



**30<sup>th</sup> BUSINESS MEETING OF IHO-IAG ADVISORY BOARD ON THE  
TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF LAW OF THE SEA (ABLOS BM30)**

Record

IHO Secretariat, Monaco, 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**1. Opening Remarks by the Chair**

The Chair opened the proceedings by welcoming all participants, especially those who are participating for the first time. This is the first year of in-person participation from almost all ABLOS members after the pandemic restrictions. He indicated that we have our BM30 work meeting in addition to the “ABLOS the Way Forward” conference, which this year has a significant number of registered participants.

The meeting was addressed by IHO Secretary-General, Dr Mathias Jonas, who welcomed the meeting to the IHO (International Hydrographic Organisation) and encouraged a productive meeting.

- The Secretary-General discussed the issues of current territorial matters and the need not to judge.
- Engagement with DOALOS (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations) is actively encouraged.
- Engineering is evolving and needs to be reflected in TALOS (*A Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, C-51*).
- The list of national experts is also a valuable asset if it can be made to work more effectively.
- The ABLOS conference has an impressive by agenda, with a good amount of contributions and cross over between theoretical and practical. The challenge is the consequential action producing results.

Thanks were offered to the IHO Secretary-General for the forward leaning IHO support and vision and for the efforts of the IHO staff for bringing together the business meeting and the conference.

**2. Administrative Arrangements**

The Secretary advised on the facilities, and reminding all that English is not the first language of all participants, so ask them to speak as clearly as possible to avoid misunderstandings.

**3. Introduction of Participants and Apologies**

Board Members:

- Prof. Juan-Carlos Báez (JCB), CSN-UCHILE, Chile, IAG
- Sam Harper (SH), Secretary IHO Secretariat, Monaco, IHO
- Fiona Bloor (FB), UKHO, UK, IHO
- Capt Izabel King Jeck (IK), DHN, Brazil, IHO
- Prof. Niels Andersen (NA), DTU Space, Denmark, IAG
- John Ells (JE), CHSFOC, Canada, IAG
- Prof Lorenzo Schiano Di Pepe (LSP), Italy, IHO

Observers:

- Steven Keating (SK), NGA, USA, IHO
- Prof Clive Schofield (CS), WWS, Australia, IHO
- Mariam al-Hail, Qatar Standing Committee of the Convention of the Law of the Sea, Qatar



## Joint IAG-IHO Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea



- Dr. Elfatih El Rasheed el Nour, Qatar Standing Committee of the Convention of the Law of the Sea, Qatar
- José Córdoba Aguilar, TNNV-SU, Ecuador
- Jonathan Turner, UKHO

Absences/Apologies were noted from:

- Dr Marie-Francoise Lequentrec-Lalancette, SHOM, France, IAG, (retired)
- Prof Hyunsoo Kim, Republic of Korea, IHO (end of term)
- Vladimir Jareš, DOALOS. With effect from 2021 DOALOS represented by Alice Hicuburundi
- Mikael Lilje, Sweden, IAG

### 4. Agenda

The agenda was adopted without addition, see Annex B, and list of documents on IHO Website.

### 5. Approval of the minutes from BM29 and outcomes from HSSC15

The minutes for ABLOS BM29 were approved following advised changes.

IHO / IAG ABLOS delivered the annual report to IHO HSSC (International Hydrographic Organisation Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee). Feedback:

- TALOS, C-51 (*Technical Aspects of Law of the Sea*), recommended a caveat similar to S67, so need to make a decision to publish Chinese version. Caveat reflects that official version is English.
- ABLOS.org to be maintained for IHO logo and link to official C-51 (TALOS).
- HSSC noted a requirement for digital version (e book) of C-51 TALOS. TALOS update below.
- IHO / IAG ABLOS Art. 2.13 new ToR (Terms of Reference) are completed, Chair HSSC will be advised.

Secretary: Reminder of requirement to annually report to HSSC, the IHO over-seeing committee (HSSC or IRCC depends on where maximum effect falls, TALOS gives the oversight to HSSC). The overseeing committee is an opportunity to seek advice and raise issues, and champion work. The IHO encourage representation in person post Covid, ABLOS Secretary cannot represent ABLOS.

### 6. Review of Actions and Decisions from BM29

The existing actions and decisions from BM29 and beyond were reviewed. Actions are at Annex C

### 7. ABLOS 11<sup>th</sup> Conference, Final Preparations

The Chair opened the topic and explained that the Conference was postponed from year 2023. There is a good number of abstracts accepted for the conference.

