

IHO File No S1/1900/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 43/2024
12 November 2024

**WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY,
REPORT ON MEMBER STATES' ACTIVITIES IN 2024
AND
THE PROPOSED THEME FOR 2025**

References:

- A. IHO CL 01/2024 dated 8 January - *Theme for WHD 2024 and Media Outreach*
- B. Decision C8/45 of the 8th meeting of the IHO Council, Monaco, 15-17 October 2024

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the theme of World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2024 was ***“Hydrographic Information - Enhancing Safety and Efficiency in Marine Activities”***. The theme was designed to highlight how hydrography and oceanography could work together for mutual benefit, with hydrography being a building block for the digital twin.
2. National events in connection with World Hydrography Day 2024, as reported by Member States, are available at: <https://iho.int/en/whd-2024-celebrations-around-the-world>.
3. At the 8th IHO Council meeting in Monaco, from 15 to 17 October 2024, the Secretary-General proposed the following theme for WHD 2025:

“Seabed Mapping: Enabling Ocean Action”

4. This proposed theme aims to highlight the interrelation of IHO Strategic Plan Goal 3, “Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean”, and the tenants of Goal 2, “Increasing the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society”, also highlighting the importance of ocean mapping as the key to enable ocean action, in full alignment with the theme of the next United Nations Ocean Conference *„Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”* taking place in Nice, France in 2025. The proposed motto reaffirms the commitment of the international hydrographic community as a relevant partner in the global aspirations for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, sea and marine resources for sustainable development.
5. A societal benefit of seabed mapping is the baseline information in support of nautical charting as the traditional asset of IHO standardization in sea survey and sea cartography, but it also bolsters the blue economy through sustainable marine energy, supporting fisheries and coastal tourism, protecting biodiversity, or monitoring ocean changes, reliable data is the foundation for informed decision-making across industries and environmental initiatives alike.

6. The IHO Council 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 C8/45).
7. Member States are requested to note the endorsement of the IHO Council, consider the proposed theme for WHD 2025 and provide their comments, if any, to the Secretariat **no later than 31 December 2024**. 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

¹ Available at www.iho.int > IHO Council > C-8 > Documents > Post Meeting Documents > Summary Report