**G E B C O**

GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF THE OCEANS

**IntersessionAL GEBCO GUIDING COMMITTEE MEETING 1 – 2022 (GGC1-22)**

**vtc**

2 February 2022 (21:00 – 23:59 UTC+1)

**Minutes**

1. **OPENING REMARKS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**
   1. Introduction and update on the plan for 2022

**The Chair** welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked everyone for making time to attend. He explained that the Chairing team, together with the parent organisations had taken the decision to defer the full GGC38 until April, in the hope that this would allow for at least, a full hybrid meeting. However, he noted that the formal GGC endorsement of the new Sub-Committee office holders couldn’t wait until April without causing unnecessary delay to the preparation and delivery of work plans, thus this intersessionary meeting was necessary.

He further noted that this meeting would also provide an opportunity for the parent organisations to update the group on their respective strategic plans, identifying the connections between their broader portfolios and GEBCO. It was hoped that this would provide useful context for the production of the Sub Committees work plans.

Finally, he reflected that he saw 2022 as a ‘transition year’ whereby the GEBCO community would have the opportunity to take stock of what it has achieved over the past 119 years, understand how it can support the Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project (SB2030) in fulfilling its objectives and be clear about the priorities for the future.

* 1. Opening remarks by parent bodies

On behalf of the IHO, Director Luigi Sinapi (**LS**) welcomed participants and reiterated the thinking expressed by **the Chair** in the organisation of the intersessionary meeting and the deferral of GGC38. He noted that he would have an opportunity later in the proceedings to provide an update on IHO Strategic Priorities, but reemphasised the need for GEBCO and SB2030 to work closely together. He reminded participants of the schedule with regard to reporting to IRCC and suggested that this forum should be kept abreast of any changes or developments that may arise from these proceedings.

On behalf of the IOC, Julian Barbier (**JB**) gave a brief description of the upcoming IOC activities. He also noted that he would further elaborate on IOC priorities later in proceedings but made specific reference to considering what incentives were necessary to achieve buy in for people to contribute bathymetric data to GEBCO, SB20203 and the UN Decade. Finally, he noted that the IOC was in the process of appointing a new IOC affiliated GGC member following the resignation of Prof. Martin Jakobson,

* 1. Administrative arrangements

The GEBCO Secretary (**Sec**) Invited Participants to note:

- Remember that English is not the first language of all participants

- That the meeting is being recorded to aid minute taking

- To make use of the Chat function – this will be saved after the meeting

- When seeking to make decisions or arriving at consensus, a silence procedure will be employed

- Unless you are making, or wish to make an intervention, then please have your camera off.

- At the end of a presentation or proposal, participants are invited to turn on their cameras to indicate they wish to make an intervention

1. **NIPPON FOUNDATION – GEBCO Seabed 2030 PROJECT**

The Director of SB2030 provided an update on progress achieved so far (presentation available here). He recapped the aims and objectives of the project and provided an update on each of the 5 Work Packages (WPs):

* **WP1 – Data.** Data holdings now at 21.6%. IBCAO 4.1 and IBCSO 2.0 have published for the Arctic and Southern Oceans respectively.
* **WP2 – Process improvements.** He reported that the Surveying System Bathy data Uploader was being developed in collaboration with Kongsberg under a MoU and a Beta version was in testing. He reported that statistics routines developed on Amazon Web Services to allow better tracking of progress and updated on collaboration with Scripps on STRM+ base grid improvements. Finally he briefed on the work completed to refine the UNH Web App Visualisation.
* **WP3 – Innovation.** He explained that a technology strategy white paper was being written. He noted recent progress including gridding statistics improvements across the centres, the demonstration of new generation CSB loggers (UNH), establishing the Global Centre as a CSB Trusted Node (data receiver). Finally he reported on the proof of concept of autonomous data gathering on Saildrone’s Pacific crossing (TOTT).
* **WP4 – Mapping activities.** In terms of data gathering activities, he reported on data from wider Ocean Frontier activities and the Ocean Frontier Mapping Project. He noted the partnership and collection of SDB data and the Planned/completed CSB activities in South Africa, Greenland and Palau. He highlighted that data coming from Fugro transit bathy had reached the 2 million sq km milestone.
* **WP5 – Management.** He advised the group that the Head of Partnership recruitment was in progress and he expected to appoint in the next month and this would essentially be his deputy. He briefed the group on the Wind In The Sails (WITS) survey and global prioritisation work that was ongoing and noted the potential cross over with activities on going within Sub Committees. HE invited interested parties to get involved in the Workshops in 2022 Q1. He reported that the OFM bid for Dec 21 to Nov 22 had been submitted and approved, and highlighted the contribution SB2030 had made to the ongoing GEBCO Code of Conduct work.