The keynote speaker presentation would be virtual. Timetabling, terminology and logistics were confirmed. Publication of attendees' names and abstracts depended on GDPR agreement.

The Chair would close the event.



Post conference: Record of congratulations to organising committee, every member worked in constrained calendar to bring together a diverse team of presenters who put forward timely and emerging issues of technical law of the sea. Thanks to Secretary and IHO. The virtual keynote worked well. A special session for the Canada – Denmark work and Women’s forum supported broad attendance and early careers.

Funding:

- IHO Secretariat role is to make sure not spent on anything illegal. It is for committees to decide what is appropriate. Current conference budget is €8,747, balance of funds is c. €20k.
- IHO fund guidelines say that €10k should be kept.
- Query how many students with waived fees: balance of attracting next generation and balancing budget.
- Website invoice is within estimate.
- No expenses requested for key note speakers.

## 8. ABLOS The Way Forward

### .1 Terms of Reference

The Chair introduced the ToRs and highlighted that there are no current changes.

### .2 Membership including review of terms.

It is agreed to send a letter of thanks signed by an IHO Director to members who are retiring or completing their term expressing gratitude to advancement of hydrography and the rule of law in the hydrographic domain.

#### Membership and terms:

##### IAG

Prof. Juan-Carlos Báez Term to complete in 2024. ABLOS committee expressed thanks for work and management style

John Ells Term ends 2025

Prof. Niels Andersen Prepared to continue

##### IHO

Fiona Bloor Prepared to continue

Izabel King Jeck Confirmed to 2025 or 2026

Prof Lorenzo Schiano Di Pepe Term ends 2025

Sam Harper Post-meeting note: succeeded by Leonel Manteigas, Assistant Director)

NA will speak with the president of IAG to request a new nomination for Dr Marie-Francoise Lequentrec-Lalancette. (BM29 Action 2)

IHO was requested to issue a circular letter for replacement of Prof Hyunsoo Kim (BM29 Action 1), with consideration of emphasis on technical expertise.

Observers: SK will complete his term and aims to introduce a new USA observer.



.3 Capacity Building (CB)

Discussion whether IAG / IHA ABLOS should maintain course material or engage with other course providers. Technical law of the sea is not within IHO Capacity Building phases 0 or 1 (governance and maritime safety).

BM29 Action 4 ABLOS to engage with DOALOS to assess availability of capacity building material and training and need. Meeting had been planned for November 2023.

There are a number of law of the sea courses already available. Consideration to be given to supporting legal courses with technical aspects from ABLOS. Duplication of provision should be avoided. As long as accusations of preferential treatment and endorsement are avoided ABLOS might instead to serve as a central listing of available sources and courses viability of compiling a course list to be investigated.

.4 The future of ABLOS

The main purpose of ABLOS is the interface with DOALOS and the provision of technical advice.

ABLOS work and output support technical aspects of law of the sea (LoS) by producing a document, and advising on technical aspects of LoS. Chair has received seven questions on technical aspect referred to chapter in ABLOS. ABLOS needs a formal mechanism to handle questions.

The Chair indicated that TALOS should include new technologies which don't have a default chapter.

Aside from TALOS (item below) ABLOS considered means of addressing new technologies that may impact legal principles. Items discussed included:

- a. White papers, webinars and seminars to explore the relationships between technology, law and politics, new technologies and new scenarios and interface with technical law of the sea;
- b. Use short papers to address issues that are novel and yet to be resolved for TALOS standard;
- c. Interfaces and mutual interest between professional bodies such as IUGG, IHO IOC;
- d. Informal feedback is that short papers on single topics are of interest to early career professionals;
- e. Reflect IHO strategic direction of Decade on Ocean Science;
- f. Reflect gender equality and societal impact;
- g. Consider outreach through web-based visibility and seminars to under-represented and emerging geographical areas and specialist groups;
- h. Consider the website providing links to other relevant areas and resources (such as those above);
- i. Improve ABLOS visibility for those looking for early career contact.



## Joint IAG-IHO Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea



Need to balance work plan and available resources. Issues may be subject matter specialists within ABLOS or available to ABLOS.

ACTION: TALOS editorial board to advise on topics for current and future TALOS in hand, and topics identified as developing and outside TALOS and suitable for other research and communication.

It was agreed that the Future of ABLOS discussions should be addressed and continue at the next physical meeting.

