

IHO File No. S1/1900/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 01/2025

09 January 2025

THEME FOR WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2025 AND MEDIA OUTREACH

References:

- A: IHO CL 43/2024 dated 12 November - World Hydrography Day – Report on Member States activities in 2024 and the proposed theme for 2025
- B: Summary Report of the 8th meeting of the IHO Council dated 15-17 October 2024

Dear Hydrographer,

- As announced in the Reference A, the proposed theme for the celebration of World Hydrography Day in 2025 (WHD 2025) was "***Seabed Mapping: Enabling Ocean Action***". The IHO Secretariat thanks Bangladesh for its response. The comment is provided in the Annex to this letter.
- Since the Secretariat did not receive alternative or modifying proposals, the theme for World Hydrography Day 2025 reads:

"Seabed Mapping: Enabling Ocean Action"

- This theme is selected 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.
- 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.

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 2025, the IHO Secretariat will feed the IHO Facebook page, Instagram 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 2025 celebrations for posting on any of these platforms.

7. 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 stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General