

IHO File No. S3/8151/S-100

**CIRCULAR LETTER 17/2025**  
**31 March 2025**

**IHO CANADA S-100 INTERNATIONAL SEA TRIAL AREA**  
**CALL FOR REGISTRATION**

References:

- A. 8<sup>th</sup> IHO Council Meeting – Decision C8/11 and C8/69,
- B. 8<sup>th</sup> IHO Council Meeting – Canada Information Paper (item 07.5A)

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The S-100 suite's successful implementation relies on various factors, including final product specification and comprehensive testing of all route monitoring layers, delivered via encrypted and digitally signed data. Therefore, the need to set S-100 Sea Trial Area to perform crucial tests is a significant step forward in the realization of products and services that meet the S-100 suite of standards.
2. With Reference A, the IHO Council endorsed the principle of S-100 Sea Trial Areas, and welcomed the offer made by Canada on the St-Lawrence River.
3. As previously announced by Canada (Reference B), the IHO Canada S-100 International Sea Trial will be open from June 1 to November 30, 2025. The trial is available to all IHO Member States and stakeholders i.e. original equipment manufacturers, pilots, mariners, hydrographic offices, and others. Data will be freely available using the latest encrypted and digital signature technology in S-100. The trial will test real-world scenarios to assess how the systems portray different datasets in an integrated fashion. It will also test all operational versions of S-100 route monitoring layers in preparation for the official launch expected in January 2026.
4. The IHO Secretariat thanks Canada for this generous offer and encourages all interested Parties to take full advantage of this opportunity to test the S-100 systems and provide valuable feedback.
5. Full details and registration procedure are now available on the [IHO Canada S-100 International Sea Trial Area website](#).

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,



John NYBERG  
Director