

IHO File No S1/1900/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 39/2025
29 October 2025

**WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY
REPORT ON MEMBER STATES ACTIVITIES IN 2025
AND
THE PROPOSED THEME FOR 2026**

References:

- A. IHO CL 01/2025 dated 9th January - *Theme for WHD 2025 and Media Outreach*
- B. Decision C9/49 of the 9th meeting of the IHO Council, Monaco, 14-16 October 2025

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the theme of World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2025 was

“Seabed Mapping: Enabling Ocean Action”

2. This theme aimed 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.
3. National events in connection with World Hydrography Day 2025, as reported by Member States, are available at: <https://iho.int/en/whd-2025-celebrations-around-the-world>.
4. At the 9th IHO Council meeting in Monaco, from 14 to 16 October 2025, the Secretary-General proposed the following theme for WHD 2026:

“Transforming how ocean data is shared”

5. This proposed theme aims to address the planned uptake of S-100 based data services – with a focus on S-101 ENCs and S-102 Bathymetric Surface which assist the IMO approved acceptance of S-100 ECDIS as regular means for navigation in international shipping. The motto will also facilitate to highlight the ongoing collaboration with other international bodies such as IALA and WMO to incorporate their services into the S-100 ecosystem. Though there is evidently a clear focus on S-100 aspects, the use of the term S-100 was deliberately avoided to attract stakeholders outside the core community of hydrographers and navigation experts.

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 C9/49).
7. Member States are requested to note the endorsement of the IHO Council, consider the proposed theme for WHD 2026 and provide their comments, if any, to the Secretariat **no later than 31 December 2025**. 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 on the IHO Portal: [list of decisions & actions](#)