In highlighting the projects outreach work he noted that MoU and Supporters were growing:

* 6 new MoUs this period – 23 in total
* 7 MoUs under negotiation
* 171 supporters total (up from 156 in Year 4)

IN terms of NF Alumni Engagement he highlighted:

* Ocean Frontier Mapping Project
* Scoping a secure remote data processing facility
* Hd of Engagement Chair of 2022 Alumni Seminar organising committee

On media activity he highlighted:

* In-depth periodic newsletter well received
* Press releases widely circulated
* 102 media items

**The Chair** thanked Director SB2030 for his update and noted the various areas where collaboration would be essential across the GEBCO community in order to avoid duplication of effort. He urged all Sub-Committee leads to be proactive in reaching out to the SB2030 team on any relevant activities.

1. **REPORTS FROM PARENTAL AND SUBORDINATE BODIES**

**Sec** introduced the agenda item and indicated that items 3.1 and 3.2 would be taken together and be presented jointly by IHO and IOC representatives (Presentation available here). He explained that the aim was to present the respective IHO and IOC strategic priorities and then summarise by briefing on the proposed GEBCO Governance review that would be tabled at GGC38. **Sec** recapped IHO and IOC activity since the last GGC and subcommittee meetings. He reported that in reflecting on priorities for the coming year, key considerations for the Parent organisations would be alignment to IHO & IOC strategic objectives

linkages to other activities/initiatives/bodies of parent organisations, a need to avoid duplication of effort

and harmonised communication activity. For the purpose of the minutes, only a summary is provided but the full presentation is available on the GGC website [here](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC-IS01_2022/GEBCO_GGC_IS01_2022_EN_3.1_3.2_IHO_IOC_Strategic_Priorities.pdf).

* 1. IHO update and strategic priorities

**LS** reported to the meeting that following the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly, the IHO has adopted the IHO Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2026. He noted that this was in part inspired by the aims and objectives of the UN Ocean Decade. In particular he noted that *GOAL 3: Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean* and *TARGET 3.2 Improve knowledge of the world’s seafloor,* speak directly in support of the aims and objectives of GEBCO.

With the above in mind, he stressed to the group that it would be through Goal 3 and Target 3.2 that the IHO would look to monitor and measure the progress of GEBCO in helping to meet the aims of the IHO’s Strategic Plan. Therefore, consideration should be given as to how the Work Plans of the GGC and the Sub-committees are developed so that reporting against this target is possible. In doing so, he requested that Sub-Committee leads consider reaching out not just to the other sub-committees, but where relevant, across the other IHO bodies e.g. RHCs, DCDB, CSBWG, HSWG, TWCWG etc.

He finished by reflecting on the changing environment that GEBCO is operating within. He noted the 2030 Agenda and the UN Ocean Decade and that this increased level of focus on the oceans in turn necessitates greater collaboration and cohesion across our organisations. To facilitate this, he reported that the IHO is willing to lead a governance review to ensure that the necessary connections and procedures are in place to achieve this increased level of collaboration.

