

**47th Conference of the
US Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC)
St. Johns NL, Canada, 30-31 May 2024**

Report

**IHO Secretariat's work, Council matters
and Work Programme items**

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Secretary-General**



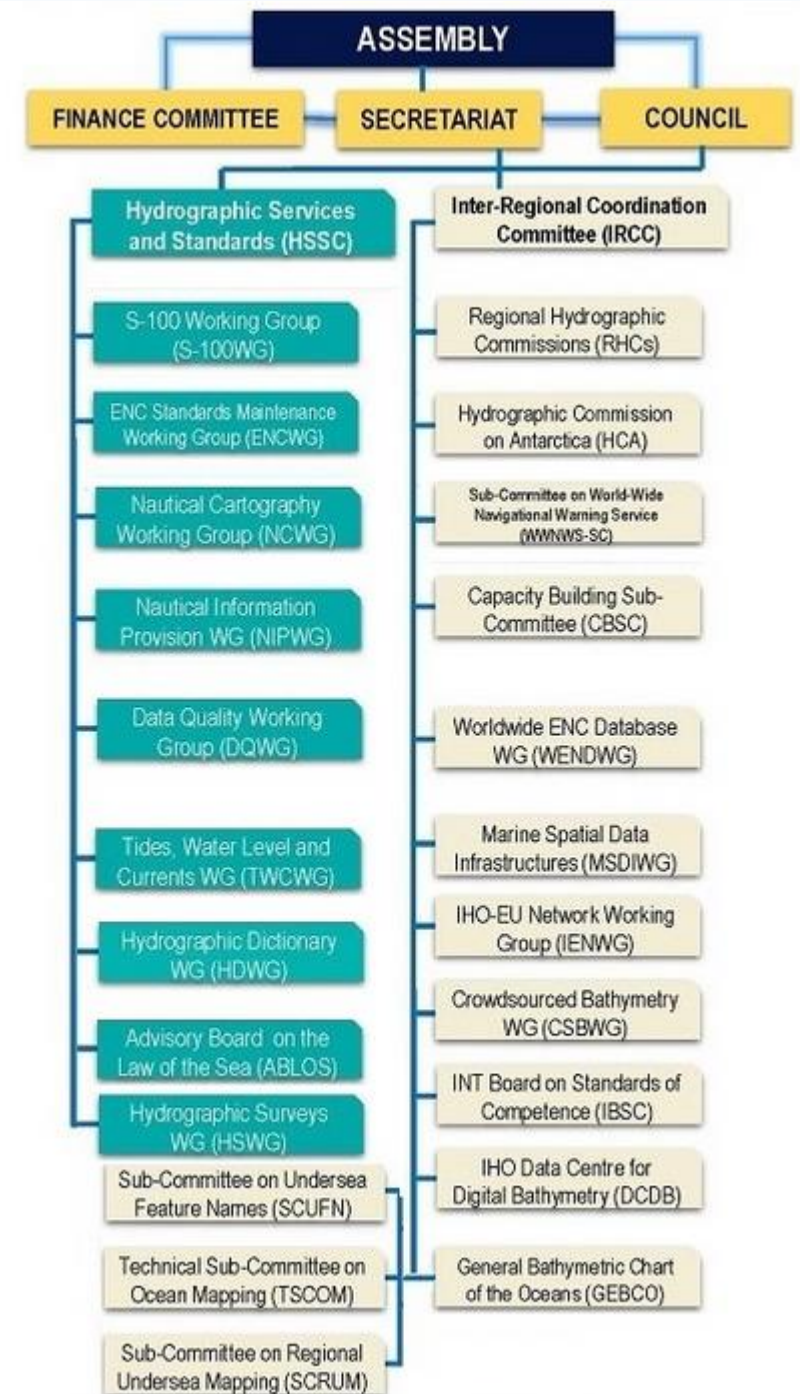
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US / Canada contribution to IHO and its Member States

US and Canada are well represented and acknowledged contributors to the vast majority of IHO Committees, Subcommittees, Working Groups and Project Teams!



