

A world map with a dark background, overlaid with a complex network of purple and blue lines representing bathymetry data. The lines are most dense in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and less dense in the Pacific and Arctic regions. Country names are visible in white text across the map.

IHO Crowdsourced Bathymetry Initiative

An IHO-led collaborative project to better enable mariners and professionally manned vessels to collect “crowdsourced bathymetry”

bathydata@iho.int



International Hydrographic Organization
Organisation Hydrographique Internationale

SWPHC17

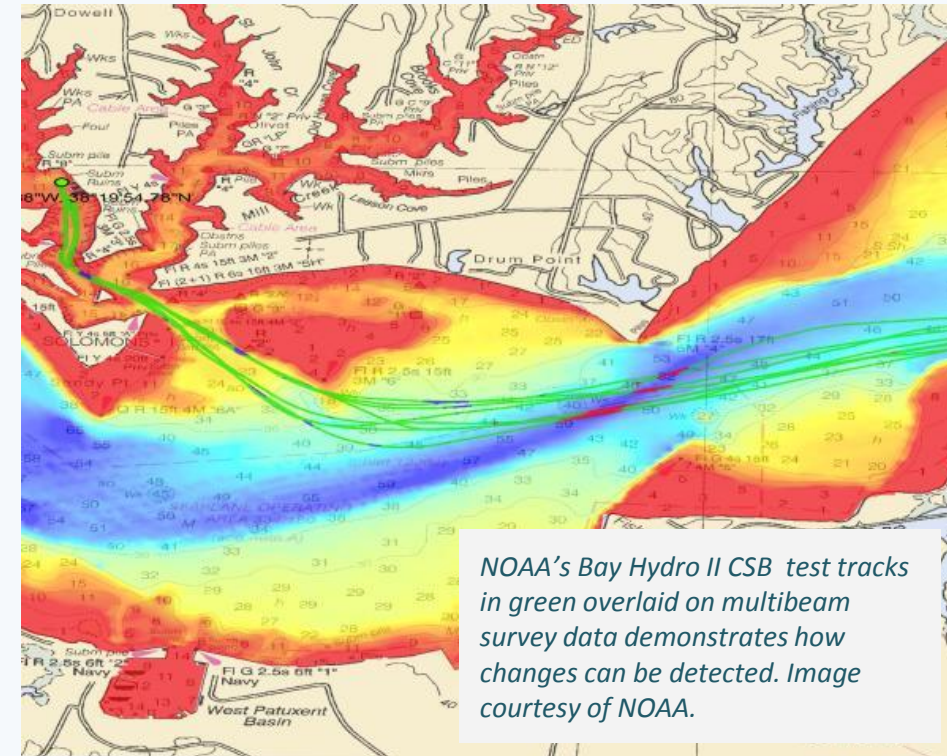
A world map with a dark background, overlaid with a dense network of thin, glowing lines in shades of purple, blue, and cyan. These lines represent bathymetry data collected from vessels. The lines are most concentrated in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and along major shipping routes. The map also shows the outlines of continents and labels for various countries in white text.

Crowdsourced bathymetry (CSB) is the collection of depth measurements from vessels, using standard navigation instruments, while engaged in routine maritime operations.

The Role of CSB Data:

Valuable data with scientific, commercial & research value at no cost to the public sector