### 9. ABLOS BM31 and Seminar 2024 (initial thoughts and planning)

#### 1. Date and Venues

Proposal:

- a. Brazil 2024 Business Meeting and seminar: to include regional law of the sea specialists. Provisional dates wc 7th October 2024.
  - b. Doha. Qatar 2025 Conference and business meetings to continue engaging with regional early career professionals across the region and assist IAG and IAGG developing engagement.
  - c. Ecuador 2026 Business Meeting and seminar to continue regional professional engagement.
- Confirmation of dates and length of seminar depends on Organising Committee and national hosts.

#### 2. Organising Committee

The Organising committee for the BM31 and Seminar 2024 would be comprised of JCB, IKJ, NA and CS. The Organising Committee would start the roadmap for the 2025 conference. Some proposals for key note speakers.

#### 3. Conference fund status report

The Chair indicate that, due to incoming payments related to the 11<sup>th</sup> conference, it is not finished and will be presented during the next meeting in details.

#### 4. Any other issues

None

### 10. Reports on members` attendance at LOS related conferences and details of significant forthcoming events

Chair	AGU scientific conferences: three conferences on a big project in Chile on pressure sensors and optic cables; IAG in San Francisco.
Secretary	A number of United Nations` bodies: one IOC as GOOS and ABE-LOS are developing an agreement for implied approval for ocean observations, saving pre-approval for MSR (marine scientific research)). IHO are interested in CSB (Crowd Source Bathymetry) in waters under national jurisdiction and so in governance, the work on depth may result in depth being classed as an ocean variable.
IKJ	Regular engagement concerning Brazil`s outer continental shelf.



## Joint IAG-IHO Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea



- NA Conference list provided. IUGG general assembly, Berlin, new IUGG president. Pleasure to advise Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Greenland – Canada work. SPLOS (Meeting of States Parties to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), June, New York;  
IAG, San Francisco.
- LS Announcement planned joint University of Genoa and Japanese Ministry of Law of the Sea conference to bring together European and Asian scholars on blue growth.
- JE Canada – Denmark technical boundary finalisation;  
Arctic emissions control area and marine protected area;  
Working with Foreign Affairs to release more datasets, matters of intellectual property.
- FB No conferences attended;  
Delivered technical law of the sea for a Nippon funded Cartography Category B course.
- SK Delphi Economic Forum Emerging Technologies on Law of the Sea, April, which was a good forum for IHO visibility.

### 11. Review of requests to ABLOS , including IHO Capacity Building training/courses/seminars

UKHO received a single State request.  
Current technical law of the sea capacity building material is not aligned with IHO gender equitable policy and presentation template.

### 12. TALOS Manual (C-51)

#### .1 Editorial Board chair report

JE indicated that progress has been made in the development of TALOS7. Discussion on order of publication and whether to delay for white papers on current issues current.

Chapter coordinators:

Chapter 1: JE

Chapter 2: NA, JCB, ML

Chapter 3: FB, JCB,

Chapter 4: CS and LSP

Chapter 5: IKJ and CS

Chapter 6: CS and LSP

Supplementary figures and animations: CS. (graphics, diagrams and images to be initially selected by the chapter editors for subsequent manipulation into more dynamic digital format later.)

There was an outstanding proposal of including an executive summary for each chapter.

Editorial meetings will be virtual to progress the road map and specification for revising to digital format and access, and complying with IHO publication criteria (PDF) as well as technical editorial and development for developing subjects. Progress to be reported at BM31

#### .3 Status of French and Spanish versions of Edition 6.0.0

The versions of the manual and animations are finished. Final French files to be sourced.



.4 Arabic translation of Edition 6.0.0

Qatar reported that the Arabic translation had also been completed and it is under review at the moment. It would be deposited with the Chair and IHO shortly.

**13. Review of Work Programme and representation/attendance at HSSC15**

FB to develop and circulate.

Agenda item 6 above. Post meeting note: ABLOS members have not sourced funding to deliver in person a report and engage at IHO HSSC. To approach Secretary to request alternatives for in-person attendance.

**14. Any Other Business**

Secretary indicated ABLOS might move to IRCC (Inter-Regional Co-ordination Committee), so Leonel Manteigas will assume the role of secretary of this board, since he is responsible for the CB. Decision after IHO Council October 2023. Post-meeting note: IHO / IAG ABLOS to remain with HSSC.

The Chair and all the board thank Sam Harper and the IHO Secretariat for their help and great dedication.

