

## TITLE

Submitted by Chair TSCOM (Netherlands)

### SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of the TSCOM activities since GGC40 and the annual meeting for the GGC41.

Action to be taken: As described in paragraph 4

Related documents: Workplan and budget TSCOM (agenda item 11.1.1.2)

## 1. Overview/Introduction

Since GGC40, the TSCOM:

- a. Released a 2024 version of the GEBCO grid
- b. Liaised with Seabed 2030 (visit of Chair TSCOM to Director of the Seabed 2030 project)
- c. Studied Applied Discrete Global Grid Systems (A-DGGS) WG
- d. Integrated work of the Opportunistic Mapping Resource WG into the activities of the Technical Strategic Plan for GEBCO (see Annex A)
- e. Continued feasibility study to use Deep Argo groundings as calibration for the GEBCO grid.
- f. Started a project to encourage and standardize the use of a common generic sonar format for bathymetry (See Annex D)
- g. Organized together with DCDB and Seabed 2030 Atlantic and Indian Ocean Data Centre a meeting in Boulder (USA) to structure the outcomes of the 2023 TSCOM workshops
- h. Based on outcomes of (g) above, renamed the Metadata WG to Metadata Implementation WG. A project plan for the future activities of this WG and an improved metadata services project are drafted (see Annex C)
- i. Discussed the future of the IHO GEBCO Cookbook and concluded that a survey is required to move forward with the Cookbook
- j. Held a 41th TSCOM meeting as a VTC in September 2024

## 2. Discussion/Background information

- a. Now that the digital Atlas is discontinued, there is no reference for the GEBCO grid. It is listed in the TSCOM workplan as subject for review but the creation of the GEBCO Grid is missing from the IHO task list. This was reported to GGC40 but no action or decision was reported
- b. Seabed 2030 has secured a 25k budget for TSCOM work item D4.3 (Encourage and standardize the use of a common generic sonar format for bathymetry).

- c. As a first result, the GEBCO TID was converted into a Discrete Global Grid Systems (DGG) and statistics were calculated. TSCOM is happy to report that the statistics based on the DGG work compare very well to those reported by the Seabed 2030 project. Next step for the DGG WG is to convert the full GEBCO grid with the multiple resolutions that are available into a single DGG.
- d. TSCOM has integrated the work of the Opportunistic Mapping Resources Working Group into the work items that resulted from the Community Vision and are detailed in the Technical Strategic Plan for GEBCO (see Annex A). A detailed project plan is now available for the development of a Global Bathymetric Coverage Metadata Service (see Annex E). If developments and time permit a short demonstration will be given of this service during the GGC41 meeting.
- e. The Deep ARGO work item is supposed to conclude on the feasibility of using data derived from groundings of ARGO floats for calibration of the GEBCO grid. This work is ongoing.
- f. TSCOM started a project to Encourage Use of a Common Generic Sensor Format for Bathymetry. A detailed project plan has been drafted (see Annex D). Goal of the project is to promote the value of preserving and sharing processed swath data in a generic sensor format data to the archive(s) via technical papers and presentations. It will also facilitate technical discussions to address issues with the existing generic sensor format to ensure validity of existing archived data, and identify and support the development of additional tools and translators to facilitate the conversion of valid data between different formats.
- g. The industry day and TSCOM/DCDB workshops organized in 2023 resulted in a long list of objectives and actions. In order to structure these into manageable TSCOM work items a meeting was held in Boulder (USA). This meeting has resulted in detailed workplans for 1, 2, and 3 of the four goals listed in the Technical Strategic Plan for GEBCO (Annex A). For “goal 4, Unify an approach for disseminating information & outcomes” more co-ordination with SCOPE is required.
- h. After issuing the metadata schema, the MD implementation WG will now look in how the schema can be used to improve the overall workflow and quality of the bathymetric pipeline to the DCDB in general and the GEBCO grid in particular. Technology will be streamlined and where necessary developed to support this.
- i. The Cookbook is an official IHO publication and has proven to be difficult to maintain due to a lack of authors. The position of Chair of the editorial board is currently vacant. TSCOM was unable to find a new candidate in 2024. This has led to discussions about the future of the cookbook and to provide answers to the GGC, TSCOM has appointed an interim chair (Thierry Schmitt, SHOM, France) who will conduct a survey amongst GEBCO stakeholders in 2025.
- j. The 41st TSCOM yearly meeting was organized this year as a VTC meeting. The agenda is available on the TSCOM webpage. The TSCOM Workplan acts as the outcome of the meeting.

### **3. Chair and Vice Chair term**

The term of the current Chair (Mr George Spoelstra, Netherlands) and Vice Chair (Ms. Federica Foglini) will end this year. Following the terms of reference of the TSCOM

an announcement was made at the 41th TSCOM meeting last September. No nominations for Chair and Vice Chair were received to date. Both current Chair and Vice Chair are willing to continue for the next term (2025-2028).

#### 4. **Action**

The GGC41 is requested to:

- **Note** the contents of this report;
- **Decide on** the appointment of the chair and vice chair for the coming term (2025-2028);
- **STRONGLY Advise** on the addition of the GEBCO grid to the list of IHO publications or find another way to acknowledge the GRID as the most important GEBCO deliverable. This was requested to GGC40 but no clear outcome has been reported;
- **Approve** 2025-2026 workplan;
- **Approve** 2025-2026 budget;
- **Take** any other action deemed appropriate.