

Paper for Consideration by IRCC 11**Inclusion of Seabed 2030 in RHC workplans**

Submitted by:	IHO Council Chair
Executive Summary:	Proposal for RHCs to designate a Regional Seabed Coordinator
Related Documents:	

Introduction / Background

Seabed 2030 is a collaborative global effort to bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all. In order to accomplish this task, it is imperative that the hydrographic community participate to the maximum extent possible. During the second Council meeting, Dr. Graham Allen presented a progress report on behalf of Seabed 2030 and noted the need for participation from the international hydrographic community. The Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) present an excellent opportunity to help organize this effort from a regional perspective.

Analysis/Discussion

Including Seabed 2030 progress as a standard agenda item for each RHC and requiring reporting to the IRCC would both be an efficient way to track progress and would help to ensure that Seabed 2030 is considered by every RHC. Reporting progress on Seabed 2030 by the RHCs would also be likely to help encourage participation from contributors of data for the project, many of which participate in RHC activities. The reporting requirement to the IRCC would be ideal for acknowledging this participation in a for-the-record manner.

As part of Seabed 2030 activities, RHCs should consider designating a Seabed 2030 representative to:

- Liaise with appropriate GEBCO Seabed2030 Regional Data Assembly and Coordination Centres
- Consider traditional hydrographic collection methods as well as others that may apply, including crowdsourced bathymetry, SDB, scientific data collection, and industry-specific data and serve as a point of contact for other working groups accordingly.
- Report the state of regional ocean mapping efforts, including national statistics (according to Regional Centre data)
- Lead regional efforts to coordinate potential data collection opportunities, connecting data providers with the appropriate GEBCO Regional Centres.
- Encourage national commitments for data sharing and new data collection.
- Develop joint regional campaign mapping plans for areas outside national jurisdiction.
- Ensure that efforts to collect data for Seabed 2030 are coordinated within the region
- Place a strong emphasis on acknowledging participation from data providers.

Conclusions

A number of RHCs are already participating in and reporting on Seabed 2030 activities. It would be helpful to coordinate and standardize regional participation with an IHO perspective in mind and would provide an opportunity to recognize contributors of data and other Seabed 2030 participants.

Justification and Impacts

Seabed 2030's importance has been strongly noted by the IHO, IOC, and many of the RHCs, enough so that it seems like the right time to incorporate it into the standard reporting and consideration from a regional perspective. The RHCs provide the ideal structure to do this.

The RHC already have significant work programs to manage and it is noted that this would be an additional burden on them. However, with the pressing timelines and importance of Seabed 2030, this new item of consideration seems merited.

Action Required of IRCC 11

The IRCC 11 is invited to:

- a. note this paper
- b. consider the tasks listed as duties for the Regional Seabed Coordinator
- c. request the inclusion of Seabed 2030 in RHC work plans and IRCC reports