

## Proposed ARHC Way Forward on Implementation of IHO Strategic Plan -INF

**Submitted By:** Canada, Denmark, USA

**Summary:** The ARHC needs to develop a plan of action to support the goals and targets of the IHO Strategic Plan. The IRCC will be an important driver in the ultimate submission of a Report on the implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan to Assembly-3. The ARHC should consider early its message to the IRCC-14, which in turn provides reference to the Council report to the Assembly-3. This INF paper also identifies those Strategic Performance Indicators that are member state-derived and which could be a basis for reporting on the status of member states status as of calendar year 2021.

Relevant Documents: REF 1 [IHO Strategic Plan](#)

REF 2 [SWHPC18 \(2021\) Meeting page](#) and Gap Analysis/Assessment

REF 3 [Actions](#) Developed for the SWPHC Work Plan to achieve the Goals a Targets of the IHO Strategic Plan

REF 4 [IRCC 2021 Workshop –Strategic Plan.](#)

REF 5 [Council-5 Indicators assigned to HSSC and IRCC](#)

### Background

The IHO Strategic Plan (REF 1) adopted in 2020 sets the path forward for the member states of the IHO to contribute to global health and needs in the field of hydrography. The three goals of the Strategic Plan are:

Goal 1: Evolving the hydrographic support for safety and efficiency of maritime navigation, undergoing profound transformation

Goal 2: Increasing the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society

Goal 3: Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean

The Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) had been delegated responsibility, either in whole, or in part, to track the progress of the SP towards the achievement of its goals. It has become apparent that Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) will play an important role in the implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan (SP) and in supporting IRCC.

Since adoption, lessons learned and experiences are being generated which assists member states individually, regionally and globally to aspire to the ambition of the Strategic Plan. Of particular

relevance to the ARHC are the methodology developed by the South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (REF 2; REF 3) and the reports and discussions at first IRCC Workshop on implementation of the Strategic Plan (REF 4).

This paper seeks to provide a starting point for discussions to be held at ARHC-11 on how the ARHC will implement the relevant elements and report on its progress towards that implementation. ARHC should be prepared to deliver this plan to IRCC-14 (2022) which in turn may inform the Council-6 of Arctic regional efforts underway.

## **Analysis**

The work of the South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) towards developing a strategy to implement the IHO Strategic Plan is the most advanced among regional hydrographic commission (RHC) thus far. Several other RHCs are planning to emulate this approach and leverage the diligent work of the SWPHC. The authors of this paper suggest that ARHC adopts the same approach.

The first step of the method employed by the SWPHC involved assessing the current situation vis-à-vis the SP SPIs in order to establish a baseline.

The IHO Strategic Plan includes targets and SPIs endorsed by the member states as guidelines for the realization of the Plans goals. The SPIs are measured in a variety of manners, including those based on coastal state/hydrographic office/member state from which regional approaches, cooperation and coordination efforts may be effectively based.

To facilitate such a rapid inventory, the template is attached (see Annex A). Of importance, please note this template includes only SPIs that are based on MS reporting.

The second step was look at the current and desired target and determine what actions would be required to close 'the gap'.

This exercise was completed by the individual MS first, then these results were collated into a Regional list of actions or work plan. Annex C contains the conclusions of the SWPHC gap analysis and actions.

[Strategic Performance Indicators which appear not derived by member state reporting are included as Annex B.]

If the ARHC wishes to pursue a robust report to IRCC-14, key calendar milestones will require intersessional work following ARHC-11 over the course of the next several months. The deadline to submit reports to IRCC-14 will be approximately March 31, 2022 (assuming IRCC meeting dates are scheduled in May/June 2022).

## **Recommendation**

This paper is provided as an INF paper to facilitate discussions at the ARHC-11, especially as ARHC-11 will be via video teleconference. This paper offers no specific recommendation, however, it suggests that building on the experience of the SWPHC would be an effective approach as a way forward for the ARHC

on the implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan.

