

**CALL FOR MEMBER STATES TO DECLARE IN WHICH REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RHC)  
THEY WISH TO BE COUNTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF SEATS  
ALLOCATED TO EACH RHC IN THE IHO COUNCIL**

References:

- A. General Regulations of the IHO - Article 16 - *Selection of Members of the Council*,
- B. 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference - Decision 6 - *Council Selection Process*,
- C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Assembly – Decision 31 – *Endorsement of the Selection Process for the Council*.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A requires the IHO Secretary-General to inform all Member States of the number of seats allocated to each Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC), as well as those Member States eligible for selection by each RHC, at least three months before the ordinary session of the Assembly. The IHO Secretary-General is also required to determine the procedure for the composition of the Council.
2. The process of determining the composition of the Council begins with Member States indicating to the Secretary-General, at least six months before the Assembly session, which RHC they are applying for (see Reference A, sub-paragraph (b)(iii)). The Secretary-General is then responsible for determining the number of seats allocated to each RHC (see Reference A, sub-paragraph (b)(iv)).
3. In line with the principles set out in guidance referenced in B, and bearing in mind that the selection process for the Council was approved at the Third Session of the Assembly (reference C), it is proposed that the same approach be taken for the Fourth Session of the Assembly (A-4).
4. This Circular Letter invites **Member States that are full members of more than one Commission**, as listed in Annex A, to indicate which RHC they wish to be counted under. This will enable the Secretary-General to determine the number of seats on the Council allocated to each Regional Commission.
5. As indicated in Reference B, if no preference is expressed by a Member State, the Secretary-General will allocate that Member State to the Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) it joined first. However, this approach may not always be applicable—particularly in cases where it would result in an RHC being left without any eligible candidates for Council representation. In such instances, alternative arrangements may be necessary to ensure all RHCs are appropriately represented.

6. To allow the Secretary-General as much time as possible to allocate the number of seats and inform the RHC Chairs accordingly, Member States are encouraged to express their preferences as soon as possible and by **17 October 2025 at the latest**, using the following IHO online form:

[https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/web\\_form\\_cl29\\_2025](https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/web_form_cl29_2025)

7. In addition to the above, to facilitate the preparation of the RHCs' contributions to the various stages of the Council selection process, the IHO Secretariat kindly invites those RHCs holding their annual conferences in the coming months to consider applying their own selection procedures for Council seats.

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

Annex:

- A. List of Member States currently being full members of more than one Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC)

**LIST OF IHO MEMBER STATES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF MORE THAN ONE RHC**

<b>Country</b>	<b>RHCs</b>	<b>Count</b>
Angola	EAtHC, SAIHC	2
Brazil	MACHC, SWAtHC	2
Canada	ARHC, USCHC	2
Colombia	MACHC, SEPRHC	2
Denmark	ARHC, BSHC, NHC, NSHC	4
Egypt	MBSHC, NIOHC	2
Finland	BSHC, NHC	2
France	EAtHC, MACHC, MBSHC, NSHC, SAIHC, SWPHC	6
Germany	BSHC, NSHC	2
Iceland	NHC, NSHC	2
Indonesia	EAHC, NIOHC	2
Morocco	EAtHC, MBSHC	2
Netherlands	MACHC, NSHC	2
Norway	ARHC, NHC, NSHC, SAIHC	4
Pakistan	NIOHC, RSAHC	2
Russian Federation	ARHC, BSHC, MBSHC	3
Saudi Arabia	NIOHC, RSAHC	2
Spain	EAtHC, MBSHC	2
Sweden	BSHC, NHC, NSHC	3
Thailand	EAHC, NIOHC	2
United Kingdom	MACHC, NIOHC, NSHC, SAIHC, SWPHC	5
United States of America	MACHC, USCHC, SWPHC, ARHC	4