* 1. IOC update and strategic priorities

**JB** briefed the group on the new IOC High-Level Objectives being:

* Healthy ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services
* Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards
* Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation
* Scientifically-founded services for the sustainable ocean economy
* Foresight on emerging ocean science issues

In elaborating on these further, he gave an overview of IOCs five standalone work areas (A. ocean research, B. observing system/data management, C. early warning and service, D. assessment/information for policy, E. sustainable management and governance) and explained how Capacity Development spread across all of these areas.

**JB** summarised by providing a high level overview and update on progress with the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade, highlighting what the Decade could do for ocean mapping, detailed a number of IOC strategic developments and reported on the top critical needs for capacity development.

In conclusion, **Sec** went through the next steps as far as IHO and IOC were concerned. He advised that in terms of the development of GGC and sub-committee work plans, there was a keenness for strong alignment with the respective Strategic Objectives and coordination with other IHO/IOC activities, initiatives and bodies.

He provided an overview of the proposed Governance Review:

**What**

* A full review of GEBCO Governance including finance
* Review of ToRs, RoPs for GGC and all subordinate bodies
* Consultative process with Chair teams of all GEBCO Bodies and interaction SB2030
* Report with findings to GGC for consideration

**Who**

* Led by representatives from parent organisations
* Overseen by GGC Task Group
* Support from external consultants as required

**When**

* IHO and IOC, together with GGC Chair and Vice Chair work on GR ToRs, scope, methodology and any budget required
* Proposal presented to GGC 38 in April 2022
* Preliminary findings presented to GGC 39 Nov 2022
* Report finalized for GGC intercessional meeting 01 2023
* Implementation of findings and report to IRCC 2023
* Presentation IHO and IOC Assemblies in 2023

He handed the floor back to **the** **Chair** who sought questions and endorsement from the floor. Director SB2030 noted that whilst he didn’t have an issue with a governance review per se, we should be careful not to make things overly bureaucratic and stifle progress. John Lowell (**JL**) and others noted that this was good practice and a governance review was timely given the changing environment that we are operating in.

**Action 1.** IHO and IOC to present Governance Review proposal to GGC38.

* 1. Endorsement of Subcommittee election results. ([Paper](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC-IS01_2022/GEBCO_GGC_IS01_2022_EN_3.3_Sub-Committee_Election_Results.pdf))

The **Sec** provided a recap of the elections for new Sub-committee office holders that had been held intersessionally. The results were summarised as:

* Mr George Spoelstra (Chair TSCOM)
* Ms Federica Foglini (Vice-Chair TSCOM)
* Ms Aileen Bohan (Chair SCRUM)
* Cdr Hugo Montoro (Vice-Chair SCRUM)
* Mr Tim Kearns (Chair SCOPE)

**Decision 1.** Each new office holder was officialy endorsed via unanimous consent of the voting members of the GGC, and thus will begin their terms in 2022.

The **Sec**, on behalf of the IHO and IOC, thanked Vicki Ferrini for her service as Chair of SCRUM, Thierry Schmitt and Caitlyn Raines as the Chair and Vice Chair respectively of TSCOM and Eunmi Chang for serving as acting Chair of SCOPE.

* 1. Subcommittee updates
     1. SCUFN

On behalf of the SCUFN Chair, the Secretary of SCUFN Yves Guillam (**YG**) provided an update on SCUFN activities. ([Presentation](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC-IS01_2022/GGC-IS01_2022_3_4_1_EN_SCUFN_Update.pdf)).

**Key highlights:**

* SCUFN received 497 naming proposals in 2021, 3 VTC meetings (average per year, for one plenary meeting is < 200 )
* Only 77 proposals directly ACCEPTED as presenting no issues, 187 deferred, 6 not accepted, 227 kept as PENDING
* 3 naming proposals to be noted: [*Galina] Agapova Seamount*, *Walter Munk Guyot*, and *Glière Guyot* (another prominent composer joins the Musician Seamounts group)
* Initial development of the SCUFN Digital Archive and Repository Outstanding support by KHOA (ROK) for development of SCUFN Operational Webservices and NOAA/NCEI Boulder