Annex A SPI Status Survey and Questionnaire for ARHC (selected SPIs for member state response only)

Annex B SPIs appearing not to be member state derived

Annex C SWHPC analysis outcomes

**PART ONE : SPI's reported by the Member State***(Select one: CA, DK, FI, IC, IT, NO, RU, USA)*

Selected SPI's which are Member State self-reported	Presumed Metric	Unit of Analysis	ARHC Member State  Status (Dec 2021)
<b>GOAL ONE</b>			
1.1.1 Percentage of Member States having operationalized production and distribution of hydrographic data products and services based on IHO Universal Hydrographic Data Model (S-100), under an implementation framework of coordination and agreed timelines (2026: 100%) (Note for 1.1.1 Percentage of MS currently (2019) providing digital products)	# member states reporting "yes" / divided by total number of member states (94)	Member State	<i>Insert status</i>
Percentage of navigationally significant areas (e.g. charted traffic separation schemes, anchorages, channels) for which the adequacy of the hydrographic knowledge is assessed through the use of appropriate quality indicators (2026: 100%)		Member State?  Region?  Globe	
1.3.1 Ability and capability of Member States to meet the requirements and delivery phases of the S100 implementation plan (2026: 50%)	Yes	Member State	<i>Insert status</i>
<b>GOAL TWO</b>			
2.2.1 Percentage of adequately surveyed area per coastal state	Total coast state area (EEZ?) adequately surveyed divided by total marine area of coastal state (EEZ?)	Member state report provided in <a href="#">C-55</a>	<i>Insert status</i>

2.3.1 Number of HOs reporting success applying the principles <sup>1</sup> in their national contexts (2026: 70%)	Number of HO's (member state) <i>reporting success</i> divided by total HO's (member state)	Member state	<i>Insert status</i> <i>Insert status</i>
<b>GOAL THREE</b>			
3.1.1 Percentage of Coastal States that are capable to provide marine safety information (MSI) according to the joint IMO/IHO/WMO manual on MSI (2026 90%)	Member states reporting "yes" divided by total member states (94)	Member state	<i>Insert status</i>

Annex B

PART TWO: SPI's not reported at Member State Level

<b>Selected SPI's which are <i>not</i> Member State self-reported</b>	<b>Presumed Metric</b>	<b>Reporting Authority?</b>	<b>Member State Comment/Observation</b>
<b>GOAL ONE</b>			
Number of hydrographic data products and services based on the Universal Hydrographic Data Model that cater for the new requirements: autonomous shipping, reduction of emissions			<i>Insert comment/Observation</i>
Percentage of hydrographic data products and services based on the S-100 model that are covered by IHO standards, specifications and guidelines on cyber security (2026: 100%)			<i>Insert comment/Observation</i>
<b>GOAL TWO</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Target 2.3 Apply *UN shared guiding principles for geospatial information management* in order to ensure interoperability and extended use of hydrographic data in combination with other marine related data

Number of hits downloading data/information from the portal		IHO Secretariat?	<i>Insert comment/Observation</i>
Number of new applications of the new version of Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (S-44)			<i>Insert comment/Observation</i>
<b>GOAL THREE</b>			
Number of contributors to DCDB who are not hydrographic offices		DCDB?	<i>Insert comment/Observation</i>
Percentage of total sea area that is Seabed 2030 compliant for incorporation into the GEBCO dataset and services		IBCAO RDACC?	<i>Insert comment/Observation</i>
Number of visits, likes, re-postings, etc. associated with the IHO social media sites		IHO Secretariat	<i>Insert comment/Observation</i>
Volume downloaded from the IHO website and Geographical Information System (GIS)		IHO Secretariat?	<i>Insert comment/Observation</i>

## Annex C

Actions Identified to Develop SWPHC 3-6 Year Draft Work Plan & Priorities Aligned to IHO Strategic Plan Goals & Targets See REF 2 and REF 3.

Goal 1 - Evolving the hydrographic support for safety and efficiency of maritime navigation, undergoing profound transformation

- Share and collaborate S100 implementation strategies among members
- Identify/Develop Capacity Building tools for S1XX implementation
- Identify available (or support development of) Risk Assessment tool(s) to analyze and prioritize regional marine/environmental hazards
- Emphasize “hydrographic information” and de-emphasize “hydrographic data” in all Capacity Building efforts

Goal 2 - Increasing the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society

- Leverage the MSDIWG Maturity Assessment effort to establish a regional MSDI baseline
- Conduct a regional inventory of operational Portals; consider establishing a SWPHC Portal; work with IHO in developing Portal-of-Portals
- Promote more Capacity Building focused, partnered surveys among Member States and PCAs to increase awareness of new survey tools and techniques
- Prepare the region for operationalization of a Geospatial Information Framework; build awareness of World Bank sponsored virtual training

Goal 3 - Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean

- Continue to emphasize basic through advanced level MSI training
- Establish a cohesive awareness of regional Ocean/Marine Affairs and/or Policy initiatives and priorities
- Ensure SWPHC activities are deliberately aligned to UN Decade initiatives
- Explore “Catalytic” Capacity Building activities and seek IHO funding to resource
- Consider implementing a “Theory of Change” model to organize the SWPHC Work Plan