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CIRCULAR LETTER 37/2020
27 November 2020

WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY
REPORT ON MEMBER STATES ACTIVITIES IN 2020 AND THE PROPOSED THEME
FOR 2021

References:

- A. IHO CL 01/2020 dated 9 January - *Theme for WHD 2020 and Media Outreach*
- B. Summary Report of the 4th meeting of the IHO Council dated 19 November 2020.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the theme of World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2020 was "Hydrography - enabling autonomous technologies". This theme was intended to highlight the role of hydrography in various dimensions: Firstly for the conduct of hydrographic survey itself by means of autonomously acting sensor carriers such as autonomous surface vehicles (ASV), autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) and flying drones with Lidar equipment. Secondly to pave the way for the expected development of safe, secure and environmentally sound Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) operations under the auspices of the IMO, which will rely on certified hydrographic information.

2. The following sixteen IHO Member States have reported hosting events in connection with World Hydrography Day 2020: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Italy, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom and USA. Reports are available at: <https://iho.int/en/whd-2020-celebrations-around-the-world>

Proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2021

3. At the 4th IHO Council meeting held in Monaco, on 19 November 2020, the Secretary-General proposed the theme for WHD 2021 as follows:

"One hundred years of international cooperation in hydrography"

4. The theme is designed to highlight progress in knowledge and technology over the past 100 years, while celebrating the ground-breaking work which was done during this period. The goal is to highlight the past, present, and future of hydrography. The Secretariat would like to invite Member States to share historical pictures of their work as well as pictures/footage using modern technologies such as autonomous vehicles and drones.

5. The Council Member States endorsed this proposal and invited the IHO Secretariat to circulate the theme to IHO Member States by IHO Circular Letter. (Reference B¹, Decision and Action C4/32).

6. Member States are requested to note the endorsement of the IHO Council, to consider the proposed theme for WHD 2021 and to provide their comments, if any, to the Secretariat **no later than 31 December 2020**. The Secretariat would also welcome any comments and suggestions aimed at improving the impact and the organization of annual WHD celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mathias Jonas', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

¹ Available in [4th Council Summary Report](#)