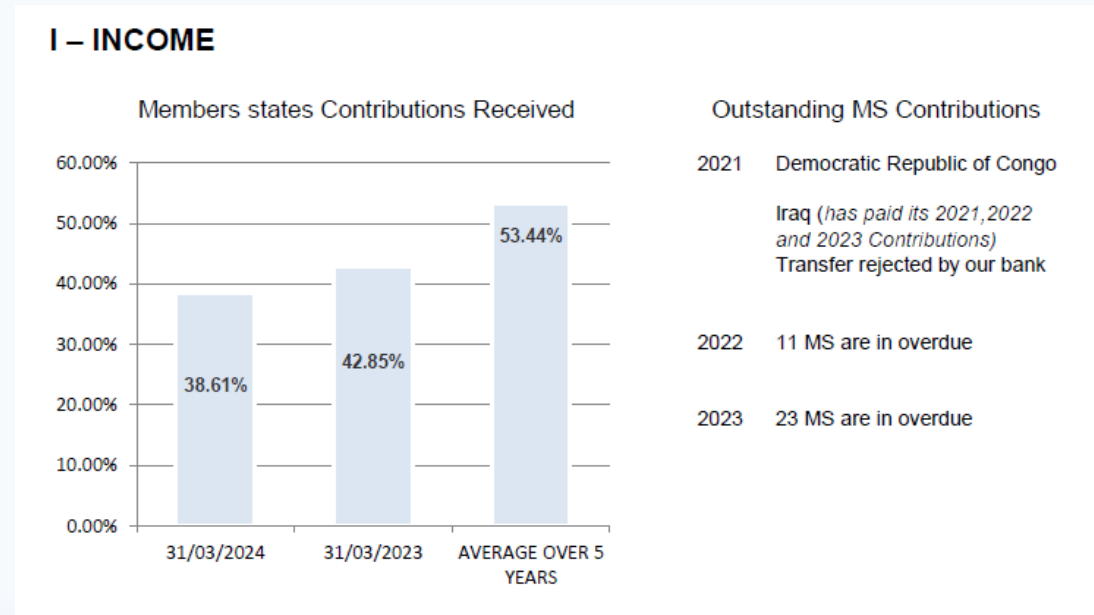
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IHO Membership

- IHO membership stands at 99. Panama still expected to join soon.
- Payment of member states contributions is on a historic low and imposes risks for proper operation of the Secretariat.



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Progress on themes discussed at 7th IHO Council (October 2023)

- Several decisions in support of the S-100 implementation roadmap
- Progress on funding recourses:
 - Establishment of a Project Team on Fund Generation under IRCC
 - Technical projects funded by IC-ENC (US revenues from ENC sales)
 - Project money for Empowering Women in Hydrography from Belgium, Denmark, Norway
 - In-kind contributions: NOAA for at-sea experiences for women, Canada considers support for Pacific Region, Republic of Korea offering personal and material recourses for S-100 infracenter
- Ongoing drafting work on Guidelines for making IHO events more inclusive
- Progress in creation of a global thematic layer for MPA`s based on S-122
- Establishment of a process for the preparation of IHO`s Strategic Plan 2027 - 2032
- Ex Abysses ad Alta – Annual champion of Hydrography Award already selected



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Technical Work Program

As presented in CL 43/2023, the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee, S-100 Working Group put forth a 2024 timeline for advancing Phase 1 product specifications. To meet IHO and IMO expectations for 2026, the HSSC intends to adhere to the following schedule:

Task	IHO CL issue date	MS Response Due
S-100 Edition 5.2.0	March 2024	May 2024
S-100 Phase 1 Endorsement	October 2024	December 2024

- Numerous demonstrators reported by Member States
- Frequent production and provision should be initiated from 2025 onward
- Industry confirms readiness of production systems

Phase 1 / Route monitoring	
S-101	Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC)
S-102	Bathymetric Surface
S-104	Water Level Information for Surface Navigation
S-111	Surface Currents
S-124	Navigational Warnings
S-129	Under Keel Clearance Management
Critical Framework	
	IHO Geospatial Information Registry
S-98	Interoperability Specification
S-100	Universal Hydrographic Data Model
S-128	Catalogue of Nautical Products
S-164	Test Data Set for S-100 and ECDIS Type Approval



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Capacity Building Work Programme

- The 2024 CBWP has 293,265 Euro for non-earmarked projects and 790,223 Euro for earmarked projects.
- CBSC21 evaluated and ranked submissions for 2024 and has posted the results on the Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation webpage on the IHO website. US/Canada are not among the recipients.
- The focus is on the S-100 Implementation Roadmap. Important support will be received from both RENCs.