**15. Closure of the meeting**

Annexes:

- A. List of Participants
- B. Agenda BM Final
- C. List of Actions
- D. Terms of Reference
- E. Work Plan 2022-2023 - draft
- F. Draft agenda BM30
- G. List of members



## Joint IAG-IHO Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea



### Acronyms:

ABE-LOS	IOC Advisory Board of Experts on the Law of the Sea
ABLOS	IHO / IAG Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea
AGU	American Geophysical Union
ANCORS	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, University of Wollongong
BM	Business Meeting
C-51	<i>A Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982</i> (TALOS)
CB	Capacity Building
CL	IHO Circular Letter
CLCS	Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
CSB	Crowd Sourced Bathymetry
DOALOS	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations.
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System, co-sponsored by IOC, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Science Council (ISC)
HSSC	Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee
IAAG	
IAG	International Association of Geodesy
IHO	International Hydrographic Organisation
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – UNESCO
IRCC	IHO Inter-Regional Co-ordination Committee
IUGG	International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
LoS / LOS	Law of the Sea
MBSHC	Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission
MSR	Marine Scientific Research
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
RHC	Regional Hydrographic Commissions
S100	Universal Hydrographic Data Model
S121	Feature Model for Maritime Limits and Boundaries
SDB	Satellite Derive Bathymetry
Sec	Secretary
SHOM	Service hydrographique et océanographique de la Marine
SPLOS	Meeting of the States Parties to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
TALOS	<i>A Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982</i>
ToRs	Terms of Reference
UKHO	UK Hydrographic Office
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WMU	World Maritime University



### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Country	Name	E-mail
Brazil	Izabel King-Jeck	izabel@marinha.mil.br
Canada	John Ells	john.ells@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Chile	Dr Juan-Carlos Báez ( <b>chair</b> )	jcbaez@csn.uchile.cl
Denmark	Dr Niels Andersen	na@space.dtu.dk
Italy	Prof Lorenzo Schiano Di Pepe	lorenzo.schianodipepe@unige.it
United Kingdom	Fiona Bloor ( <b>vice-chair</b> )	fiona.bloor@ukho.gov.uk
IHO	Mr Sam Harper ( <b>secretary</b> )	adso@iho.int
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Observer (USA)	Steven Keating	steven.g.keating@nga.mil
Observer (Qatar)	Mariam al Hail	mhail@mofa.gov.qa
Observer (Qatar)	Dr Elfatih El Rasheed el Nour	elfatih@shura.gov.qa
Observer (Ecuador)	José Córdoba Aguilar	gabriel.cordova@inocar.mil.ec

Absences/Apologies were noted from:

- Dr Marie-Francoise Lequentrec-Lalancette, SHOM, France, IAG, (retired)
- Prof Hyunsoo Kim, Republic of Korea, IHO (end of term)
- Vladimir Jareš, DOALOS,
- Alice Hicuburundi, DOALOS
- Mikael Lilje, Sweden, IAG



30<sup>th</sup> ABLOS BUSINESS MEETING  
IHO Secretariat, Monaco, 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Draft Agenda

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman, including welcome to new participants
2. Administrative arrangements (*Secretary*)
3. Introduction of participants and apologies
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Approval of the minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and outcomes of HSSC15.
6. Review of Actions from BM29
7. ABLOS 11<sup>th</sup> Conference final preparations
8. ABLOS the way forward:
  - .1 Terms of Reference
  - .2 Membership, including review of terms (IHO, IAG)
  - .3 Capacity Building Training Course material
  - .4 Future of ABLOS
9. ABLOS Seminar 2024 & 12<sup>th</sup> Conference 2025:
  - .1 Update on deferral to Conference 2022
  - .2 Organizing Committee for Seminar 2024
  - .3 Conference fund status report
  - .4 Any other issues
10. Reports on members' attendance at LOS related conferences and details of significant forthcoming events
11. Review of requests to ABLOS, including IHO Capacity Building training/courses/seminars
12. TALOS Manual (C-51)
  - .1 Report from Chair of Editorial Board
  - .2 Review of Edition 7.0.0 status and progress of format and content
  - .3 Status of French and Spanish versions of Edition 6.0.0
  - .4 Arabic translation of Edition 6.0.0
13. Review of Work Programme and representation/attendance at HSSC15
14. Any Other Business
15. Review of List of Actions for BM30 and draft agenda for 31<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting.
16. Closure of the Meeting

LIST OF ABLOS30 BM ACTION ITEMS  
(As of 6 September 2023)

