

ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
9TH MEETING, MUSCAT (OMAN), 15-17 NOVEMBER 2022
Report of the IHO Secretariat

Submitted by:	IHO Secretariat
Executive Summary:	This paper reports on activities of the IHO Secretariat that may impact the work of the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission.

Status of Membership of the IHO

1. One of the main changes resulting from the entry into force of the revised IHO Convention is that, for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations, there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO. Since RASHC8, Guyana, Solomon Islands, Ghana, Samoa, Lebanon, Kenya, Iraq, Angola and Albania acceded to the IHO Convention and the IHO membership now stands at 98. Unfortunately, Serbia and Syria remain suspended from Member States rights.

Regional Membership

2. Following the accession to the IHO Convention (see IHO CL 45/2021), in accordance with art. 2 a) of the RSAHC Statutes, Iraq will become full Member of the Commission. With Iraq, all coastal States within the Region are members of RSAHC. The IHO, in cooperation with IMO and IALA, has also been pursuing initiatives to approach non-coastal States (i.e. Caspian Sea states), neighbouring with the Region.

3. Recommendation: *RSAHC is invited to encourage and propose future IHO Secretariat High Level Visits to those non-coastal States not yet members of the IHO and support the IHO Secretariat in the future initiative in the Caspian Sea region.*

Outcomes of the 6th Meeting of the IHO Council

4. The Council considered the proposed IHO Work Programme and Budget for 2023 and the three-year Work Programme and Budget for the period 2024–2026. It would also identify priorities for the Council over the next three years. The Council endorsed the recommendation by HSSC by which Goal 1 and its Targets in the IHO Strategic Plan should have the highest priority in the 2023–2026 Work Programme. The Council noted the outcome of the 9th session of the IMO NCSR on the revision of MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev1 – ECDIS Guidance for Good Practice and Revision of MSC.232(82) – ECDIS Performance Standard (IHO CL 31/2022 refers) and took note of the associated commitments made towards the IMO and the IEC in particular (transition period for S-100 ECDIS, to become legal to use after 1 January 2026 and from 1 January 2029, new systems must comply with the new IMO Resolution on ECDIS Performance Standards).

5. C6 noted the recommendations made by HSSC on the automated production of paper charts and confirmed the Decision made at A-2 by which priority is to develop guidelines for the automated production of paper charts meeting S-4 chart minimum content requirements from S-101 ENC data. The Council welcomed the information provided by the Republic of Korea on the S-100 Test-bed Project and agreed that it is a critical component of the Roadmap. The Council invited IHO Member States to participate in this S-100 test-bed project and in addition, to consider whether other criteria should also be considered (expected geographical coverage implementation rate compared to existing S-57 ENCs, distribution and update mechanisms and NPubs coverage, for instance).

6. The Council noted the outcome of the IRCC April 2022 Workshop on the Strategic Performance Indicators, the new TORs of the IBSC and the progress made by IRCC to establish an IHO e-Learning

Center. C-6 endorsed the new proposed Capacity Building Strategy, which will be submitted to the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly for approval, and noted the decrease of Capacity Building fund over the last few years. The Council noted the progress made by IRCC in the development of the methodologies and metrics for SPIs allocated to IRCC and endorsed the proposals (definitions, metrics, action plan...) as reported in IHO CL 23/2022, with particular attention to SPI 1.2.2 - Percentage of navigationally significant areas for which the adequacy of hydrographic knowledge is assessed through the use of appropriate quality indicators (CATZOC) assigned by the Member States.

7. The Council approved the proposed amendment to the S-100 Implementation Roadmap with the updated version 2.0 dated July 2022. Version 3.0 of the Roadmap, to include an additional proposal on the dual fuel Concept for S-100 ECDIS, would appear only after approval by the forthcoming Assembly-3. C6 approved version 1.0 of the Guidelines on the Implementation of the WEND-100 Principles, noting that the efforts on establishing a common global gridding system could not reach consensus and is put on hold. C6 endorsed the Dual Fuel Concept for S-100 ECDIS Executive Summary and the full report, and noted that several Members requested guidance on the best way to prepare the operational implementation phase of S-100 data services within their Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

8. In view of the preparation of the new Council 2023-2025, the IHO CL 43/2022 provides the resultant distribution of the 20 seats on the Council allocated to the RHCs and those States that are eligible to be selected to occupy those seats, whilst the Secretariat will use the table of tonnages (2021-2023) provided in accordance with Finance Regulations of the IHO - Article 6 (a), subject to the addition of any new Member States, to determine the remaining 10 seats to be occupied on the Council.

