

IHO File No. S1/1900/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 01/2023
12 January 2023

THEME FOR WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2023 AND MEDIA OUTREACH

References:

- A: IHO CL 42/2022 dated 27 October - *World Hydrography Day – Report on Member States activities in 2022 and the proposed theme for 2023*
- B: Summary Report of the 6th meeting of the IHO Council dated 18-20 October 2022.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in the Reference A, the proposed theme for the celebration of World Hydrography Day in 2023 (WHD 2023) was "Hydrography – underpinning the digital twin of the ocean". The IHO Secretariat thanks Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Spain and the United Kingdom for their responses. Their comments are provided in the Annex to this letter.

2. The Member States who replied supported the proposal whilst Bangladesh, Chile and Iran also suggested some variations of the wording. The Secretariat carefully considered these proposals, reflected on the comments made at the 6th Council meeting under Agenda item 5.2 (Reference C6-05.2A) and ultimately decided to maintain the proposed theme.

3. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2023 reads:

“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 will provide a platform for global cooperation. The theme for WHD is designed to highlight the relationship between hydrography and oceanography, and how hydrography can play a key role in developing the digital twin of the ocean.

5. The IHO Secretariat would like to create new videos highlighting these different aspects. Member States who are interested and able to assist with the technical production of videos are invited to contact the Secretariat.

6. In support of WHD 2023, the IHO Secretariat will feed the IHO Facebook page, Twitter account, LinkedIn account and YouTube channel. The IHO Secretariat will also organize a dedicated page on the IHO website, where papers and other materials relevant to the celebration will be posted. Member States are invited to forward to the Secretariat any materials that they may create in support of their national WHD 2023 celebrations for posting on any of these platforms.

7. The IHO Secretariat's outreach activities will include communications on GEBCO, celebrating its 120th anniversary in 2023, and will emphasise how up-to-date and accurate maps of the ocean contribute to global discussions on the sustainable use of the ocean.

8. As always, the Secretariat welcomes any comments and suggestions to improve support for these important initiatives. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank all of those Member States who have already contributed through ideas, advice and materials to this important process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mathias Jonas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM MEMBER STATES

Bangladesh

The following amendment is being proposed by Bangladesh:
IHO Proposal: "Hydrography - underpinning the digital twin of the ocean"
BD Proposal: "Hydrography - underpinning the digital twin of the ocean for Healthy and Sustainable Planet".

Chile

We acknowledge receipt of Circular Letter no 42, proposing the theme for the forthcoming celebration of the World Hydrography Day 2023.

While the theme in English ("**Hydrography - underpinning the digital twin of the ocean**") seems clear and representative of the objective to be achieved for the English-speaking community, we consider its translation into Spanish ("**Hidrografía – cimiento del gemelo digital del océano**") confusing and not fully understandable for Spanish speakers.

Consequently, we propose the following text in Spanish: "**Hidrografía: Sustentando el desarrollo del modelo digital del océano**", to follow along the same lines of the objective.

Colombia

With regards to the theme of World Hydrography Day – 2023 "Hydrography - underpinning the digital twin of the ocean", after due consideration, the General Maritime Directorate as the authority over the Colombian Hydrographic Office, states our approval of the proposed theme.

This is in consideration that oceanographic and hydrographic research are complementary and contribute to the scientific community, for the benefit of planned or already in development research projects.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity to reiterate the respect and affection, and the collaborative disposition of the General Maritime Directorate.

Republic of Iran

I would like to refer to CL 42/2022 regarding IHO Theme 2023, and offer the Iranian proposal as follows:

Proposal: Hydrography; Underpinning Digital Oceans

Justification: The movement toward virtual and digital aspects of reality has long engulfed the world, and hydrography as a maritime activity is no exception. The oceans in the digital form, through ENCs and other virtual features, are nurtured and promoted with the oceanographic data obtained and provided through hydrographic

activities. Thanks to hydrography around the world, the digital oceans thus exist and flourish side-by-side to the actual physical oceans.

I appreciate your attention in advance.

Spain

Answering to IHO CL 42/2022 “World Hydrography Day – Report on Member States Activities in 2022 and the Proposed Theme for 2023”, please be informed that this IHM has no comments or suggestions on this issue.

United Kingdom

Thank you for IHO Circular Letter 42/2022 advising of IHO Council 6 endorsement of the World Hydrography Day (WHD) theme for 2023 as ‘Hydrography – underpinning the digital twin of the ocean.

UK are looking to continue supporting WHD 2023 and we will contribute as we have done in previous years.

Wishing you all good health and prosperity for 2023.