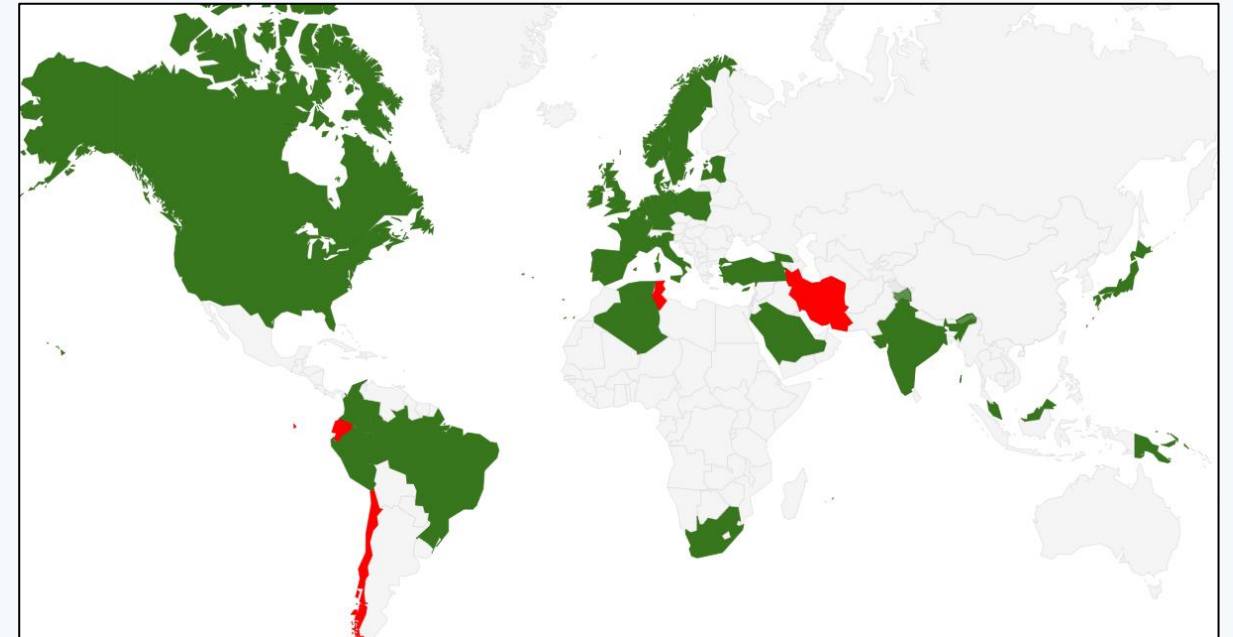
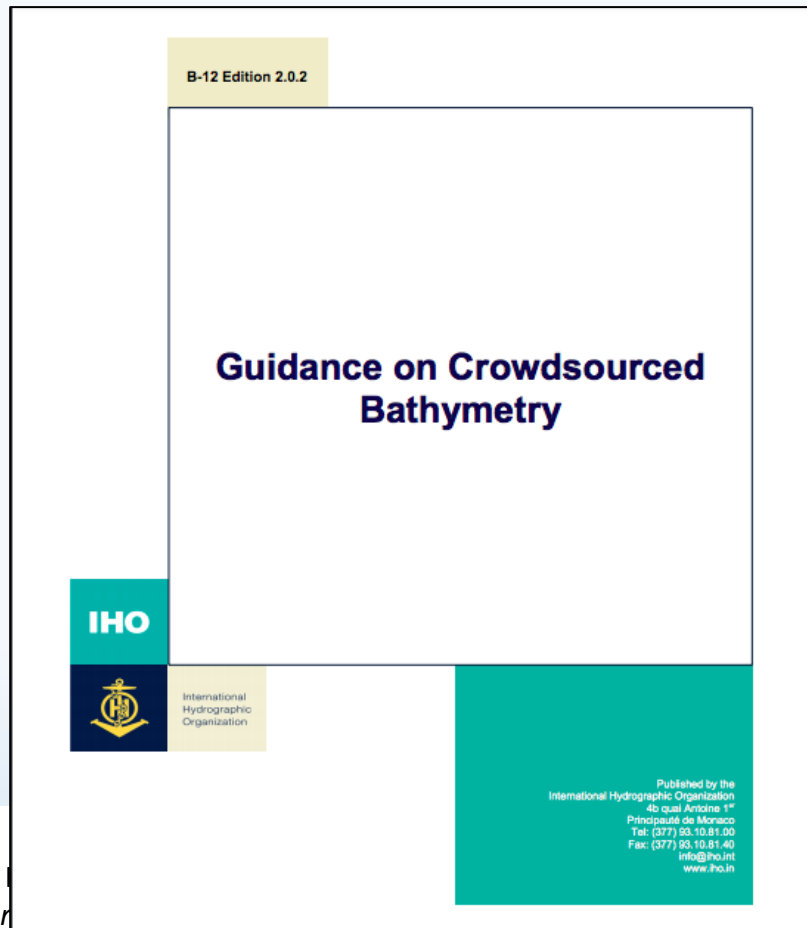
- Support national and regional development activities
- Fill gaps where data is scarce
- Useful along shallow, complex coastlines that are difficult for traditional survey vessels to access and may be more frequently visited by recreational boaters
- Identify uncharted features
- Assist in verifying charted information
- Confirm whether charts are appropriate for the latest traffic patterns.