**Important issues raised:**

* Internal SCUFN Cookbook with typical cases for improving robustness, sustainability of decision-making process.
* Annex to Internal SCUFN Cookbook for clarifying the technical/geometric/genetic characteristics of generic undersea features (to ease the decision-making process and facilitate the automated detection of undersea features).
* Experimentation of the strategy to optimize the horizontal resolution between named features (minor features, inflation).
* Maintenance of the [List of Naming Authorities](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/SCUFN/Lists/List_Undersea%20Feature%20Names_National%20Authorities.pdf) (in particular for those States willing to be kept informed when a naming proposal falls into « their » so-called areas of jurisdiction)
* Membership review made in November 2021 to anticipate calls for application by IOC and IHO – Chair’s and Secretary’s possible last meeting in Nov. 2022 – Risk management for business continuity, loss of corporate knowledge, etc.
* The back-log (PENDING, DEFERRED) is increasing 🡪 towards a decision-tree to unlock some sensitive areas and facilitate decision-making process by independent representatives of IOC and IHO… *versus* the strict application of SCUFN 2.10 (political sensitivity so SCUFN should not consider!)
* He presented a logic tree for the decision making in SCUFN core activity
* Efficient procedures to be developed, interoperability between GEBCO Gazetteer and SCUFN Ops Services, direct submission interface to be commissioned after experimentation and testing
* GEBCO database quality improvement,… then a dilemma: lack of policy with regard to some changes on specific terms leading to propagation for years, decades…of spelling mistakes *versus* already established international recognition of these names

**Recommendations to be considered by GGC:**

* SCUFN35.1, March 2022, IOC, Paris.
* Decision-tree to be discussed in closed session, then, GGC to endorse at GGC38 the proposed Decision-tree for 2 years experimentation…then amendments in B-6 as appropriate.
* Applicability of SCUFN ROP 2.11 in practice? As decisions are made directly and implemented by SCUFN 🡪 clarification in the application of this ROP, expected from GGC.
* Guidance expected from GGC on possible pragmatic policy with regard to database quality improvement (mistakes on specific terms, …)
* Continuation of the contract with former SCUFN Secretary (Work Plan)

Kim Picard (**KP**) asked whether it is possible to get the contact info for who leads the Annex to internal SCUFN Cookbook to clarify the generic undersea features as he indicated they may have some relevant material to share. **YG** undertook to share the link with **KP.**

Shin Tani (**ST**) asked about whether there is the resource necessary to deal with the scale of the task

**YG** explained how external resource has been used and how the process has been refined ‘triage’ proposals which has lead to efficiency gains.

* + 1. SCRUM

The incoming Chair of SCRUM provided an update on key activities. ([Presentation](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC-IS01_2022/GGC-IS01-2022_3_4_2_SCRUM_Update%20.pdf)).

**Key highlights:**

* She highlighted the dedicated webpage and social media channels
* She recapped the membership
* She noted that 7 of the members are GEBCO Alumni
* She recapped the meetings that had been held during 2021
* She thanked the Map the Gaps team for the logistical support
* She ran through the IHO/IOC meetings that were attended and asked for feedback
* She noted that they have been less well represented at IOC meetings
* She invited input from GGC on the tool for Mapping Prioritisation
* She covered another key feature of the group is to maintain the % mapped across the various regions

She finished the presentation with the key achievements with the status of key work items.

* + 1. TSCOM

The incoming Chair of TSCOM provided an update on key activities. ([Presentation](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC-IS01_2022/GGC-IS01-2022_3_4_3_TSCOM_Update.pdf)).

