

**14<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC14  
Denpasar - Bali, Indonesia, 6-8 June 2022**

**MACHC Paper on establishing a Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator Collaboration Team**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	MACHC Chair, MACHC Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator, IHO CSBWG Chair
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This document provides details on the proposed establishment of a Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator Collaboration Team. Seabed 2030 Project and crowdsourced bathymetry (CSB) activities are among the topics described in National Reports to RHCs and included for discussions during RHC meetings. Progress in these activities would likely improve if a coordinated collaborative mechanism existed for all RHC Coordinators to participate in.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	IRCC11-0713: Inclusion of Seabed 2030 Project in the RHC work plans IRCC12-08A.2: CSBWG Paper on raising the awareness of CSB within RHCs and proposed actions within RHCs to support the IHO CSB initiative
<b>Related Projects:</b>	The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project, IHO Crowdsourced Bathymetry Initiative

## 1. Introduction / Background

*IRCC12-08A.2: CSBWG Paper on raising the awareness of CSB within RHCs and proposed actions within RHCs to support the IHO CSB initiative* described, among other things, the need for activities surrounding the IHO Crowdsourced Bathymetry Initiative and The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project to be described in National Reports to RHCs and to become official agenda items included for discussions during RHC meetings. The paper also requested the modification of the current “RHC Seabed 2030 Coordinator” to “RHC CSB/Seabed 2030 Coordinator”, explaining that the change would represent a fundamental step forward for achieving this awareness and spreading the “CSB message”.

The Coordinator would have the essential role in supporting the RHC Chairs providing a clear picture on the regional knowledge of the seafloor in accordance with the Goal 3 of the IHO Strategic Plan. Specifically, the Coordinator would encourage and exchange information on coastal States activities in support of CSB, Seabed 2030 Project and GEBCO program, details of data collected and made available (to whom via whom), increased % coverage, planned engagement, legal/political/physical challenges for which assistance/guidance is requested, and cooperation with adjacent coastal States are all requested. The Coordinator would serve as a member of the IHO CSBWG and as the point of contact to the relevant Seabed 2030 Regional Centers.

Some active members of the CSBWG, along with the IHO Secretariat, have for several years, provided annual updates of the IHO CSBWG and the IHO CSB Initiative to their respective RHCs. Some of these RHCs include the NHC, NSHC, MBSHC, ARHC, BSHC, and the USHC. Today, all but two RHCs, have dedicated Coordinators that provide updates and encourage conversation on Seabed 2030 Project and crowdsourced bathymetry (see list of [CSB/GEBCO/Seabed2030-Coordinators](#)).

With the formal establishment of the RHC CSB/Seabed 2030 Coordinator, other RHCs are now involved in these activities. In 2020, the MACHC Chair, MACHC Seabed 2030 Coordinator, along

with the Atlantic & Indian Oceans Seabed 2030 Regional Center Head and IHO CSBWG Chair, organized a tremendously successful [four part webinar series](#) on GEBCO program, Seabed 2030 Project, IHO DCDB, crowdsourced bathymetry and the role of the RHC in making these initiatives successful. This year, the SWPHC and SAIHC are planning a similar event tailored to their RHC.

As the Coordinator role and interest in Seabed 2030 Project and crowdsourced bathymetry continue to grow, it has become obvious that communication and support between the various RHC Coordinators would be helpful. There is currently no established mechanism for RHC Coordinators to exchange and discuss progress, success, challenges, etc.

## **2. Analysis/Discussion**

In 2020, the MACHC Chair, MACHC Seabed 2030 Coordinator, along with the Atlantic & Indian Ocean Seabed 2030 Regional Center Head and IHO CSBWG Chair, organized a [virtual four part webinar series](#) on GEBCO program, Seabed 2030 Project, IHO DCDB, crowdsourced bathymetry and the role of the RHC in making these initiatives successful. More than 60 participants, including MACHC members, observer States, contributing organizations and industry partners, attended. The original motivation behind the webinar series was a realization that many MACHC members, observers and participants lacked a basic awareness of the above-mentioned projects and activities and did not know how to access publicly available data or contribute data to international repositories and projects.

The webinar series was structured to provide information, encourage conversation and questions and determine next steps to progress these activities. The webinars focused on:

1. Where are we now? Introduction and goals including review of current mapping status in the region
2. How do we build the map? How can you contribute and access data?
3. Increasing data coverage: crowdsourced bathymetry and data coverage polygons
4. Moving ahead together: summary, next steps and wrap up.

The MACHC Chair and MACHC Seabed 2030 Coordinator then developed a [joint regional Seabed2030 Strategy](#) and annual [Work Plan](#) with its regional partner IOCARIBE to implement and monitor the associated actions resulting from the webinar series, which were approved by the Members of both organizations in 2020. An additional webinar held in 2021 focused on “[Exploring Applications and Remote Bathymetric Data Processing](#).” The next webinar, planned for June 2022, will discuss “The Role of the Hydrographic Office in the IHO Crowdsourced Bathymetry Initiative”.

In part because of the virtual-only environment of all meetings, conferences and workshops over the past two years, the MACHC Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator has not had an opportunity to discuss these webinars (the outcomes, successes and challenges) to other coordinators who may be interested in learning more.

The MACHC Chair, MACHC Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator and IHO CSBWG Chair, feel strongly that a formalized team would provide the platform for such communication. The Team meetings would be held virtually, semiannually, and be organized by the IHO CSBWG Chair. A hybrid meeting could also take place in conjunction with an in-person IHO CSBWG meeting.

## **3. Recommendations**

The MACHC Chair, MACHC Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator and IHO CSBWG Chair propose the establishment of a Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator Collaboration Team to meet semiannually to discuss the following suggested topics:

- Past and current updates on Seabed 2030 Project and/or CSB efforts within their RHCs
- Update on Coordinator-led efforts within their RHCs
- The establishment of a cohesive regional approach
- Challenges/issues faced by Coordinators
- Successes, lessons learned experienced by Coordinators
- Strategies for becoming involved in CSB data collection, contribution and/or an official CSB Trusted Node
- Strategies for encouraging positive responses to the CLs regarding data release (IHO CL 21/2020 and IRCC CL 01/2020)

#### **4. Action Required of IRCC**

The IRCC is invited to:

1. Note the information provided;
2. Support the establishment of a Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator Collaboration Team and encourage the RHCs to promote the active participation by their current and future Coordinators;
3. Invite the Team to provide an annual report of their efforts to the IRCC under the Seabed2030 Project/CSB agenda item;
4. Take any other actions deemed appropriate.