

IHO REPORT

Submitted by the IHO Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: The document contains updates of IHO activities relevant to
GEBCO Project (2018-2019)

Action to be taken : See paragraph 16

Related documents : None

Guiding Committee Membership

1. The IHO Secretariat would like to congratulate and welcome the new members of the Guiding Committee. It is considered that their active contribution will be of great benefit to GEBCO and ocean mapping community.

Status of Membership of the IHO

2. The IHO membership stands at 93. After the last GGC35 meeting held in October 2018, Guyana, Solomon Islands, Republic of Ghana and Samoa acceded to the IHO Convention.

IRCC Activities

3. The eleventh meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC11) was held in Genoa, Italy, from 3 to 5 June 2019. The IRCC reviewed the reports and activities of its subordinate bodies and the RHCs and considered the need for enhancing regional coordination and cooperation. The IRCC11 was informed of the activities of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Project in particular the progress on Seabed 2030 Project. Progress was noted in Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB), the new IHO Publication B-12 (*Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry*) and the need for RHCs to engage and encourage Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB). Reports were received on increased data contributions to the DCDB and for GEBCO, highlighting the positive impact of GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project. The IRCC also endorsed the amendments to the IHO Publication B-6 (*Standardization of Undersea Feature Names*). Outcome 11 th Meeting of the IRCC was issued by the IHO Circular Letter 45/2019.

IHO Council Activities

4. The third meeting of the IHO Council (C-3) took place from 15 to 17 October 2019 at the IHO Secretariat in Monaco. The Council encouraged the IRCC to set up a pro-active management and monitoring procedure of the dataflow between stakeholders involved in crowdsourced bathymetry notably as part of the support provided to the GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project. Summary report of the 3rd Meeting of the IHO Council is available at the IHO web site.

Preparation of the Second IHO Assembly

5. The 2nd IHO Assembly is scheduled to take place from 21 to 24 April 2020. The announcement and draft agenda of the A-2 (See Assembly Circular Letter-01) and some additional ACLs have already been issued. Update on Seabed 2030 Project will be presented by the Director of the Project during the next Assembly. The IHO Work Programme and budget including GEBCO activities for the next 3 years (2021-2023) will also be reviewed and approved by the Assembly.

IHO Outreach

World Hydrography Day

6. The theme for 2019 is “*Hydrographic information driving marine knowledge*”. This theme was intended to stress the eminent role of hydrographic data in combination with information provided by adjacent maritime domains and advertises the benefits of making hydrographic data accessible to the widest possible audience for use that goes well beyond safety of navigation.

7. At the third IHO Council meeting in October 2019, the Secretary General proposed the theme for WHD 2020 as follows: “*Hydrography - enabling autonomous technologies*”. The theme highlights the role of hydrography in various dimensions: For the conduct of hydrographic survey itself by means of autonomously acting sensor carriers such as autonomous surface vehicles (ASV), autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) and flying drones to carry Lidar equipment. The second important field is to pave the way for the expected development of safe, secure and environmentally sound Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) operations under the auspices of the IMO which will definitely rely on qualified hydrographic information.

8. Following comprehensive redesign, the IHO website, including GIS-services will be renewed on 1 January 2020. The new website, which would have versions in both English and French, would have a functional but creative design that paid respect to tradition and was fit for modern technology. The IHO emblem had also been slightly modified and in effect as of 21 June 2019.

IHO Centenary Celebrations (IHO-100)

9. The years 2019 and 2021 will be important in the history of the International Hydrographic Organization. 2019 will mark the centenary of the 1st International Hydrographic Conference, which was held in London in 1919 and 2021 will be the centenary of the establishment of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) in 1921 in Monaco as precursor of the modern IHO.

10. The IHO Secretariat has already undertaken the preparations for the centenary celebrations of the International Hydrographic Organization ranging from 2019 to 2021 as important milestones of the IHO. In this respect, it is planned to organize workshops, exhibitions, outreach events and similar activities from 2019 to 2021, either independently or jointly with sister institutions and agencies. *The “peak-of-the-peak” will be World Hydrography Day (WHD) on 21 June 2021.* There will also be an opportunity to present IHO’s achievements at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021 and at the IMO Assembly in November 2021.

11. The main activities scheduled for the IHO centenary celebrations, coordinated by the IHO Secretariat are/were as follows (CL 32/2017 refers):

- To hold an exhibition on "Historical Nautical Charts and Mediterranean". This event, which was

held at the Monaco Yacht Club from 1 to 13 April 2019, was a resounding success.

- To organize an international Symposium on “A Historical Approach for Measurements and Protection of Oceans and World Waters”. This event was held at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco from 20 to 21 June 2019 (in conjunction with the World Hydrography Day)
- To highlight the centenary celebrations as part of the media and press-campaign associated the Council meetings in 2019 and 2021.
- To organize a half day special session on IHO-100 at the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly(A-2) in April 2020.
- To prepare, publish and distribute an IHO Prestige Book on “100 Years of International Cooperation in Hydrography”.
- To hold the 2021 World Hydrography Day in Monaco in conjunction with IRCC13, CBSC19 and a CB/IBSC Seminar.

The centenary events could also be linked with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) which has been coordinated by the IOC of UNESCO.

International Hydrographic Review

12. The International Hydrographic Review (IHR) provides an opportunity for Regional Hydrographic Commissions, Member States and IHO Subordinate Organs to publicize technical and other achievements. The current digital editions of the IHR are available from the IHO website in PDF and free of charge (www.iho.int/download). As announced in the 2017 IHO Annual Report, the IHO Secretariat has been working with the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, in a project to develop a digital repository of the complete library of the IHR. Work led by Dr Dave Wells with the UNB has now been completed and the volumes from 1923 to 2018 are available at <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>.

13. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the IHO Secretariat (ihreview@iho.int) with a copy to the Editor (Brian.Connon@usm.edu). The deadlines are:

- End of January for the May Edition;
- End of July for the November Edition.

14. The IHO Secretariat would like to re-emphasise the importance of GEBCO representation at RHC meetings in order to raise awareness of the programme and to assist in obtaining additional data. The IHO Secretariat notes the efforts being made by GEBCO members to attend RHC meetings.

IHO/IOC Coordination

15. The Secretariats of the IHO and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) has continued working closely on GEBCO, Seabed 2030 and other ocean related activities. The IHO was represented at the 52th Session of the Executive Council and 30th Assembly of the IOC held in Paris, France in June / July 2019 The IHO fully support and promote the GEBCO and SB2030 activities in close coordination with IOC.

Action Requested of the GGC

16. The GGC is invited to:

- a. Note this report;
- b. Consider submitting articles to the IHR;
- c. Continue to attend and support the RHC meetings;
- d. Take any other actions as considered appropriate.