**Key highlights:**

* He explained the process that they will undertake to finalise the work plan
* He handed over to the outgoing Chair to recap the work completed thus far
* He recapped the purpose and membership of TSCOM
* He reflected on the GGC37 workplan and picked out some key activities
* He noted STRM15+ used as a base layer for GEBCO
* TSCOM reviewed and provided feedback using the provided app
* He described the subworking group led by Federica Foglini (**FF**) on Metadata
* A new Schema has been reviewed
* There has been collaboration with the CSBWG with the key action item being to seek feedback and implementation strategy during 2022
* He reviewed the work of the cook book editorial board and discussed the objective and the work following Karen Marks retirement. He noted they were in the process of consolidating the members of the board
* He provided an update on DCDB activity and mentioned the need for dedicated workshops including a DCDB industry day etc, (get presentation
* He covered the work on opportunistic mapping resources working group led by Erin Heffron, noting the clear need for a better understanding of what is mapped/unmapped. The aim was to provide opportunistic mapping decision support tools
* He covered the undersea Feature Detection Project, led and requested by CHS (Anna Heindi, SCUFN). She has requested some help from TSCOM which is being provided.
* He describe early work using Deep Argo Float profiles as validation. Objective is to investigate whether this methodology can work to validate GEBCO data holdings but noted it is at an early stage.
  + 1. SCOPE

The incoming Chair of SCOPE provided an update on key activities. ([Presentation](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC-IS01_2022/GGC-IS01-2022_3_4_4_SCOPE_Update.pdf)).

**Key highlights:**

* He recapped the change in leadership of SCOPE during 2021, thanking both Prof. Hyun-Chul Han and Eunmi Chang for their service as Chair and Acting Chair respectively.
* He recapped 2021 activities which included two Map the Gaps Symposiums, the development of a social media presence and a range Asset developments (B-10, Website WG and education materials)
* He reported that several new participants had joined the group as observers and that this could grow further during 2022.
* He suggested that future opportunities included the development of an engaged and active community, targeted teams focused on specific delivery items, a range of external engagement opportunities and the necessary internal engagement required for strategic planning.
* Reflecting on the Symposium, he noted that whilst they had enjoyed continued success and engagement, it is a two person team and this needs to be grown. He noted that they would again plan for a symposium in 2022 with the location TBD.
  1. Status of SCET

**KP** gave a verbal update on the development of the SCET. In doing so she signposted the latest versions of the ToRs and RoP which are on the IHO website and indicated that they would seek final endorsement at the next full meeting in April.

**Action 2. KP** to bring formal proposal for the creation of SCET to GGC38 for endorsement and election of officials

1. **GEBCO CODE OF CONDUCT**
   1. Status update

The Vice Chair (**V-Chair**) provided an update on the development of the GEBCO Code of Conduct. She introduced the team who had worked on the document as: M.Rovere, J. Jencks, R. Obino, J. Cheveaux, Director Seabed 2030, Head of Engagement and Development Seabed2030.

She recapped the task given to them: Develop a GEBCO wide Code of Conduct covering standards of respect and tolerance; individual status within GEBCO in relation to host national organisations and industry stakeholders; governance issues in relation to leadership positions and potential conflicts of interest.

She explained that to date, a first version had been drafted with a second shorter version developed that included examples of behaviours and disciplinary measures and procedures.

The latest draft comprises a foreword which establishes the inspiring principles and an ethical conduct section subdivided into:

1. General Conduct
2. Conflicts of interest
3. Proper Use and Protection of GEBCO brand and assets
4. Outside Communication
5. Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying
6. Whistleblowing

She reported that it is currently under review by the UNESCO Ethics Committee and was hopeful that a consolidate opinion would be ready for GCC38. She noted that there is a potential overlap with the Governance review and reflected that it is time to extend the review to GGC and GEBCO Principles.

**JB** reported that the initial informal reaction is that it is a long document that could be made simpler and shorter, but that we should wait for their formal response.