Number	Agenda Item	Subject	Status / Due Date	Comments		Action By
	ABLOS23	Raising profile of ABLOS	<b>On going</b>	Investigate ways to raise profile of ABLOS amongst IAG community and recruit additional personnel as IAG Observers	Ongoing To be discussed at AOB	All IAG members
	ABLOS24	Future of ABLOS	<b>On going</b>	Highlight to CB Regional Coordinators for them to raise at RHCs what ABLOS can provide in terms of CB training and regional based seminars, normally associated with an ABLOS BM	To be discussed at the next meeting face t face	Chair/IHO
ABLOS BM26						
2	8	List of Actions ABLOS BM25	<b>On going</b>	Provide links to relevant events and organizations for inclusion in the ABLOS website	Remains ongoing	All
3	8	List of Actions ABLOS BM25	<b>ABLOS BM27</b>	Create history of ABLOS article for publication on ABLOS website	Completed/paused reference new	NA
11	11	Conference wash-up	<b>ABLOS BM27</b>	Develop abstract and biographical note template	completed	JCB
14	13.5	11 <sup>th</sup> Conference	<b>ABLOS BM27</b>	Investigate the creation of a generic ABLOS email address for use in conference preparations	Noted that we will have to pay for ABLOS email address 40 USD per year for each account Suggest it is paid with maintenance of the website	IHO/JCB
25	15	ABLOS Activities	<b>29 November</b>	<del>Circulate details of future events and activities for ABLOS representation and inclusion in the website</del>	<del>Included in BM27 and BM28</del>	CS/All
ABLOS BM27						

Number	Agenda Item	Subject	Status / Due Date	Comments		Action By
1	5	List of Actions ABLOS BM26	<b>30 October 2020</b>	Obtain individual permission to upload photograph to ABLOS website	Should be a specific requirement/wish by each person Suggested that consent for the group photo to be published Ongoing/new deadline	NA
3	6.3	CB Training Course	<b>27 November 2020</b>	Develop initial course material on IHO template	To be discussed	FB/IHO
7	8.2	Planning C-51 Edition 7.0.0	<b>BM28</b>	Provide proposed format, outline contents, draft executive summaries and anticipated target audience details		JE
11	8.3	Translations of C-51 Edition 6.0.0	<b>27 November 2020</b>	Investigate via UN contacts whether resources could be found to progress a Russian translation		DOALOS
14	9	LOS related conferences	<b>On going</b>	Provide details of significant relevant forthcoming events		All
<b>ABLOS BM28</b>						
1	6	List of Actions ABLOS BM25	<b>tbc</b>	Arrange visit to IHO Secretariat/UKHO to research ABLOS History and discuss ABLOS/IHO interface		Niels Andersen
2	7	ABLOS Webinar	<b>DEC 2021</b>	Publish abstracts, names of presenters/authors and biographies on ABLOS Website		NA/IHO
3	8.1	ABLOS Way Forward - Terms of Reference	<b>DEC 21</b>	Publish updated ToRs on IHO ABLOS website		IHO
4	8.3	ABLOS Way Forward – CB Training course	<b>JUN 22</b>	Undertake Training Needs Analysis for the development of future capacity building and/or education material by engaging relevant stakeholders (RHCs, FIG, DOALOS etc.)		IKJ/IHO
5	9.1	11 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference 2022 (initial thoughts and planning)	<b>OCT 21</b>	Abstract template to be supplied to NA		JCB

Number	Agenda Item	Subject	Status / Due Date	Comments	Action By
6	9.1	11 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference 2022 (initial thoughts and planning)	<b>OCT 21</b>	Template for abstract to be uploaded to ABLOS website	NA
7	9.3	11 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference 2022 (initial thoughts and planning)	<b>DEC 21</b>	Registration fee to be finalised by Organising Committee in light of continuing COVID uncertainty and other considerations (e.g. reduced student fees)	Conference organising committee
8	9.4	11th ABLOS Conference 2022 (initial thoughts and planning)	<b>Ongoing</b>	Consider links between conference and Canada – IHO Empowering Women in Hydrography Project	Conference organising committee
9	9.5	11th ABLOS Conference 2022 (initial thoughts and planning)	<b>Ongoing</b>	Engage IHO Communications Officer to assist promotion of the conference	Conference organising committee
10	10.3	TALOS Manual (C-51)	<b>NOV 21</b>	Incorporate updates to French Language version of TALOS	IHO
11	10.3	TALOS Manual (C-51)	<b>DEC 21</b>	Publish French Language version of TALOS 6.01	IHO
12	10.3	TALOS Manual (C-51)	<b>NOV 21</b>	Finalize the Spanish Language version of TALOS 6.1	JCB
13	10.4	TALOS Manual (C-51)	<b>OCT 21</b>	Investigate whether independent validation of text is required of Chinese and Arabic Versions or a note as to indicating English language version as reference	IHO
14	11	Reports on members' attendance at LOS related conferences and forthcoming events at which ABLOS could be represented	<b>Ongoing</b>	To send in relevant events for distribution to the group where ABLOS should be represented	All
15	12	Review of requests to ABLOS, including IHO Capacity Building training/courses/seminars:	<b>JAN 22</b>	ABLOS to engage MBSHC to understand requirements of CB submission	IKJ