...but only if vessels collect and donate depth information while on passage

IHO CL 11/2019

“CALL FOR APPROVAL OF EDITION 2.0.0 OF IHO PUBLICATION B-12”



35 Member States approved the adoption of B-12 out of 38 replies.

https://www.iho.int/uploads/user/pubs/bathy/B_12_Ed2.0.3_2020.pdf



Or

IHO CL 11/2019 Annex B

“ACCEPTANCE OF CROWDSOURCED BATHYMETRY ACTIVITIES IN NATIONAL WATERS OF JURISDICTION”

- *13 IHO MS have replied “positive”
 - CL 47/2019 provides a summary analysis of positive responses ==>
- The IHO DCDB will filter out CSB data collected from the waters of **all coastal countries not included on the positive list**. This includes:
 - MS we believe are pro-CSB but have not replied
 - Coastal countries that are not IHO MS

* *Canada recently submitted a positive response*



Summary analysis of positive responses

1. Based on the comments received to the questionnaire in Annex B to IHO CL 11/2019, the following table will be published as the Positive List to guide potential data gathering activities undertaken by the wider maritime community in waters of national jurisdiction:

Member State	Area	Specific actions required
Argentina	EEZ only	Provide copy of dataset to Hydrographic Office
Brazil	EEZ only	Provide copy of dataset to Hydrographic Office
Cyprus	All waters	Provide copy of dataset to Hydrographic Office
Denmark	All waters	Inform Hydrographic Office of any variance with published chart
Georgia	All waters	Provide copy of dataset to Hydrographic Office
Germany	All waters	Inform Hydrographic Office of new dataset
Monaco	All waters	Provide copy of dataset to Hydrographic Office
Netherlands	All waters	Inform Hydrographic Office of new dataset
New Zealand	All waters	Inform Hydrographic Office of new dataset
Norway	All waters – no multibeam activity without prior permission	Inform Hydrographic Office of new dataset
Philippines	Shipping routes and transit passages only	None
South Africa	EEZ only	Provide copy of dataset to Hydrographic Office
Sweden	EEZ only	Inform Hydrographic Office of new dataset
USA	All waters	None

IHO Member States:

The IHO encourages member states who have not responded to review Annex B CL 11/2019 and, if possible, offer a positive response before the Assembly.

Note: A MS can include "conditions" or "prerequisites" as needed.



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Non-IHO Coastal States:

The IHO encourages all coastal states of the SWPHC to provide their official position on CSB Activity in their areas of national jurisdiction to the Chair of SWPHC.