**Action 3. V-Chair** to provide an update and recommended next steps to GGC38

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

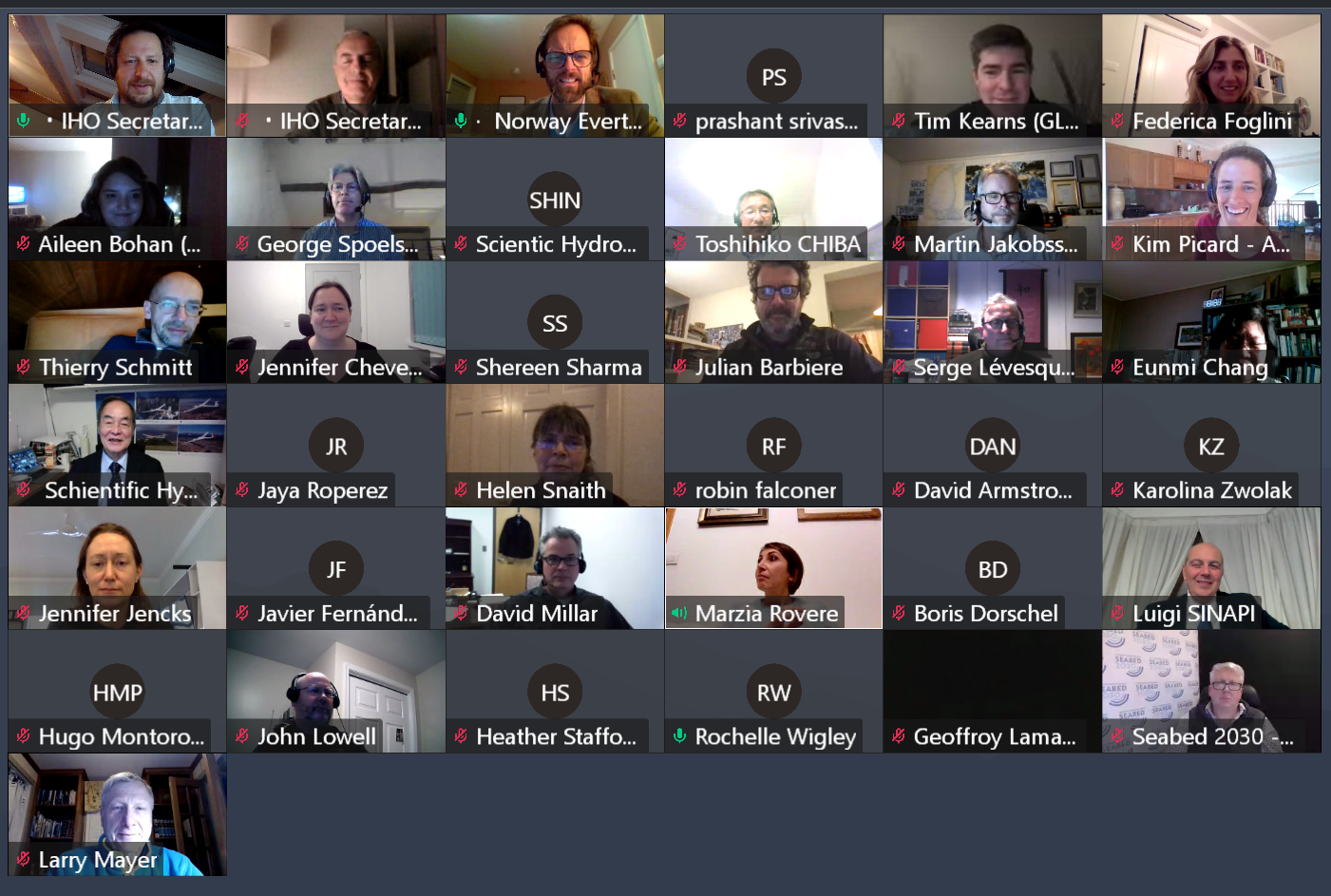
**The Chair** invited items for any other business. The only item forthcoming was the resignation (effective immediately) of Rodrigo Obino as a GGC member. The Chair thanked **RO** for his service and noted that since he was an IHO accredited member of the GGC, that the IHO would need to undertake the subsequent recruitment campaign to find an alternative.

**Action 4.** IHO to undertake recruitment campaign for a replacement member of the GGC.

1. **MEETING CLOSED**

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked all for their participation

**ANNEX A – Photo of Participants of the GGC IS01 2022**

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