



## TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON OCEAN MAPPING (TSCOM) TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

### Preamble

The Technical Sub-Committee on Ocean Mapping (TSCOM) was established in 2006 to advise the GEBCO Guiding Committee and all associate groups interested in the building and use of the GEBCO product. In addition, TSCOM serves the greater bathymetric, hydrographic, and maritime communities as authoritative source for technical expertise in seafloor mapping and forum for discussion on emerging technologies and applications of bathymetric and hydrographic data. The importance of this advising group is further stressed by The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 project.

TSCOM co-operates with the three other GEBCO sub-committees: SCRUM (Sub-committee on regional undersea mapping) which aims at coordinating with regional mapping initiatives; SCOPE (Sub-committee on communications, outreach and public engagement) which aims at raising awareness on the GEBCO initiatives and SCUFN, the Sub-committee on underwater feature names.

### 1. Terms of Reference

1.1 TSCOM reports to the Joint IOC-IHO GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) as its designated authority for all technical matters relevant to the goals of GEBCO as set out in the Guiding Committee Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.

1.2 TSCOM shall:

1.2.1 Provide technical and methodological advice in order to maintain and improve GEBCO products and supporting data such as, but not limited to:

- a) the global bathymetric grid ;
- b) databases of soundings, shorelines, land elevations, remotely sensed and other data, which may facilitate update of GEBCO products and maintenance of product quality ;
- c) Pioneering documentation such as the IHO/IOC GEBCO cookbook.

1.2.2 Monitor developments of relevant bathymetric acquisition processing and visualisation/valorisation technologies as they may impact GEBCO activities, and recommend to the GGC and subordinate bodies actions that will maintain the excellence of GEBCO products.

1.2.3 Provide advices to GEBCO project, sub-committees and other appropriate authorities on the scientific and technical aspects of bathymetric mapping, as requested.

1.2.4 Encourage and facilitate, with SCRUM, the inventory, acquisition and exchange of sounding, shoreline, remotely sensed and other data supporting bathymetric mapping.

1.2.5 In collaboration with SCOPE, investigate the application of GEBCO products, beyond the cartographic sciences, with the aim of producing products that are easily applied to other ocean sciences.

1.2.6 Establish, nurture, and/or disband working groups or project teams, as needed, to carry out specific tasks or product developments that advance of the GEBCO Project.



- 1.2.7 Work closely with other GEBCO Sub-Committees and subordinate bodies of the IHO and IOC on matters of common interest.

## 2. Rules of Procedure

- 2.1 Membership of the Sub-Committee is covered by the following rules:

- 2.1.1 Members of TSCOM are experts in their own right acting exclusively for the benefit of the Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Project.
- 2.1.2 TSCOM shall normally consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair and a number of additional members. Members should be encouraged to participate according to their individual technical expertise and their ability to complement the overall technical breadth of the committee as a whole. Any member of the GEBCO community interested in participating is eligible to become an active member of the committee at the discretion of the Chair.
- 2.1.3 Members are expected to participate in the committee's work in a meaningful way. This can include, but is not limited to, attendance at in-person or virtual meetings, active and substantive email correspondence, or meaningful contribution to a GEBCO activity or working group. After a non-participation period of a member exceeding 2 years, the member's status is changed to a non-voting inactive member, and the Chair may approach them about withdrawing his/her membership.
- 2.2 The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the committee members. Their nominations are subject to endorsement by the GGC.
- 2.3 The Chair and the Vice-Chair are elected for a three year period (under the limit of three consecutive terms). Information relative to the remaining duration of the terms of the Chair and the Vice-Chair should be provided at each annual meeting, in order for new candidates to put their names forward.
- 2.4 The Chair, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chair, shall conduct the business of the committee. Meetings will usually be held every year, ideally before the GGC meeting. In the intervening period the committee shall conduct its business via all appropriate media. If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall assume the Chair with the same powers and duties.
- 2.5 Individuals who can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the Sub-Committee may attend meetings as Scientific Advisors with observer status, at the invitation of the Chair or Vice-Chair.
- 2.6 Entities and organisations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the Sub-Committee may be represented at meetings as Expert Contributors with observer status at the invitation of the Chair or Vice-Chair.
- 2.7 Members are expected to attend every meeting of the Sub-Committee. In case of absence, apologies should be sent to the Chair prior to the meeting.
- 2.8 The quorum to hold a meeting shall be not less than 50% of the listed active Committee Members. The Sub-Committee shall strive to make decisions by consensus. If consensus



cannot be reached, decisions shall be taken by simple majority vote. Only listed active members present may cast a vote. The Chair shall have the casting vote if there is a tie.

- 2.8 Recommendations and advice of the committee shall be provided directly to the appropriate subordinate bodies of GEBCO.
- 2.9 Recommendations subject to a decision must be submitted to the GGC for consideration.
- 2.10 The Chair shall submit an annual report to the GGC.