

IHO File No S1/1900

CIRCULAR LETTER 25/2025
20 June 2025

**2025 RECIPIENT
OF THE
EX ABYSSIS AD ALTA – IHO AWARD FOR HYDROGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE**

References: A. IHO CL 19/2024 dated 03 April 2024 – *Adoption of the IHO Resolution – The Ex Abyssis ad Alta – IHO Award for Hydrographic Excellence*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Circular Letter in reference adopted an annual process to award *The Ex Abyssis ad Alta – IHO Award for Hydrographic Excellence* and set out the procedure for the recipients selection.
2. The Latin phrase *Ex Abyssis ad Alta* was chosen as the name of the award in honour of Prince Albert I of Monaco who used it as his personal motto. With this reference, the Award pays tribute to the instrumental role of the Grimaldi family and the Principality of Monaco in the establishment and continuation of the international collaboration in hydrography.
3. The Secretariat received 4 nominations from 4 Member States. The IHO Secretariat convened the Ex Abyssis ad Alta Award Board in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Resolution and agreed unanimously on the selection.
4. The 2025 *Ex Abyssis ad Alta – IHO Award for Hydrographic Excellence* recipient is:

Mr. Louis MALTAIS (CANADA)
Director of Navigational Geospatial Services and Support (NGSS)

5. Mr. Maltais, a dedicated career hydrographer, has notably led the Canadian Hydrographic Service's S-100 implementation and pioneered the IHO's S-100 Sea Trial Area initiative which aims to showcase the benefits of integrated S-100 based information while also providing valuable opportunity for IHO Member States to take advantage of Canada's S-100 experience. This initiative highlights strategic collaboration between the maritime industry and hydrographic offices.

Mr. Maltais also initiated the establishment of several S-100 data service layers throughout the Saint Lawrence River at a very early stage. This was crucial during the development of the Phase 1 S-100 product specifications within IHO, as this area was used as one of the main test beds. He was also the driving force behind the establishment of a national interdepartmental S-100 working group to coordinate nationwide S-100 implementation in Canada. This national approach has served as an inspiration for several other Member States and similar bodies have been set up in many other countries thanks to the Canadian example.

6. Beyond this specific merit, Mr. Maltais has been a long-time active participant in several technical IHO bodies, including the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee, the Data Quality Working Group, and the Tides, Water Level and Currents Working Group.

7. The IHO Secretariat wholeheartedly welcomes the decision of the Award Board, forwards its sincere congratulations and suggests the Canadian authorities to celebrate the grant of the recipient as part of the national World Hydrography Day activities. A commendatory trophy will be presented to Louis Maltais personally by next convenient occasion.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JEN', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr John E. Nyberg
Director