



IHO File No S1/1900/A

**CIRCULAR LETTER 42/2022**  
**27 October 2022**

**WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY  
REPORT ON MEMBER STATES ACTIVITIES IN 2022 AND THE  
PROPOSED THEME FOR 2023**

References:

- A. IHO CL 01/2022 dated 5 January - *Theme for WHD 2022 and Media Outreach*
- B. Decision C6/46 of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IHO Council, Monaco, 18-20 October 2022

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the theme of World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2022 was **“How hydrography can contribute to the United Nations Ocean Decade”**. The theme was designed to highlight the relevant contribution of hydrography as a discipline of applied sciences to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).

2. National events in connection with World Hydrography Day 2022, as reported by Member States, are available at: <https://iho.int/en/whd-2022-celebrations-around-the-world> .

3. At the 6<sup>th</sup> IHO Council meeting in Monaco, from 18 to 20 October 2022, the Secretary-General proposed the following theme for WHD 2023:

**“Hydrography - underpinning the digital twin of the ocean”**

4. The digital twin of the ocean aims to develop a consistent, high-resolution, multi-dimensional and near real-time virtual representation of the ocean that could make ocean knowledge open-access, available to citizens, scientists and policy makers around the world, and provide a platform for global cooperation. In terms of international standards, the S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model will provide the ocean science community with an operational set of standardized products and services within a unique and globally recognized framework. The theme is designed to highlight how hydrography and oceanography could work together for mutual benefit, with hydrography being a building block for the digital twin. The suggested theme offers the opportunity to emphasize the competencies of hydrographers in the gathering and management of marine data, in order to assist in eliminating the barrier posed by the use of differing formats in the ocean domain.

5. The IHO Council endorsed this proposal and invited the IHO Secretariat to circulate the theme to IHO Member States by IHO Circular Letter. (Reference B<sup>1</sup>, Decision and Action C6/46).

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > IHO Council > C-6 > Documents > Post Meeting Documents > Summary Report

6. Member States are requested to note the endorsement of the IHO Council, consider the proposed theme for WHD 2023 and provide their comments, if any, to the Secretariat **no later than 31 December 2022**. 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 at the end.

Dr Mathias JONAS  
Secretary-General