

From: **Peter Sparkes**  
**Chief Executive UKHO**  
**and SAIHC Chair**



**SAIHC19 Letter No. 4/2023**

18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**To:** Members, Associate Members, and Observers of the IHO Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)

**Subject:** **Seabed 2030**

Dear SAIHC Colleagues,

Together with Cdr. Christoff Theunissen, Acting National Hydrographer, South African Navy HO our SAIHC representative for CSB/Seabed2030, I am writing to you to encourage your participation in the vital study launched by Seabed 2030 to support the work to achieve a fully mapped ocean by 2030.

The study supports UN SDG14 and the outcomes of the UN Ocean Decade, with the focus of the study to identify what ocean mapping data is required, where should be prioritised in terms of the collection of data and for what purpose. All of these key factors will help identify global cumulative needs and priorities as we all strive to achieve a fully mapped ocean.

A second online survey has been launched, with the purpose of informing the development of a Seabed 2030 benefits analysis and also prioritisation modelling for seabed mapping on a global scale. These models will inform business case development and justification for seabed mapping through a recognised prioritisation strategy to map the global ocean seabed by 2030.

The survey is intended to reflect the views across both hydrographic and oceanographic communities that discharge responsibilities for seabed mapping in EEZs and ocean basins beyond national jurisdiction. In addition, it seeks the views from the wider global community of national government agencies involved in seabed mapping data acquisition, production, and use.

Details are at the following links:

- Seabed 2030 website: <https://seabed2030.org/news/calling-all-hydrographic-and-oceanographic-authorities>
- Seabed 2030 Study Questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S2030Survey>
- IOC Circular Letter (CL-2937): <https://ioc.unesco.org/member-states-portal/circular-letters>
- IHO Circular Letter (CL11): <https://iho.int/en/circular-letters-2023>

The deadline in CL is listed as the 15th April which has now passed, it is encouraged that responses are completed as soon as possible, and no later than 29th April.

Sincerely

Peter Sparkes  
Chair Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)