Note: A Coastal State can include "conditions" or "prerequisites" as needed



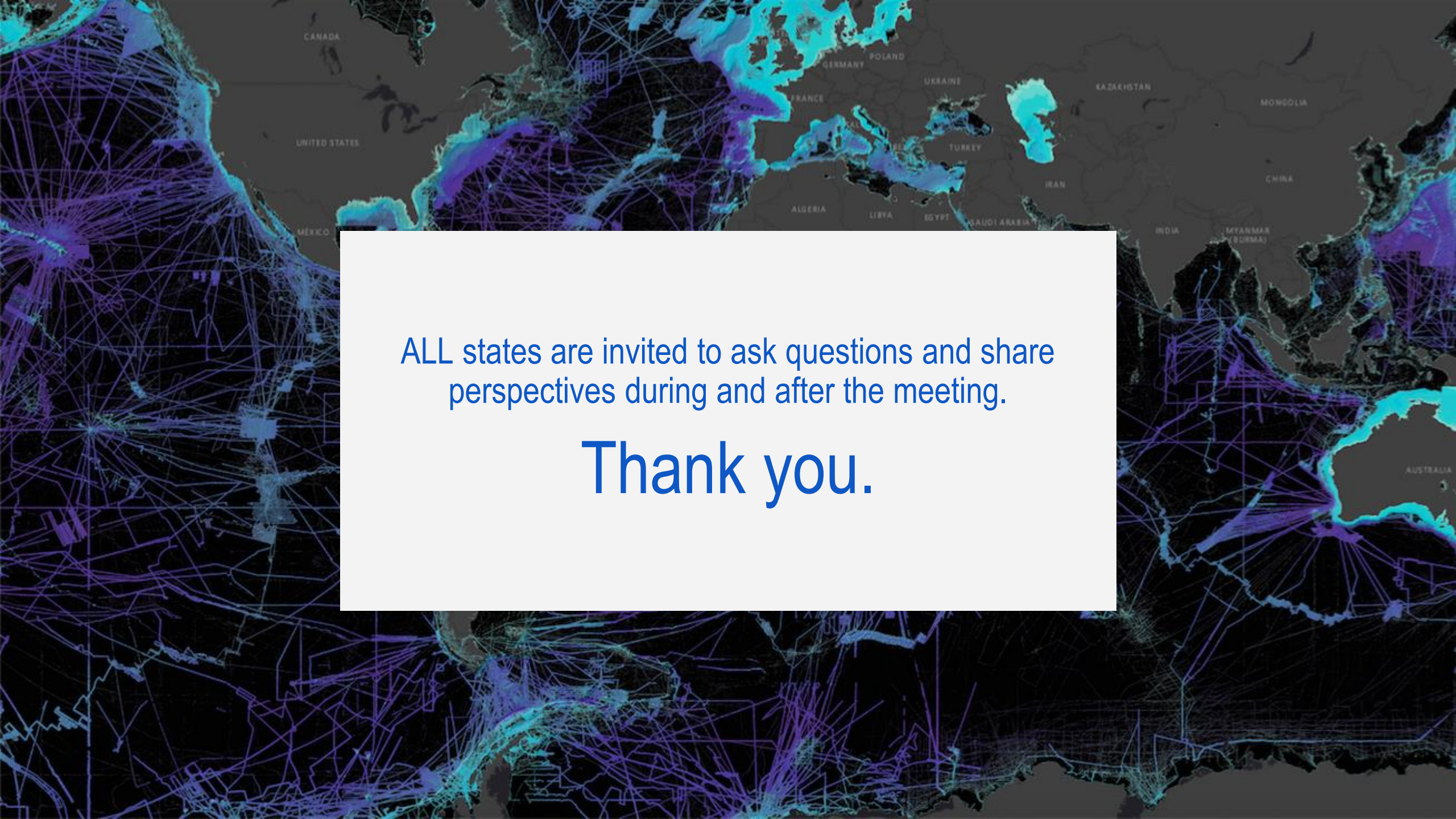
Final Thoughts:

The activity of *crowdsourced bathymetry* contributes to the greater goal “to complete our global image of the planet”.

All data contributions will help improve the accuracy of the GEBCO grid as the sole global dataset of seabed topography available.

The GEBCO grid is where CSB and Seabed 2030 data collections are combined.



A world map with a network of glowing purple and blue lines overlaid on it, representing global connections. The map is dark, and the lines are bright, creating a high-contrast visual. The lines are most dense in North America and Europe, with many lines radiating from these regions. Other regions like Asia and Australia also have some lines, though they are less dense. The map includes labels for various countries such as Canada, United States, Mexico, Germany, Poland, France, Ukraine, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, India, Myanmar (Burma), China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, and Australia.

ALL states are invited to ask questions and share perspectives during and after the meeting.

Thank you.