9. Recommendations:

9.1 RSAHC members are invited to continue on the implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan and support IRCC in identifying measures and values to measure those SPI of regional interest allocated to IRCC, and to consider providing their CATZOC values - through the RENCs - to support the IHO Secretariat in the process of measuring SPI 1.2.2.

9.2 RSAHC members to note the updated version 2.0 of the S-100 Implementation Roadmap, and the version 1.0 of the Guidelines on the Implementation of the WEND-100 Principles, with particular attention to the creation of a new role of S-100 Services Coordinator or the expansion of the role of Regional Chart Coordinator to include S-1xx products.

9.3 RSAHC is invited to declare the identity of the State/s selected to occupy the first 20 seats on the Council that are allocated on a regional basis.

Preparation of the 3rd Session of IHO Assembly

10. The third session of the IHO Assembly (A-3) will take place in the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco from Tuesday 2 May to Friday 5 April 2023. The meeting of the Finance Committee and the meeting of the Heads of Delegations will take place on Monday afternoon, 1 May 2023 at the Grimaldi Forum, as well as a conference on the Empowering Women in Hydrography project. The Opening Ceremony for the Assembly will take place on Tuesday morning, 2 May 2023. At A-3 it is intended to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the creation of GEBCO, as well as to invite those new Member States that have joined the Organization since the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly to present their flag. An Industry and a Member States exhibition will take place in the same period of A-3 at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco, and the IHO Member States are invited to consider sending a ship to the Port of Monaco during A-3. A thematic Session on “*Future challenges for hydrography in the Ocean Decade*”

is scheduled on Thursday afternoon, 4 May 2023 and the election of the Secretary-General and one Director is scheduled on Friday morning, 5 May 2023.

11. The Assembly is the principal decision-making organ of the IHO (Article V of the Convention on the IHO), and it is essential that all IHO Member States are represented not only to review the past activities of the Organization, but also to adopt an effective and realistic IHO Work Programme and Budget for the next three years, and then to formulate proposals and adopt appropriate Resolutions. All the details on the preparation and conduct of A-3 are available on <https://iho.int/en/3rd-session-of-the-assembly-2023> where the Assembly Circular Letters (ACLs) are available.

12. **Recommendation:** *RSAHC members are encouraged to register on line their delegations and submit proposals if any by 20 December 2022.*

Capacity Building Programme

13. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme was clearly affected in 2020 and 2021 by the COVID 19 pandemic. Expenditure in the IHO 2021 CB Work Programme (CBWP) was 15,627.22 Euros, a value that cannot be compared with the previous years. Decision 5 of the CBSC19 intersessional meeting approved that the 2021CBWP funded activities not executed in 2021 can be moved to the 2022CBWP. In the same line and considering that 2022 still also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Decision 9 of the CBSC20 meeting approved that the 2022CBWP funded activities not executed in 2022 can be moved to the 2023CBWP. The budget assigned to 2022 has benefited not only from funds not used in CBWP2021, but also from additional funds made available by the Republic of Korea for capacity building activities from the Regional Commissions (the so-called non-earmarked activities). At CBSC20 Inter-sessional meeting, the 2022CBWP activities were prioritized, and at CBSC20 meeting the 2023CBWP was approved, and it is now available at the following link: <https://iho.int/en/capacity-building-and-technical-cooperation>. RSAHC has one funded CB project in the 2022CBWP and one in the 2023CBWP:

- 2022: A-17 Technical Visit to Iran (former 2020 A-11, 2019 A-12 and 2021 A-14)
- 2023: A-04 High Level Technical Visit to Iraq RSAHC,

and two planned CB projects in the draft 2023CBWP:

- P-26 MSDI and Database Management (5 days)
- P-28 Basic ENC Production Training.