Number	Agenda Item	Subject	Status / Due Date	Comments	Action By
16	14	Any Other Business	<b>Ongoing</b>	Consider conducting interview(s) with ABLOS members/stakeholders for publication in relevant industry literature and the ABLOS website	IKJ/NA/All
17	14	Any Other Business	<b>DEC 21</b>	Add metric counting facility to website	NA
18	8.2	List of Members	<b>Dic 22</b>	Send CL for the vacancy of Dr Kim for IHO representative to find replacement to be in place by the end of the year	
19	8.2	List of Members	<b>July 23</b>	consider who will continue form IAG side as a member of ABLOS	NA, JCB
20	8.3	Cap. Building Tran. Mat.	<b>Oct 23</b>	Reach out to DOALOS to see what material they have for introductory/developing levels	SK
21	8.3	Cap. Building Tran. Mat.	<b>Oct 23</b>	Reach out to DOALOS to see what they require by way of support with CB	FB
22	8.3	Cap. Building Tran. Mat.	<b>Oct 23</b>	NA to engage with IAGG as to hw CB activities could be supported from the Bureau	NA
23	8.4	Future of ABLOS	<b>Oct 23</b>	ABELOS-IOC engage collaboration with them.	IHO Secretariat
24	9.2	Organizing Committee	<b>July 23</b>	Create a temporary conference email address	NA, IHO Secretariat
25	9.2	Organizing Committee	<b>Sep 23</b>	Provide hotel information for surrounding towns/cities together with transport connection information	IHO Secretariat
26	9.2	Organizing Committee	<b>Dic 22</b>	Release first call for abstracts before Christmas 2022	NA
27	12.1	Editorial board	<b>Dic 23</b>	Present revised draft text to BM30	Chair of EB

Number	Agenda Item	Subject	Status / Due Date	Comments		Action By
28	12	Editorial board	<b>Dec 23</b>	Correct the annex 4 list of contributors to reflect inclusion of those who have been accidentally omitted		Chair of EB



**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**For the Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS)**  
**of the**  
**International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and**  
**the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)**  
**(as amended 25 October 2018)**

Ref: 1<sup>st</sup> HSSC Meeting (Singapore 2009)  
11<sup>th</sup> HSSC Meeting (Cape Town 2019)

**OBJECTIVE:**

To provide information and advice on technical aspects of the Law of the Sea.

**1. Terms of Reference**

- 1.1. To provide information and advice with regard to the technical aspects of the Law of the Sea to:
  - a) the parent Organizations (IHO/IAG) or to other organizations; and
  - b) to their Member States.
- 1.2. To review State practice and jurisprudence on Law of the Sea matters which are relevant to the work of ABLOS so as to be in a position to provide expert advice when needed.
- 1.3. To study, promote and encourage the development of appropriate techniques in the application of the technical concepts contained within certain provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- 1.4. To review and update IHO Special Publication C-51 "A Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982" (TALOS Manual).
- 1.5. To prepare, review and update other ABLOS publications as required by the parent organizations (IHO/IAG).

**2. Rules of Procedure**

- 2.1. ABLOS shall be composed of eight voting Members, preferably chosen with wide geographic representation. Each parent Organization (IHO/IAG) shall appoint four members. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS), and the IHO Secretariat shall have representatives in an ex-officio capacity without voting rights.
- 2.2. ABLOS should normally take decisions by consensus. Should a vote be necessary then a simple majority of those present and voting is required, subject to a minimum of 4 voting members being present. In the case of a tied vote the Chair shall have a casting vote.



