



IHO File No. S1/6200/C-6

**CIRCULAR LETTER 27/2022**  
**29 June 2022**

**CALL FOR MEMBER STATES TO DECLARE IN WHICH REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RHC) THEY WISH TO BE COUNTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF SEATS ALLOCATED TO EACH RHC ON THE IHO COUNCIL**

References:

- A. General Regulations of the IHO<sup>1</sup> - Article 16 - *Selection of Members of the Council.*
- B. 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference - Decision 6 - *Council Selection Process.*
- C. 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the Assembly – Decision 26 – *Endorsement of the Selection Process for the Council.*
- D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Assembly – Decision 13 – *Endorsement of the Selection Process for the Council.*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A requires the Secretary-General to inform all Member States of the number of seats allocated to each RHC and those Member States eligible for selection by each RHC three months before the ordinary session of the Assembly and determine the procedure for the composition of the Council.
2. The start of the process for determining the composition of the Council is for Member States to indicate to the Secretary-General, at least six months before the session of the Assembly, to which RHC they apply for the selection (Reference A, sub-paragraph (b)(iii) refers) while the Secretary-General is tasked to determine the number of seats allocated to each RHC (Reference A, sub-paragraph (b)(iv) refers).
3. Following the principles of the guidance agreed at Reference B, and noting that the selection process for the Council was endorsed at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sessions of the Assembly (References C and D), it is proposed to proceed in the same way for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Assembly (A-3).
4. This Circular Letter invites **Member States which are full members of more than one RHC**, as listed in Annex A, to indicate in which RHC they wish to be counted for the purpose of enabling the Secretary-General to determine the number of seats on the Council allocated to each RHC.

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<sup>1</sup> Version as of 24 June 2020.

5. As indicated in Reference B, in the event that no preference is expressed by a Member State that is a member of more than one RHC, the Secretary-General will, in the first instance, allocate that State to the RHC that it joined first. However, following this principle may not be possible in the event that doing so would leave any of the RHC's with no possible candidates to occupy a seat allocated to it on the Council.

6. In order to provide as much time as possible for the Secretary-General to determine the allocation of the number of seats and to inform the Chairs of RHCs accordingly, the Member States concerned are encouraged to express their preferences at their earliest convenience and no later than **20 October 2022** using the form at Annex B, by email (cl-lc@iho.int), but preferably using the IHO Online Form System by accessing the following link:

[https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/web\\_form\\_cl27\\_2022](https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/web_form_cl27_2022)

7. In order to facilitate the preparation of the RHCs' inputs into the different phases of the selection process for the Council, the IHO Secretariat kindly invites those RHCs having their Annual Conferences in the forthcoming months to anticipate and consider the possibility of starting the application of their own selection procedures for the seats at the Council.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr Mathias JONAS  
Secretary-General

Annexes: - Annex A: List of Member States members of more than one RHC  
- Annex B: Response Form

**LIST OF IHO MEMBER STATES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF MORE THAN ONE RHC**

Brazil  
Canada  
Colombia  
Denmark  
Egypt  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Iceland  
Indonesia  
Morocco  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Pakistan  
Russian Federation  
Saudi Arabia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Thailand  
United Kingdom  
United States of America

**RESPONSE FORM**

To be returned to the IHO Secretariat by **20 October 2022**

E-mail: *cl-ic@iho.int*

Member State:	
Point of Contact:	
Contact e-mail:	

**RHC in which the Member State wishes to be counted:**

*(Indicate your choice in decreasing order of priority as applicable. The first choice will be retained whenever possible)*

**1** .....

**2** .....

**3** .....

**4** .....

Name/Signature: ..... Date: .....