14. The CB finance situation will be more difficult in 2023 with the expected reduction of the non-earmarked funds, so it was recognized that it will be very important to share resources and projects and invest in the remote activities. The CBSC20 meeting discussed the 2023 CBMP (CB Management Plan (CBMP)). Having in consideration the projects with the highest score after the evaluation process and the funding available, the projects to be funded were selected and the 2023CBWP was approved by the Sub-Committee and then uploaded to the Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation web-page on the IHO website. Discussion at CBSC20 highlighted the importance of engagement at the correct levels to build awareness of the importance of Hydrography. This supports the inclusion of Phase 0 into the IHO CB Strategy which focusses on the awareness of the importance to development Hydrographic Governance. Engagement with the correct stakeholders, on a ministerial level, is vital for the successful delivery of Technical and High-Level Technical Visits and the recipients of Technical Visits are reminded that their assistance in identifying these stakeholders is critical.

15. In terms of courses managed at IHO Secretariat level, 2 candidates were selected for 2022/2023 Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA), sponsored by the Republic of Korea, 14 candidates were selected to participate in the 13th and 14th GEOMAC courses in Cartography Cat B (see IHO CL 19/2022) sponsored by Nippon Foundation, and 10 candidates for 2022 Cat B Hydrographic Survey Programme sponsored by the

Republic of Korea were selected (see IHO CL 22/2022). For 2023/2024, the Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA), sponsored by the Republic of Korea, was announced with IHO CL 34/2022.

Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH)

16. The 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly (A-2) approved the adoption of a new work item of Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) to the Work Programme of the IHO CBSC (A-2 Decision 35), and tasked the Secretariat to secure funding through allocation of IHO budget resources available and negotiation of suitable cooperation agreements with interested Member States.

17. CANADA and IHO signed an Agreement available at <https://iho.int/en/mou-agreements>. The Agreement secures the funds for the period 2021-2024, and finally describes a series of activities and initiatives which will enable more women to participate equitably in the field of hydrography and to assume more leadership roles within the hydrographic community. The project includes outreach, contact and learning, including internships, at-sea experiences and train-on-the-job activities (see IHO CLs 47/2021, 07/2022, 09/2022 and 14/2022). A specific webpage (<https://iho.int/en/basic-cbcs-ewh>) has been set up under the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) for this project. The first year of the EWH project has been completed successfully, with the provision of a workshop on “Gender balance & Empowering Leaders” to draw the attention on the importance of reducing gender imbalance in hydrography and more in general in STEM, the hire of an EWH project Assistant to support the implementation of the project’s activities, 1 internship on Outreach, 3 internships related with the review process of submitted programmes to the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC), the submission for EWH project to become an UN Ocean Decade Action, and then – as activity offered by the IHO Member States - three opportunities for an at-sea experience on a NOAA hydrographic ship. In order to get a clear picture of the gender distribution within the International Hydrographic Community, following the decision of IRCC (see Decision IRCC14/17), the IHO Secretariat invited the IHO MS with IHO CL 26/2022 to participate in a survey to determine the percentage of female employees in Hydrographic Offices and in leadership roles. IHO Member States are invited to complete the Questionnaire provided in Annex to the IHO CL 26/2022 and to return it to the IHO Secretariat (the deadline of 30 September 2022 has been extended till 30 November 2022). On this regard, the first results of the questionnaire were officially published on the IHO website and social.

18. With Letter IOC/VR/22.377/JB/AC/mb dated 9 September 2022, IOC endorsed the project entitled “No. 62.2 - Empowering Women in Hydrography” as a project forming part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

IHO e-learning Center

19. Following the improvement made by the e-learning Project Team to advance in the implementation of the center, the IHO e-learning center established at KHOA is now accessible at <https://elearning.iho.int> , or via the IHO web-site. Member States who have experience in developing and providing e-Learning contents should consider actively sharing contents, resources, and experience with the e-Learning PT. The center is expected to become fully operational by the end of 2022, as well as the Guidelines and the Governance Board of the center.

20. Mr Saeed Parizi (Iran) is the RSAHC CB Coordinator for planning and implementing the regional CB activities.

21. Recommendations:

21.1 RSAHC members are invited to continue follow and evaluate the possibility to contribute to the CB Programme.

21.2 RSAHC members are invited to participate at the EWH project and provide proposals via the specific webpage (<https://iho.int/en/basic-cbhc-ewh>) set up under the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) for this project, and answer to the Questionnaire issued with IHO CL 26/2022.