- 2.3. The Member States of the IHO, the IAG and ABLOS through its Chair may appoint observers to ABLOS. Observers may participate in correspondence and attend meetings but may not vote.
- 2.4. Appointed Members and Observers shall serve for a term of four years, renewable by a recommendation of the Board for one additional four-year term and with the approval of the corresponding parent organization. Observers may be reappointed with the approval of the ABLOS for further terms. The Chair shall inform the relevant parent organization of any foreseeable vacancy in a timely manner. Members and Observers are expected to attend every meeting of ABLOS. Where a Member or Observer fails to attend two consecutive meetings the Chair should raise the matter with the parent Organization (IHO/IAG) with a view to rectifying the situation.
- 2.5. All terms, for Appointed Members and Observers, will start on completion of the Business Meeting immediately after the individual's appointment and complete at the end of the Business Meeting four years after appointment. If a vacancy is created intersessionally, the new appointed individual's membership will be effective immediately but dated from completion of the next Business Meeting.
- 2.6. Whilst Members of ABLOS are appointed by their parent Organizations (IHO/IAG), to whom they are accountable, Members are expected to serve as individual experts in their own right. No statements or publications may be issued in the name of ABLOS without ABLOS's prior approval.
- 2.7. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by ABLOS and should normally come from different parent Organizations (IHO/IAG) on a rotational basis. They will serve for a two-year period, after which the Vice-Chair becomes Chair and a new Vice-Chair is elected. If the Chair is not present or available, the Vice-Chair shall act in this capacity until the next meeting. Should the Vice-Chair not be available to take office as Chair when required, a new Chair and Vice-Chair should be elected.
- 2.8. ABLOS may establish Working Groups to carry out specific tasks.
- 2.9. ABLOS will have its permanent Secretariat at the IHO Secretariat, Monaco. The Secretariat will publish the documents and publications produced by the Board as required.
- 2.10. Members and Observers of ABLOS are expected to be supported by their own host organizations or governments for travel expenses and work. Exceptionally, an ABLOS appointed Observer may be supported by ABLOS for a specific task.
- 2.11. ABLOS will normally meet once a year at a venue and time that minimizes cost and conducts business by correspondence between meetings.
- 2.12. ABLOS may organise conferences and seminars. A biennial technical conference will normally be held in Monaco in conjunction with an ABLOS meeting. ABLOS may operate a fund to cover the receipts and expenses of running such a conference. Guidelines for the operation of this fund are appended to these terms of reference.
- 2.13. The Chair or his/her nominated representative shall report on the activities of the Board to the annual meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and to each ordinary session of the Assembly through the Council. The Chair or his/her nominated representative shall also provide an annual report on ABLOS's activities to the IAG and a report covering the inter-sessional period to the General Assembly of the IAG.

- 2.14. These TOR should be reviewed by ABLOS as required and not less frequently than every 4 years. Amendments, recommended by ABLOS, are to be submitted to the parent Organizations (IHO/IAG) for approval.

**ABLOS CONFERENCE FUND GUIDELINES**  
(As amended 27 October 2016)

**Reference:** IHO resolution 1/2014, as amended

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) is formed by four representatives from each of the following bodies: The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). Secretarial support for ABLOS is provided by the IHO Secretariat. The parent organizations (IHO/IAG) approve the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ABLOS. The Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and the IHO Secretariat attend ABLOS meetings in an ex-Officio capacity.

**2. Biennial Conference**

2.1 The TOR invite ABLOS to organise seminars and technical conferences and permit the operation of a fund to support such activities.

**3. Income**

3.1 The primary source of income for the fund will be from the registration fees of delegates attending such seminars / conferences. ABLOS should set the level of registrations fees in order to provide a modest excess of income over expenditure given an estimated attendance.

**4. Expenditure**

4.1 The primary expenditure for the fund will be to cover the costs of running the seminars / conferences. Expenditure may include but is not limited to: assistance to speakers / tutorial leaders, conference equipment, documentation, proceedings, staff overtime, reception and tea breaks.

4.2 ABLOS may use any funds in excess of 3000 Euros remaining after all expenses for a seminar / conference have been settled, to fund other activities conducted by ABLOS. Limited support for travel / subsistence in connection with production of a new edition of C-51 'A Manual on Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea' might be considered such an activity. Such expenditure must be approved by a simple majority of the ABLOS Membership.

4.3 Routine expenditure in support of a seminar / conference may be transacted by the IHO Secretariat and reported in the fund accounts.

**5. Operation**

5.1 The fund will be operated by the IHO Secretariat on behalf of ABLOS. A copy of the fund accounts will be provided to the Annual Business Meeting of ABLOS and immediately after finalising the accounts following a seminar / conference.

