly defining the role of the coordinator and providing guidance on how to act in such a role is believed to minimise the burden of the task and ensure maximised success in acting as liaison between CSB/Seabed2030 and the hydrographic commissions.

The following figure shows a broad overview of the different interactions which allow for promoting CSB amongst MSs. The Cos, located at the centre, have a critical role, and as such, their responsibilities should be clear, and they should feel properly supported at all times.



Work Item E-2:
Work with each Co to develop a regional strategy to aim to achieve the goals of the CSBWG and SB2030

Acknowledging the diversity in the hydrographic commissions, it is deemed important to provide both global and custom regional support to Cos to facilitate the execution of their task and to maximise the impact of their role.

Since the Co role was established, a lot of experience has been gained on what works and what doesn't, and it has been clear that in different regions, Cos have different needs and degrees of autonomy. Furthermore, many MSs have the challenge of frequently changing personnel and not always having resources available to attend CSBWG, this intensifies the need for support.

As mentioned in [IRCC 14 \(2022\) Proposal to Stand Up a CSB Team](#), high level of involvement from supporting bodies such as IHO-CSBWG Chair, Seabed 2030 regional centres and GEBCO SCRUM

Chair have shown to play a crucial role in empowering Cos. This is also the case with enabling interaction between Cos to share experiences and support each other, which allows for more experienced Cos to inspire the newly appointed and to identify common challenges in the different regions. The suggestions made in the above-mentioned proposal are still considered relevant and listed here:

- Past and current updates on Seabed 2030 Project and/or CSB efforts within their RHCs;
- Update on Coordinator-led efforts within their RHCs;
- The establishment of a cohesive regional approach;
- Challenges/issues faced by Coordinators;
- Successes, lessons learned experienced by Coordinators;
- Strategies for becoming involved in CSB data collection, contribution and/or an official CSB Trusted Node;
- Strategies for encouraging positive responses to the CLs regarding data release (IHO CL 21/2020 and IRCC CL 01/2020).

Having a collection of documents which can support the role of the Cos was also considered essential, such as guidance documents and presentations.

Work Item E-3: Raise awareness of CSB in IHO Capacity Building Subcommittee

Given the potential of CSB to provide bathymetric data at low cost for hydrographic offices, it is considered relevant to identify potential capacity building activities that could be conducted.

It was agreed that this work item should be put on hold until an overall strategy for E-1 & E-2 is consolidated. However, the dates for the next CB Subcommittee meeting should be taken into account as a potential deadline.

Discussion

1. Providing global support to Cos has the risk of diffusing the regional needs. Embracing the need for consistency but taking into account regional realities, culture and needs should be the strategy.

Examples of what the responsibilities of the Cos could be are:

- Attend all CSBWG meetings (virtual or in person).
- Be able to understand, explain, and promote CSB, B12, Seabed2030+collab at RHC.
- Hold at least 1 intersessional virtual meeting/call + 2 Info emails to prepare for RHC meetings.
- Ensuring to always have one Agenda item at every RHC meeting + material to present:
 - Update from CSBWG
 - Update from DCDB
 - Update from Seabed2030
 - Have a guest speaker (global and/or regional) – for example one of the committed members of the CSBWG willing to contribute

At the moment, we have Cos which are fulfilling those responsibilities, and a few which are exceeding them, but we also have a few which have just started the position, and therefore the need for progressive support as well as realistic expectations on what the minimum expectations are from Cos in relation to how much support is provided.

2. It is not really possible to task Cos, but rather to guide them on how to perform their role.
3. Given that the Co role includes both CSB and Seabed 2030 there is a need for IHO-CSBWG, Seabed 2030 and GEBCO to get involved defining and supporting the Co role.
4. Gathering better visuals and success stories was also considered essential, and is something that can be supported by the active members of the WG.

Action

5. The CSBWG is requested to:
 - a. **Note** the information provided;
 - b. **Endorse** the need to re-define the coordinators' role
 - c. **Provide** feedback on the work item, especially coordinators and those who have been supporting coordinators in the past.
 - d. **Volunteer** if you wish to take part in the task to support Cos.
 - e. **Take** any other actions, as appropriate.