21.3 RSAHC members are invited to provide contributions of online learning material to the Project Team established for the IHO e-Learning Center at KHOA.

Maritime Safety Information Services

22. Work by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on the modernization of the Communications and Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) continues with the ongoing review and updating of the SOLAS chapters III and IV and on the related and consequential amendments to existing instruments. The consequential changes as a result of the recognition of the Iridium SafetyCast service as a recognised mobile satellite service (RMSS) provider in the GMDSS continue to be implemented. The Iridium SafetyCast service became SOLAS carriage compliant from 1 January 2020. Good progress has been made with implementation with a number of NAVAREAs due to become operational in 2022, with more entering the formal testing phase. However, there is still a number of NAVAREAs that need to commit to implementation before the service can be declared fully operational. Member States are reminded of the resources required and the responsibilities for their national Coordinator to perform their functions as part of the GMDSS. The national Coordinators should have established sources of information relevant to the safety of navigation within national waters, effective communications with the NAVAREA Coordinator and adjacent national Coordinators, if needed, to pass relevant information to all authorities and organization that need to be made aware and access to broadcast systems for transmission to their area of national responsibility.

23. From the last IHO World Wide Navigation Warning Service Subcommittee (WWNWS), it was reported on the approval of the IMO NAVTEX Manual for submission to the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 9). More work was needed in relation to SPI 3.1.1, as only 62% of Coastal States provided information internally to the NAVAREAs by the end of 2021, compared to the target of 90% (143 Coastal States out of 230). The new version of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI was expected in January 2024. Coastal States expressed concern that MSI providers were compelled to bear the burden of all additional costs incurred from implementing Iridium Safetycast services. The IMO noted that if Coastal States were experiencing challenges in implementing Safetycast services (be they financial or otherwise), they are advised to contact the IMO for support. So far no coastal states have contacted the IMO for support.

24. Recommendations:

The RSAHC Chair is requested to encourage all RSAHC members to:

24.1 Encourage all information providers (NAV and MET Area Coordinators and RCCs) to complete agreements with all RMSS and commence the necessary testing of the SafetyCast system to progress towards declaring full operational status.

24.2 Establish and maintain effective communications with the relevant NAV and MET Area Coordinators to ensure the timely provision of MSI.

24.3 Use and follow the guidance provided in S-53 – Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information – to ensure the necessary facilities and capabilities are provided and maintained for the gathering and communication of MSI within their area of national responsibility.

Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry, GEBCO and Seabed2030

25. Following the last CSBWG12 hybrid meeting held in February 2022 at the IHO, the Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) revised the IHO publication B-12 which provides guidance on the collection and use of Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB), and identified ways to facilitate the data gathering activities. The new edition of publication B-12 was endorsed by IRCC. With IHO CL 41/2022 Edition 3.0.0 of B-12 was approved by 37 Member States. Besides, a new Agreement template on the “*Terms of the Provision of Crowdsourced Bathymetry Data*” from the data suppliers to the IHO, was prepared by the CSBWG and will be an ancillary document to the new edition of B-12 publication. The document represents the way for submitting Crowdsourced bathymetry data for long-term preservation and stewardship, as a joint effort between data suppliers and the IHO to accurately document the agreement and the expectations between the two entities. The new Agreement was also used to sign a historic Agreement between the IHO and International Seabed Authority (ISA) for “*Submitting marine geophysical data for long-term preservation and stewardship in IHO DCDB archive*”. It is expected that the initial contribution covers the ISA backlog of approximately 15 years of data recording and, going forward, the ISA estimates an annual contribution of approximately 750 GB each year. Future geophysical data collected by ISA contractors will be submitted by ISA to DCDB using the guidelines laid out in such Agreement.

26. The Circular Letters (IHO CL 21/2020 and IRCC CL 1/2020) to request MS to indicate their positions on the provision of CSB data are receiving new positive replies, in addition to the 31 already available at the link: https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/CSBWG/MISC/B-12_2020_FR_Acceptance_of_CSB_Data_in_NWJ_v3.0.pdf. The IHO acknowledges the continuous engagement of the CSB-GEBCO-Seabed 2030 Regional Coordinators with IHO Member States, to advocate for open data access and CSB activities. The importance of liaison with other IHO bodies, as well as appropriate engagement with industry to progress the work items, continues to be a key enabler for the project.