**6. Review**

6.1 This guidance should be reviewed, and amended as necessary, by ABLOS at intervals not exceeding 4 years.

## ABLOS WORK PLAN 2023-24

### Tasks

A	Organise the ABLOS Seminar 2024 and 12 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference in 2025 (IHO Task 2.7.1)
B	Maintain IHO Publication C-51 “Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (TALOS) Manual” (IHO Task 2.7.2)
C	Deliver a standard training program on the hydrographic aspects of maritime delimitation (IHO Task 3.3.11)
D	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea to relevant organizations, bodies and Member States (IHO Task 2.7.2)
E	Organize and prepare ABLOS business meetings in 2024 and 2025 (IHO Task 2.1.2.8)

### Work items

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
A1	Organise ABLOS Seminar (Brazil) 2024	H	Date Venue Program	2023	2024	O	Izabel King J. All members of ABLOS through Committee	N/A	
A2	Organise 12 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference	H	Begin advertising Identify and invite key note speaker Confirm conference title Attract presentation abstracts	2023 2023 2023 2023	2024 2024 2024 2025	P P O O	All members of ABLOS through Committee		
A3	Conference support and outreach	H	Develop and maintain ABLOS website	2019	On going	P	Niels Andersen		
B1	Prepare draft 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition of C-51 (TALOS Manual) for adoption by Member States	H	Review initial Spanish translation and propose amendments	2018	2023	C	Juan Carlos Báez Soto*	IHO Publication C-51	

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
B2	Commence 7 <sup>th</sup> Edition	H	Confirm Format and Content	2019	2024	O	Editorial Board John Ells	IHO Publication C-51	
		H	Study the conversion to digital format and create an executive summary to non-specialists use	2021	2024	O	Editorial Board John Ells		
		M	Review contents of chapters and identify areas requiring revision	2021	2025	O	Editorial Board		
		M	Develop draft revised chapters and seek ABLOS consensus	2023	2025	P	Editorial Board		
		M	Submit to HSSC for endorsement and circulation to IHO MS and AIG EC for approval and adoption	2023	2025	P	ABLOS Chair		
		M	Progress French and Spanish translations	2023	2025	P	Marie-Françoise Lequentrec-Lalancette*/ Juan Carlos Báez Soto*	IHO Res. 2/2007, as amended	
C1	Deliver standard training programmes for the CBSC	H	Develop and maintain core training material	2011	Continuous	O	Izabel King Jeck Fiona Bloor Juan Carlos Báez Soto	IHO Publication C-51	Training Needs Analysis needed to be undertaken.
D1	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea	H		Continuous		O	All members of ABLOS through the Chair		

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
E1	Confirmation of place	H	Confirmation of Brazil	2023	2024	O	Izabel King Jeck		
		H	Confirmation of Qatar/Ecuador/Chile	2023	2024	O	Chair/all Members		

## Meetings (Tasks A & E)

Date	Location	Activity
6 - 8 October 2020	Remote VTC	ABLOS 27
5 - 6 October 2021	Remote VTC	ABLOS 28 and Webinar
3 - 6 October 2022	IHO, Monaco	ABLOS 29
10 – 13 October 2023	IHO, Monaco	ABLOS 30 and 11th ABLOS Conference
7 – 10 October 2024	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	ABLOS 31 and ABLOS Seminar
?? - ?? October 2025	??	ABLOS 32 and 12 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference

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31<sup>th</sup> ABLOS BUSINESS MEETING  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Draft Agenda

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman, including welcome to new participants
2. Administrative arrangements (*Secretary*)
3. Introduction of participants and apologies
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Approval of the minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and outcomes of HSSC16.
6. Review of Actions from BM30
7. ABLOS Seminar final preparations
8. ABLOS the way forward:
  - .1 Terms of Reference
  - .2 Membership, including review of terms (IHO, IAG)
  - .3 Capacity Building Training Course material
  - .4 Future of ABLOS
9. ABLOS 12<sup>th</sup> Conference 2025:
  - .1 Subject of the conference
  - .2 Confirmation of place and venue for the Conference
  - .3 Organizing Committee for Conference 2025
  - .4 Conference fund status report
  - .5 Conference Key note proposals
  - .6 Conference
  - .7 Any other issues
10. Reports on members' attendance at LOS related conferences and details of significant forthcoming events
11. Review of requests to ABLOS, including IHO Capacity Building training/courses/seminars
12. TALOS Manual (C-51)
  - .1 Report from Chair of Editorial Board
  - .2 Review of Edition 7.0.0 status and progress of format and content
  - .3 Status of French and Spanish versions of Edition 6.0.0
  - .4 Arabic translation of Edition 6.0.0
  - .5 Chinese translation of the Edition 6.0.0
  - .6 Other translations
13. Review of Work Programme and representation/attendance at HSSC15
14. Any Other Business



15. Review of List of Actions for BM31 and draft agenda for 32<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting.
16. Closure of the Meeting



**MEMBERS OF IAG - IHO ABLOS – March 2024**

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Joint IAG-IHO Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea



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