

IHO File No. S1/6200

CIRCULAR LETTER 42/2025

06 November 2025

**NOTICE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONALLY BASED SEATS
ON THE IHO COUNCIL**

References:

- A. IHO CL No. 29/2025 dated 8 July 2025 - 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,
- B. General Regulations of the IHO - Article 16 – Selection of Members of the Council,
- C. 3rd Session of the Assembly – Decision 31 – Endorsement of the Selection Process for the Council,
- D. Finance Regulations of the IHO,
- E. 3rd Session of the Assembly – Decision 29 – Table of Tonnages, Shares, Contribution and Votes

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A invited those Member States that are members of more than one Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) to declare their preference for which RHC they wished to be counted for the purpose of enabling the Secretary-General to allocate the number of seats on the Council assigned to each RHC and to determine the States that are eligible to occupy those seats in each RHC, in accordance with the processes and guidance described in References B and C.
2. The IHO Secretariat thanks the following Member States that are members of more than one RHC for responding to the Circular Letter in Reference A: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.
3. Where a Member State, who is a member of more than one RHC has expressed a preference, this has been taken into account. However, for those Member States who have not expressed a preference, the Secretary-General has followed the process in accordance with Reference A, paragraph 5 and Reference C, and has assigned them to the first RHC in which they became a Member State.

Distribution of and eligibility to occupy the regionally based seats on the IHO Council

4. The table provided in Annex A shows the resultant distribution of the 20 seats on the Council allocated to the RHCs and those States that are eligible to be selected to occupy those seats.
5. Some RHCs have already selected the States that will occupy the seat(s) allocated to them. Where this is known by the Secretariat, it is shown in the table.

6. In accordance with sub-paragraph (b)(vi) of Reference B, the table in Annex A may be amended up to 3 months (12 weeks) before the beginning of the 4th Session of the Assembly if a new IHO Member State become a member of a Regional Hydrographic Commission before that date, i.e. **26 January 2026**.

7. In accordance with Article 6 (a) of Reference D, the Secretariat will use the table of tonnages **in force since 1st January 2024 until 31st December 2026**, provided as Annex B (Reference E refers), subject to the addition of any new Member States, but not later than 26 January 2026 (3 months prior Assembly), to determine the remaining 10 seats to be occupied on the Council. The Secretary-General will approach each State on the list which has not already been selected to occupy a seat by the RHCs, in turn and in order of highest tonnage, inviting the State to declare if it wishes to take up one of the 10 seats available based on hydrographic interest (tonnage). This process will continue until all 10 seats have been filled.

8. Noting that sub-paragraph (b)(vii) of Reference B sets the closing date as before the last day of the Assembly for RHCs to declare the identity of the States that they have selected to occupy the first 20 seats on the Council that are allocated on a regional basis, the allocation of the remaining 10 seats is dependent upon when the Secretary-General has a complete list of the States that will occupy the regionally based seats. For this reason, Chairs of RHCs are requested to provide the identity of the State(s) that will occupy the seat(s) allocated to their RHCs as soon as it is known. This will enable the allocation of the last 10 seats on the Council to be made earlier than on the penultimate day of the session of the Assembly, subject to the accession up to that date of any new Member State qualifying for one of the 10 seats according to its tonnage.

9. In accordance with the Assembly Circular Letter in Reference E, the table of tonnages to be used for the selection of the 10 remaining seats (i.e. hydrographic interest allocation) is annexed for your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

Annex:

- A. Table showing the number of seats on the IHO Council distributed on a regional basis and the Member States eligible to occupy those seats.
- B. IHO Table of tonnages in force since January 2024 until 31st December 2026

Table showing the number of seats on the IHO Council distributed on a regional basis and the Member States eligible to occupy those seats

Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC)	Member States (MS) eligible to occupy one of the 20 Council seat(s) allocated to the RHCs ¹²³	Number of MS counted in each RHC ⁴	Number of Council seats allocated to the RHC	MS selected by the RHC to occupy the Council seat(s) allocated to the RHC
MBSHC	Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt ⁵ , France , Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia , Slovenia, Syria , Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine.	19	3	
EAHC	Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia ⁶ , Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand	10	2	
MACHC	Brazil , Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands , Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela.	11	2	
RSAHC	Bahrain, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan ⁷ , Qatar, Saudi Arabia , United Arab Emirates	9	1	
SWPHC	Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, United Kingdom , Vanuatu	10	2	
NIOHC	Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka	4	1	
SAIHC	Angola, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa	6	1	
EAtHC	Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Democratic Rep of Congo, Ghana, Morocco , Nigeria, Portugal, Spain	8	1	
NSHC	Belgium, Germany , Ireland	3	1	
BSHC	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation ⁸ , Sweden	6	1	
SEPRHC	Chile, Colombia , Ecuador, Peru	4	1	
ARHC	Norway , United States	2	1	
SWAtHC	Argentina, Uruguay	2	1	
NHC	Denmark , Finland , Iceland ,	3	1	
USCHC	Canada	1	1	Canada
Total		98	20	

¹ IHO MS member of more than one RHC in **bold**

² Suspended IHO Member States in ~~strike through~~

³ IHO MS which are not RHC members at the time of request: Bahamas, Gambia and Vietnam,

⁴ IHO MS counted in the calculation of the number of seats on a proportional basis

⁵ Egypt first joined MBSHC, created in 1978.

⁶ Indonesia and Thailand first joined EAHC in 1971.

⁷ Pakistan first joined RSAHC in 2003.

⁸ Russian Federation first joined BSHC in 1983.

IHO Table of tonnages in force since 1st January 2024 until 31st December 2026⁹ - amended after accession of The Bahamas in July 2025

	IHO Member States	Tonnages
1	CHINA - <i>CHINE</i>	97 570 000
2	SINGAPORE - <i>SINGAPOUR</i>	88,968,621
3	MALTA - <i>MALTE</i>	84,296,000
4	REPUBLIC OF KOREA - <i>REPUBLIQUE DE COREE</i>	55,286,782
5	BAHAMAS (The) - BAHAMAS (Les)	53 872 000¹⁰
6	INDONESIA - <i>INDONESIE</i>	45,194,835
7	UNITED KINGDOM - <i>ROYAUME UNI</i>	37,724,811
8	GREECE - <i>GRECE</i>	35,909,352
9	JAPAN - <i>JAPON</i>	27,991,467
10	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - <i>ETATS UNIS D'AMERIQUE</i>	26,614,550
11	DENMARK - <i>DANEMARK</i>	24,226,334
12	CYPRUS - <i>CHYPRE</i>	23,724,055
13	PORTUGAL	19,868,526
14	NORWAY – <i>NORVEGE</i>	19,856,380
15	ITALY - <i>ITALIE</i>	14,650,523
16	IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	14,372,651
17	INDIA - <i>INDE</i>	13,112,000

⁹ Decision A3/29 refers.

¹⁰ Source: IMO NV.068 – Notice of 2025 Assessment dated 26 November 2024