

**Actions and Decisions from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Remote VTC meetings  
of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) Submitted by IHO Secretariat**

**SUMMARY**

Executive Summary: This document provides the details of actions and decisions agreed at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Remote VTC meetings of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC).

Action to be taken: Paragraphs 3-8

Related documents: GGC36\_2019\_12\_EN\_Final\_Report\_Full\_v1.0

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Remote VTC meeting of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) was held on 2 June 2020 under the Chairmanship of SCRUM (Dr Vicki Ferrini (**VF**)) with 18 participants, see Annex A for list of participants. The GGC Chair, Shin Tani, gave a brief welcome and introduction.
2. The Chair SCRUM provided a presentation covering an introduction and the agenda, after which she outlined the objectives and goals for the first VTC meeting session.
3. The meeting commenced with a review of the Crowdsourced Bathymetry external communications activities and strategy provided by Jennifer Jencks (**JJ**), Director IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB). She gave an overview of recent activities. It was noted that a revised questionnaire and IHO Circular Letter had been published at the beginning of June, which was to be followed by a letter from the Chair of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) to the Chairs of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) to seek and encourage their support to engage with non-IHO Member States within their regions. The following actions and decisions were agreed:
  - a. It was noted in the past that data provided for the search for MH370 had been termed CSB, which it was agreed was unhelpful in the wider global efforts to encourage coastal states to authorise data gathered in their waters of national jurisdiction to be placed in the public domain. It was agreed that a clear distinction needed to be maintained between CSB data, as defined in B-12, and data resulting from systematic surveys; this is so as not to confuse or concern coastal states that they could be authorising systematic MBES surveys in their waters, when they only wish to permit SBES single track data. It was unclear under what label MBES passage transit data collected by research and survey vessels should be placed, it was agreed that it could be termed CSB at present;
  - b. It was agreed that data collected by commercial survey vessels as a secondary activity needs to be recognised as of major significance, however it was unclear under what label MBES passage transit data collected by research and survey vessels should be placed. It was suggested that it may need to be termed differently to distinguish it from other data gathered under the IHO CSB definition, however it was agreed that it should be termed CSB at present (**Action 1 - JJ**);
  - c. It was agreed that the CSBWG can revisit how it articulates the message and the background to the initiative (**Action 2 - JJ**); and

- d. It was agreed that there needed to be more and increased coordination between CSBWG and GEBCO activities, including Seabed 2030, with better feedback on what has been said and to whom (**Action 3 - JJ/VF/JMcMP**).

4. The Chair SCRUM provided an overview of the engagement with RHCs as well as IOC Regional events. She then highlighted the roles and activities of the RHC Ambassadors who had been identified, in particular how to strengthen the programme and harmonise the communication message:

- a. Chair and Vice-Chair SCRUM to discuss with BODC on best method for more rapid and timely updating of the GEBCO and Seabed 2030 websites (**Action 4 - VF/AB**);
- b. It was agreed to look at identifying additional Ambassadors to cover all RHCs (**Action 5 - VF/AB**);
- c. It was identified that there was a need to have a common brand and style for GEBCO presentations (**Action 6 - HHS**);
- d. It was agreed that the acceptable data formats and the minimum metadata for submissions should be confirmed and articulated in a clearer manner (**Action 7 - TS/CR**);
- e. It was agreed that a new chapter in B-11 – *GEBCO Cookbook* – should be developed to cover data contribution aspects (**Action 8 - VF/AB**);
- f. It was recognised that presentations need to include the wide GEBCO activities rather than too much focus on Seabed 2030 (**Action 9 -All**); and
- g. Chair and Vice-Chair to develop a RHC communication plan (**Action 10 - VF/AB**).

5. The Vice-Chair TSCOM, Caitlyn Raines (**CR**), provided a brief presentation on Data Submissions and the new form which had been developed. The link to the form was provided:

[https://www.gebco.net/about\\_us/contributing\\_data/](https://www.gebco.net/about_us/contributing_data/). The Director DCDB provided some background to the development of the form and how it functions. The participants addressed the issue of how to better define the Data request approach to increase the provision of new data:

- a. It was agreed that a flow diagram of the data submission process should be generated to complement the form (**Action 11 - JJ/CR**);
- b. It was agreed that clear and conspicuous links should be included in the IHO, GEBCO and Seabed 2030 websites, which should be highlighted in presentations (**Action 12 - IHO/HHS/JMcMP**);
- c. Chair SCRUM highlighted that thorough definitions of the new TID grids were required (**Action 13 - TS/CR**);
- d. It was agreed that a website quick reference should be developed to complement a new B-11 chapter (**Action 14 - VF/AB**); and
- e. Chair SCRUM asked for guidance on metadata covering ENC data contributions, Vice-Chair TSCOM agreed to engage with the Chair of the Metadata WG to generate appropriate guidance (**Action 15 - CR**);

6. The Chair of SCRUM provided an overview introduction, including a quick recap of the previous session and some of the resultant actions completed in the intervening period. She particularly noted the progress in

improving and refreshing the GEBCO website, including revising the GEBCO group email contact list, sub-committee membership lists and user experience. She highlighted the identified actions to engage with IHO, IOC and Seabed 2030 regional groups, as well as message and material to support these activities. It was noted that funds could be flexed between budget lines, particularly unused travel funds, as long as Chair and vice-Chair GGC approval has been obtained:

- a. It was agreed to approach the IOC to investigate the identification and appointment of regional GEBCO/Seabed 2030 ambassadors, it was noted this could be initiated at the forthcoming IOC Executive Council 53 meeting (**Action 16 - Chair GGC**); and
- b. It was proposed that SCRUM should take the lead with communications to certain of the groups identified by SCOPE as being the key target groups (**Action 17 - VF**).

