



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Ocean Service  
Office of Coast Survey  
Hydrographic Surveys Division  
1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

September 29, 2020

Dr. Mathias Jonas  
Secretary-General  
International Hydrographic Organization  
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B.P. 445  
MC 98011 MONACO CEDEX

Dear Dr. Mathias Jonas:

NOAA Office of Coast Survey (OCS) commends the capacity building project proposal to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Capacity Building Sub-Committee, ***Empowering Women in Hydrography***. As described, the proposal is "...a multi-year effort to address gender-equity issues in global hydrography through a series of activities and initiatives which will enable more women to participate equitably and assume more leadership roles within the global hydrographic community."

The proposal promises to make an important contribution to the field of hydrography by empowering an important segment of the future of our discipline. The success of this initiative will be the scientific and operational contributions of global hydrography to economic development. On behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Coast Survey (NOAA OCS), NOAA would like to partner with the IHO and Canada in supporting this initiative through the contribution of professional development opportunities.

In principle, NOAA OCS offers a nonbinding intent to host up to three candidates from this initiative each year over the four year span of the project (January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2025) for an at-sea experience/advanced training on NOAA hydrographic survey vessels, or other mutually agreed upon exchange opportunities. NOAA's voluntary in-kind contribution would necessarily be subject to and conditioned upon satisfying all health/safety concerns as well as operational considerations such as ship schedules, available ship berthing and work space, security review, etc.

My office estimates the value of the *in-kind* portion of our contribution for each participant's "on ship time" (i.e., berthing space, work space, meals, etc...) to be approximately \$2,500 per participant.

Additionally, the U.S. will explore additional potential *direct* invitational international travel support at a cost not to exceed \$3,000 per participant. The estimated maximum value of the NOAA's intent to contribute to this initiative, including both in-kind (time on ship) support and direct (invitational travel) is approximately \$16,500/year, or \$66,000 for the four years of the initiative. This potential travel support would be contingent on available financial, administrative



and other resources and is not to be considered a binding commitment. Support is offered solely at the discretion of the Director of the Office of Coast Survey on a case-by-case basis.

**For further information, please contact:**

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Sincerely,



Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith  
Director

CC: Evert Flier, Chair IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee  
Doug Brunt, Senior Advisor and IHO Liaison, Canadian Hydrographic Service  
Annie Biron, Project Coordinator, Canadian Hydrographic Service, Government of Canada