27. Thanks to the support of CSBWG and Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Seabed2030 project, the IHO Secretariat also promoted CSB through three sailing boats: the Sir Ernst and La Louise, who departed from Monaco and France for expeditions to the Antarctica in late 2021/early 2022, and committed to collect data for the IHO DCDB and generally contribute to increase our knowledge of the ocean and the Poles, and the Jancris, who departed from Cape Canaveral for an ocean crossing named “A sail for the blue” in May 2022 and arrived in Monaco on 21 July 2022. In addition to that, the IHO Secretariat, with the support of GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC), CSBWG and Nippon Foundation GEBCO-Seabed2030 project signed a Letter of Cooperation with the Yacht Club of Monaco to engage the world of yachting (yachts and mega yachts) in the CSB initiative.

28. In December 2021, the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and GEBCO Chair/Vice Chair met to discuss on how much the ocean science and seabed mapping landscape is undergoing significant change, and that the work of GEBCO (including that of the Nippon Foundation GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project) has never been so relevant or visible. It was noted that GEBCO would need to evolve with this changing environment in order to remain relevant, and that its organisational structure has grown in recent years. Therefore, it was decided to review the GEBCO Governance and establish a Project Team accordingly, which has recently started working on the Governance review. GGC38 also noted that one of the gaps was for a GEBCO Strategic Plan that clearly sets out the connections between the strategic objectives of the parent Organizations, the future direction of GEBCO and the work of the subordinate bodies, initiatives and activities. The dedicated project team presented a first draft of the GEBCO Strategic Plan at GGC39, which will be approved next year by the GGC and presented to IRCC15 in June 2023.

29. With IHO CL 10/2022 – and with an IOC CL within the IOC community as well – the IHO advised Member States that nominations are being sought for the 19th course of the IHO-IOC-Nippon Foundation/GEBCO Training Program leading to a Graduate Certificate in Ocean Bathymetry at the

University of New Hampshire (UNH), USA. The 19th course began in late August 2022 and students will undertake an intensive 12-month period of lectures, practical laboratory and on-the-water projects, secondments to relevant laboratories and cruises on research or survey ships. The course represents a strong investment in future generations of ocean scientists and hydrographers, In order to liaise with this successful existing program and to identify and connect with other ocean mapping programs, at GGC38 it was decided to establish a new Sub-Committee on Education and Training (SCET) which is now operational.

30. The Nippon Foundation GEBCO-Seabed 2030 project was endorsed as an Action of UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The complex network of this project was explained along with the data ingestion in the system and mapping coverage that now stands at 23.4% (June 2022). The project is focused on mapping the gaps with three different initiatives: the Ocean Frontier Mapping, Crowd Sourced Bathymetry and Technology Innovation. It is necessary to promote the need to map the entire seabed and to encourage organizations to make their data available.

31. New global survey calls for greater coordination of seabed mapping activities were launched in London, 15 October 2021 to give a major boost to efforts to map the entire seafloor by the end of the decade. The survey aimed to develop a more consolidated global view of seabed mapping needs in order to move towards an agreed list of strategically important priority areas for further action. It also achieved its secondary aim of finding new data that could immediately feed into the emerging global map. Seabed2030 project looks forward to forming new partnerships and strengthening existing ones, as working collaboratively can greatly help fill in the gaps, as in the case of FUGRO, that in 2021 delivered to Seabed 2030 more than 2 million km² of high-resolution in-transit bathymetry data, collected by Fugro vessels, which a data coverage roughly equivalent to the size of Mexico, and many other contributors. It was continued to coordinate Satellite Derived Bathymetry in data sparse areas. Seabed2030 was recently involved in the NIWA-Nippon Foundation “Tonga Eruption Site Mapping Project” (TESMaP) after the eruption of the Hunga Tonga volcano.

32. **Recommendations:**

RSAHC members are invited to:

32.1 Consider the impacts of the increasing global societal and United Nations (UN) driven need to complete the picture of the seafloor as well as the potential benefits to individual coastal States.

32.2 Make data freely available for inclusion in the DCDB and the widest possible use, in accordance with IHO Resolution 1/2017.