The Chair of SCOPE, Professor Hyo Hyun Sung (**HHS**), provided an introduction on GEBCO and Seabed 2030 communication and coordination, after which the general cooperation between the various element, mechanisms to promote the achievements of GEBCO subordinate bodies and the Seabed 2030 future strategy were discussed. She highlighted a number of related events which had taken place over the past few months, in particular the MTS webinar on *The role of industry in Seabed 2030*. She detailed a number of areas in which SCOPE was involved or planned to become involved:

- a. It was agreed that more effort should be focused on social network platforms and more use be made of those already established (**Action 18 - EC**);
- b. It was noted that the GEBCO-SNG was a closed group, she highlighted a comparison with Seabed 2030 and IHO sites. It was agreed that a review of the GEBCO-SNG should be undertaken and it was proposed to make it an open group or create a new site (**Action 19 – EC/BODC**);
- c. It was agreed that two different, but complementary, approaches were required: integrated management of the SNS for Facebook, and individual management of the other high-ranked and graphic-based SNS for targeting young generations (**Action 20 - EC**);
- d. It was agreed that more sharing of newsletters and presentation material should be an objective to ensure a common message and minimise duplication, this should be coordinated by SCOPE (**Action 21 - HHS**);
- e. It was proposed to update B-10 – History of GEBCO – to continue the momentum generated by the IHO centenary in 2021 (**Action 22 - HHS**);
- f. It was agreed that the overall message should target those groups, who are not part of the knowledgeable community or directly engaged, it was identified there was a need develop the GEBCO and Seabed 2030 websites to include these potentially new participants (**Action 23 - HHS/JMcMP**);
- g. It was agreed that the CSBWG would take on the task of identifying IHO regional ambassadors for GEBCO, Seabed 2030 and CSB (**Action 24 - JJ**);

7. Co-Vice-Chair SCOPE, Eunmi Chang (**EC**), provided a brief on current virtual communications strategies, she identified a number of areas which needed to be addressed:

- a. It was noted that there was currently a disconnect between the Seabed 2030 and SCOPE communication strategy plans, it was agreed this needed to be harmonized and the roles of Seabed 2030 and SCOPE in communication at target groups needed to be emphasised (**Action 25 - HHS/JMcMP**);

- b. It was agreed that material for the top target groups needed to be developed (**Action 26 - EC**);
- c. It was noted that virtual communications between SCOPE members and into the target groups needed to be improved, methods to enact this were suggested (**Action 27 - HHS**);
- d. It was agreed that SCOPE should promote and highlight relevant IHO100 events and activities, and liaison should be commenced with the Communications and Public Relations Officer (CPRO), Sarah Jones Couture ([sarah.jones.couture@iho.int](mailto:sarah.jones.couture@iho.int)) at the IHO Secretariat (**Action 28 - EC**); and
- e. It was agreed that more use should be made of social media platform and analytical tools to manage the coordinated publication of posts, timing and message content, however content building for social media was identified as being the most critical task (**Action 29 – EC/CR**);

8. Co-Vice-Chair SCOPE, Tim Kearns (**TK**), provided a short brief on the position and future of the GEBCO Symposium. He covered the organizational structure, the funding mechanism and the costs of the event. He provided details on the forthcoming symposium programmed for January 2021 in Paris, he noted that it would be both a hybrid virtual and an in-person event with additional activities, such as workshops. He noted the opportunity for leverage the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, particularly with IOC co-hosting the event. He provided details of post event analysis, identifying where improvements could be made and the suggestion of charging a nominal registration fee:

- a. It was agreed that the virtual symposium element should be permanent and developed further (**Action 30 - TK**);
- b. The Chair GGC noted the importance of a unified message being transmitted from GEBCO, rather than separate communications and homepages for each subordinate body, he highlighted that it was vital that all subordinate bodies remember that they are constituted bodies to undertake identified tasks and activities on behalf on the GGC. He noted that the lead was the role of SCOPE, which should be the overall coordinator of all communications issues (**Action 31 - HHS**);
- c. It was agreed that a separate group should develop proposals to leverage the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and present a plan to GGC37 (**Action 32 - VF**)

9. The Guiding Committee is invited to note the information provided and take action as appropriate.

Annex:

A List of Participants

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Country	Name	Organization	E-mail
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USA	Timothy Kearns	Great Lakes Observing System	tim@mapthegaps.org
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USA	<b>David Millar</b>	Fugro	DMillar@fugro.com
USA	Caitlyn Raines	Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI)	craines@esri.com
-	David Wyatt ( <b>secretary</b> )	International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)/ GEBSCO Secretary	adso@iho.int
UK	Jamie McMichael-Phillips	Nippon Foundation-GEBSCO Seabed 2030 Project Director	director@seabed2030.org

**Bold names – GGC**