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Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) - a Project under the Capacity Building Work Programme

- CANADA and IHO signed an EWH Agreement which secures funding for the period 2021-2024 and describes a series of activities and initiatives which will enable more women to participate equitably in the field of hydrography.
- The project includes outreach, education, internships, at-sea experiences, on-the-job training activities and a mentoring programme.
- The third year of EWH has demonstrated success in several areas:
- a dedicated event prior to the start of A-3, with sponsored participants from around the world,
 1. three candidates selected for the 2023 at-sea experience onboard NOAA ships,
 2. one candidate selected for a knowledgebase secondment at IC-ENC,
 3. a new mentorship programme, continued interviews of women engaged in hydrography and related sciences, and the presence of an EWH Assistant at the IHO Secretariat.
 4. IHO CLs 40 and 41/2023 call for applications to hydrographic training and hydrographic and oceanographic surveys provided by SHOM (France) and IHO CL 09/2024 call for three opportunities for an at-sea experience /advanced training on NOAA hydrographic survey vessels.



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Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry, GEBCO and Seabed2030 (1)

- 35 Member States have now indicated their positive positions on the provision of CSB (with caveats).
- A CSB Pointstore Dashboard is under development at the DCDB.
- The DCDB will continue to support the GEBCO Gazetteer and KHOA Beta-Gazetteer interoperation, developing a modern user interface.
- DCDB reported on SPIs 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 in a way that allows better understanding on the evolution of the amount of data and number of contributors to the DCDB which are not Hydrographic Offices.
- For future reports, the DCDB will cooperate with RHCs to produce annual regional breakdowns of data holdings as part of SPI reporting.



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Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry, GEBCO and Seabed2030 (2)

- The GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) has been working on the celebration of GEBCO's 120th year of ocean discovery,
- a new GEBCO strategy,
- a GEBCO Code of Conduct,
- a GEBCO Governance review, including the GEBCO organogram with all the relations codified and the next steps for the approval of the new GEBCO governance.
- A new GEBCO SubCommittee on Education and Training was established.
- Celebrations of GEBCO 120th anniversary were held in Monaco during the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly in May 2023, in Paris during the IOC General Assembly in June 2023, and at the Maps the Gaps Symposium held in Monaco in November 2023.
- The 20th 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 began in late August 2023 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.



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IHO and United Nations Decade of Oceans for Sustainable Development

- IHO is promoting the essential role of bathymetry and standardization of marine geoinformation in underpinning ocean science and related activities.
- The IHO and the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), with input from a broad range of stakeholders, have been undertaking a joint project to explore and identify the linkages between seafloor mapping, the ocean economy and ocean health and an IHO-OECD Workshop held in November 2023 in Monaco.
- IHO Secretariat supported by some Member States participated in the UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona in April 2024 with satellite events in cooperation with the OECD, IMO's World Maritime University, the Nippon Foundation GEBCO-Seabed2030 project and other partners.



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World Hydrography Day and International Hydrographic Review

With IHO CL 35/2023, the following theme for WHD 2024 was proposed and finally approved by Members States:

“Hydrographic Information -Enhancing Safety and Efficiency in Marine Activities”

- This theme was proposed to highlight that - as per Decision 8 of the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly in May 2023 - Goal Number 1 of the Strategic Plan and its targets shall have the highest priority in the implementation of the 2024–2026 Work Programme:

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

International Hydrographic Review (IHR)

- Twice per year, the IHR provides an opportunity for Member States to publicize technical and other achievements in their regions.
- 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.



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USCHC is requested
to take note of this briefing,
and to act as considered appropriate



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