



MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



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**SERVICE HYDROGRAPHIQUE
ET OcéANOGRAPHIQUE
DE LA MARINE**

DIRECTION DES MISSIONS
INSTITUTIONNELLES ET DES
RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Relations extérieures

Dossier suivi par
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MBSHC CIRCULAR LETTER N° 02/2015

Subject : Common MBSHC Bathymetry Database

References : a) Report to MBSHC of EU-IHO relations and annex: Documents 19-4.2A, 19-4.2B of the 19th MBSHC conference
http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/MBSHC/MBSHC19/MBSHC19-4.2%20Report%20of%20MBSHC%20for%20the%20EU-IHO%20relations.pdf
[http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/MBSHC/MBSHC19/MBSHC19-4.2%20Enclosure%20\(EMODnet%20,%20HOs%20position%20aper%20v1.0\).pdf](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/MBSHC/MBSHC19/MBSHC19-4.2%20Enclosure%20(EMODnet%20,%20HOs%20position%20aper%20v1.0).pdf)
b) Decisions and actions of the 19th MBSHC Conference (http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/MBSHC/MBSHC19/MBSHC19_Docs.htm)

Enclosure : Proposal for consideration for implementing a common (DTM) Bathymetric Database under the auspices of MBSHC (submitted by Greece)

Dear colleagues,

The 19th Conference of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Conference (MBSHC) was the occasion to discuss the stakes and feasibility of the implementation of a Common Bathymetric Database for this region. The forthcoming call for the third phase of the European project EMODnet encourages us to define which role MBSHC Member States should take on this phase and about bathymetry specifications to propose to the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission (see in reference [a], and especially the questions 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of the annex 19-4.2B).



One of the technical aspects addressed at the MBSHC19 conference was the maximum resolution of the digital terrain/ bathymetric model that HOs would accept to deliver in the frame of EMODnet.

Besides, recalling the example of the Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database, which enabled BSHC to deliver a regional digital terrain model to EMODNet2, Greece briefed MBSHC on the interest and possibility of adopting a similar concept in our region (see enclosed document).

Therefore, and following up the decisions and actions adopted at the 19th MBSHC Conference, **particularly action MBSHC19/03 and MBSHC19/04** (see reference [b]), Member States are invited to:

- to provide the MBSHC Chair and GR with their position on the next phase of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet III), including their position on the questions in §3 of the document 19-4.2B, **by the end of August 2015**;
- to express their views on the highest acceptable DTM resolution to be delivered in the frame of EMODnet III as soon as possible, and **no later than the end of August 2015**;
- to provide the MBSHC Chair **by the end of August 2015** with their views on establishing a Regional Bathymetric Database for MBSHC.

Yours sincerely,

L'ingénieur général (Hydrographer) Bruno Frachon,
Director General of SHOM
Chairman of the MBSHC



19th Meeting of Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC)
Batumi, Georgia, 30 June - 2 July 2015

Paper for consideration by MBSHC

**Proposal for consideration for implementing a common (DTM)
Bathymetric Database under the auspices of MBSHC**

Submitted by:	GR (Focal point of the MBSHC for the EU-IHO relations)
Executive Summary:	The European HOs organised in the MBSHC should take proactive actions in order to be established as the key members of a competent network for EU waters bathymetry. The best preparation for future requests for European bathymetry in relation with projects and permanent services subsidized by the European Commission, would be for the MBSHC to consider implementing the concept of a common Bathymetric Database.
Related Documents:	a. N° 014 SHOM/DMI/NP, Paris, February 13th, 2015 b. MBSHC 19-4.2. Report of MBSHC for the EU-IHO relations c. IHO Monthly Meeting Report – Jan 2015. Available in http://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/IHO-bulletin/briefmeetingreports/2015/January_2015.pdf
Related Projects:	a. The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) (http://www.emodnet.eu/) b. Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database (BSBD) (http://www.bshc.pro/)

Introduction

1. The IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG) is a subsidiary of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC). According to the IENWG objectives, the group considers ways and channels to interface with EU policies, activities and processes (mechanisms) through RHCs initiatives, through the IRCC or through the IHO in general. A priority task of IENWG is to track updates on projects initiated by EU/ DG Mare in relation to hydrographic themes.

Background

2. The IENWG have given special emphasis to the Coastal Mapping Project (MARE/2014/10) and the future EMODnet Phase III. For that, last year IENWG formed a consortium consisting of fifteen European HOs plus academia partners to bid an EU tender.

Analysis / Discussion

3. The European HOs organised in the MBSHC should take all possible proactive actions in order to be established as key members of a competent network for projects initiated by DG MARE involving EU waters bathymetry. The best preparation for future requests for European bathymetry in relation with projects and permanent services subsidized by the European Commission and its General Directorates would be for the MBSHC to consider implementing the concept of a common Bathymetric Database. In the same vein, MBSHC members should seek for allocation of national financial, technical and personal resources for the implementation and operation of such a database.

4. The Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database (BSBD) is an existing initiative of HOs under the umbrella of the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission for gathering and distribution of bathymetry within the Baltic Sea. The BSDB concept could provide useful solutions for setting up a similar database under the auspices of MBSHC.

Recommendations

5. MBSHC members are invited to:

a. Consider the feasibility of implementation of a common Bathymetric Database, under the auspices of MBSHC.

b. Investigate options for the setup of a suitable DTM either for the whole sea basin or parts of, subject to the availability of data.

c. Communicate their comments on the *recommendations* and the *proposal for consideration* (implementation of a common Bathymetric Database under the auspices of MBSHC), including their ability to take over any element of technical implementation or operation of such a regional bathymetric database.

Action required of MBSHC

6. The MBSHC is invited to coordinate the members' response on the *recommendations* and task the assessment of the feasibility of the implementation of a common Bathymetric Database, under the auspices of MBSHC.

Destinataires : MBSHC Members and Associate Members

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Archives (DMIDSD/2.018.001)