32.3 Nominate the CSB-GEBCO-Seabed 2030 Regional Coordinator.

32.4 Consider to review national legislation to remove barriers restricting CSB activities within their waters.

IHO and United Nations Decade of Oceans for Sustainable Development

33. The IHO Secretariat attended the 2nd UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon, 27th June – 1st July 2022 with the principle aim to ensure that seabed mapping and hydrography were appropriately represented and that the IHO’s leadership in these domains was duly recognised. The IHO led one side event on Seabed Mapping and Marine Data for Multifunctional Spatial Planning and provided closing remarks for the SB2030 side event, ensuring that the role of hydrography was properly represented and that due credit was attributed to the activities in which we are engaged. It is clear that the essential role that bathymetry plays in underpinning ocean science and related activities is becoming a mainstream concept, and consequentially other stakeholders (often with a more visible presence, larger network but less expertise/authority) are developing their own activities, initiatives and solutions that have the potential to encroach on, or duplicate IHO activity.

34. As consequence of the engagement of the IHO Secretariat in the UN initiative, the following are the items for further consideration of IHO:

- Whilst different observing systems collect various different data, the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) steering committee has identified a number of Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) in order to prioritise investment through the Ocean Decade. In discussion with key stakeholders, it was suggested that depth could be added to the list of EOVs, with the IHO and IOC as leads under the auspices of GEBCO.
- Following the Global Ocean Alliance - an international movement to protect 30% of the world's land mass (land and ocean) by 2030S -, SP-122 – Marine Protected Areas could have a key role to play in supporting the sustainable use of such areas, as well as providing a global standard for the measurement of progress towards the target.
- In 2016, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development published the seminal report entitled 'The Ocean Economy in 2030'. For the first time, this report explored the growth prospects for the ocean economy, its capacity for future employment creation and innovation, and its role in addressing global challenges. Further, it examined the risks and uncertainties surrounding the future development of ocean industries and the innovations and actions required in science and technology to support their progress. One area that was not explicitly described was the role of seabed mapping data and hydrography in underpinning blue growth and sustainable development. In 2023, the OECD will begin work on the revision of this report entitled 'the Ocean Economy in 2045'. Given the importance placed upon seabed mapping at the conference, the IHO has been asked to consider being the key point of contact for a dedicated section relating to seabed mapping and hydrography.

37. **Recommendation:** *RSAHC is invited to take note of the engagement of the IHO Secretariat in the UN initiative and the items for further consideration.*

IHO GIS and Databases

38. Work has continued on the IHO internal systems. Especially, two components are to be mentioned:

- IHO Country Information system, and
- IHO Online Form system.

39. The IHO Country Information system has been progressively upgraded to include administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the IHO publications such as Yearbook (P-5) and Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide (C-55) posted on the IHO website. The IHO Online Form system has been used since March 2019 and has been widely accepted by the Member States for the Circular Letter responses and the updating of P-5 and C-55 (CL20/2019 and CL03/2020 refers). Countries in the RSAHC Region are invited to review their entry in the publications on an annual basis and provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates through the IHO Online Form system. The status of the data in the IHO Country Information Database concerning the RSAHC Member States, including those provided for C-55 is as follows:

Country	P-5 –Yearbook Last update received	C-55 Last update received
Bahrain	September 2019	February 2020
Iran	May 2020	February 2022
Iraq	December 2021	May 2017
Kuwait	September 2020	January 2020
Oman	October 2020	March 2019
Pakistan	July 2021	July 2021

Qatar	November 2021	February 2019
Saudi Arabia	June 2022	June 2019
United Arab Emirates	May 2020	January 2010

38. An Esri-based GIS solution has been implemented for the efficient visualization of geospatial data stored in the Country Information System. This Cloud-based service has enabled access to various layers and functions through the IHO website such as the IHO ENC Catalogue. Currently, six WebGIS applications have been available to the public in this new environment (ENC Coverage Catalogue, IHO Web Catalogue of INT Charts and ENC Schemes, IHO Member States Map, FIG-IHO-ICA IBSC Recognized Programmes and Schemes, GEOMAC project and the Map regarding National Marine Spatial Data Information (MSDI) Portals).

39. **Recommendation.** *Countries in the RSAHC Region are invited to review their entry in the IHO Yearbook and C-55 and to provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates or to report no change (CL 20/2019 refers).*

IHO Outreach

40. Considering the impact of digital outreach, in 2021, the IHO website had a total of 562,207 page views. The LinkedIn page had 4544 followers in December 2021, and saw a record 35,253 views from all its posts in June 2021, reaching total post impressions of 228,481 in 2021. Actually, the LinkedIn page has reached more than 6.000 followers. The upwards trend continued on Facebook with a post on a missing GEBCO chart sheet getting 2.7K impressions in April 2021. On Twitter, the record for the year was a total of 22.9K impressions on posts in June 2021.

41. There were also several actions to raise awareness about the IHO's work to a broader audience. The Secretariat has increased its presence on social media through articles and news about its working groups, committees and subcommittees, as well as the participation in regional and global initiatives that refer to Hydrography, especially in the framework of the UN Ocean Decade. In this regard, it is much more than simple coincidence that the United Nation's Ocean Decade commences the same year that the IHO enters its second hundred years of existence. The Ocean Decade provides a unifying framework for scientists and stakeholders from diverse sectors to develop the scientific knowledge and the partnerships needed to accelerate and harness advances in ocean science. Being a longstanding partner of ocean scientists, it was clear from the beginning of the Strategy revision that the IHO would be among the stakeholders to proactively contribute to this initiative. In fact, the Secretariat organized an online conference as part of the UN Ocean Decade Laboratories "A Predicted Ocean" which highlight how the S-100 Universal Data Model can be used by all ocean disciplines, thereby increasing the use of data and our knowledge of the ocean.

World Hydrography Day

42. As announced with IHO CL 01/2022, the theme for WHD 2022 is as follows:

"Hydrography - contributing to the United Nations Ocean Decade"

The theme was designed to highlight the relevant contribution of hydrography as a discipline of applied sciences to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030). The IHO Member States are encouraged to provide any kind of material (documents, presentations, videos, etc.) celebrating the WHD in their countries.

43. As announced with IHO CL 42/2022, at the 6th IHO Council meeting in Monaco, from 18 to 20 October 2022, the IHO Secretary-General proposed the following theme for WHD 2023:

“Hydrography - underpinning the digital twin of the ocean”

The digital twin of the ocean aims to develop a consistent, high-resolution, multidimensional and near real-time virtual representation of the ocean that could make ocean knowledge open-access, available to citizens, scientists and policy makers around the world, and provide a platform for global cooperation. In terms of international standards, the S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model will provide the ocean science community with an operational set of standardized products and services within a unique and globally recognized framework. The theme is designed to highlight how hydrography and oceanography could work together for mutual benefit, with hydrography being a building block for the digital twin. The suggested theme offers the opportunity to emphasize the competencies of hydrographers in the gathering and management of marine data, in order to assist in eliminating the barrier posed by the use of differing formats in the ocean domain. Member States are requested to note the endorsement of the IHO Council, consider the proposed theme for WHD 2023 and provide their comments, if any, to the Secretariat no *later than 31 December 2022*. The Secretariat would also welcome any comments and suggestions aimed at improving the impact and the organization of annual WHD celebrations.

International Hydrographic Review (IHR)

44. Twice a year, the IHR provides an opportunity for Member States to publicize technical and other achievements in their region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. As it was announced through IHO CL 03/2022, since 5 January 2022 the IHR has a new editor Dr Patrick Westfeld from Germany.

45. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ihr.editor@iho.int.com). The deadlines are:

- end of January for the May Edition
- end of July for the November Edition.

46. In order to modernize the image of the International Hydrographic Review, its website (<https://ihr.iho.int/>) was completely revamped. It now includes a new section with articles and notes, allowing readers to view and share individual articles more easily. The IHO Secretariat has also worked with the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, in a project to develop a digital repository of the complete library of the IHR. As a result, volumes from the entire collections are available online at: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>.

47. Next year, the Review will celebrate its 100th Anniversary.

48. Actions Requested of RSAHC:

- a) Note this report
- b) Consider the recommendations proposed in this report
- c) Review entries related to IHO C-55 and P-5 (Yearbook) at least annually
- d) Consider submitting papers for publication in the International Hydrographic Review
- e) Take any other actions as considered appropriate.