

IHO File No. S1/6200

CIRCULAR LETTER 42/2025 Rev1
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. Finance Regulations of the IHO,
- D. 3rd Session of the Assembly – Decision 31 – Endorsement of the Selection Process for the Council,
- E. 3rd Session of the Assembly – Decision 29 – Approval of the 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 D.
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 References A and D, 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 is derived from the responses received to Reference A. It shows the current resultant distribution of the 20 regionally based seats on the Council and those States that are eligible to be selected to occupy those seats.
5. Some RHCs may have already selected the States that will occupy the seat(s) allocated to them. Where such information is known by the Secretariat, it appears in the Annex A table.

6. In accordance with sub-paragraph (b)(vi) of Reference B, the Annex A content (number of seats allocated, eligible IHO Member States) may be adjusted up to 3 months (12 weeks) before the beginning of the 4th Session of the Assembly, **no later than 26 January 2026**.

7. 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 selected to occupy the first 20 regionally based seats on the Council, 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, RHC Chairs are requested to provide the identity of the State(s) that will occupy the seat(s) allocated to their Commission as soon as it is known.

Eligibility to occupy the remaining 10 Seats on the IHO Council that are based on hydrographic interest

8. In accordance with Article 6(a) of Reference C, the Secretariat will use the table of current national flag tonnages produced 2 months prior to the opening day of A-4, to determine the remaining 10 seats to be occupied on the Council. This table may be subject to the accession of any new IHO Member States before at that time, **before 21st February 2026** (2 months prior Assembly).

9. The Secretary-General will then approach the highest flag tonnages Member States, inviting each Member 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 seats have been filled.

10. For your convenience, the list of national flag tonnages approved at the 3rd IHO Assembly session as per Reference E is provided as Annex B.

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. 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	
MACHC	Brazil , Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands , Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela.	11	2	
EAHC	Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia ⁶ , Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand	10	2	
SWPHC	Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, United Kingdom , Vanuatu	10	2	
RSAHC	Bahrain, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan ⁷ , Qatar, Saudi Arabia , United Arab Emirates	9	1	
EAtHC	Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Democratic Rep of Congo, Gambia ⁸ , Ghana, Morocco , Nigeria, Portugal, Spain	9	1	Spain
SAIHC	Angola, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa	6	1	
BSHC	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation ⁹ , Sweden	6	1	
NIOHC	Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka	4	1	
SEPRHC	Chile, Colombia , Ecuador, Peru	4	1	
NSHC	Belgium, Germany , Ireland	3	1	
NHC	Denmark , Finland , Iceland ,	3	1	
ARHC	Norway , United States	2	1	
SWAtHC	Argentina, Uruguay	2	1	
USCHC	Canada	1	1	Canada
Total		99	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 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 Gambia joined EAtHC on 14 November 2025.

⁹ Russian Federation first joined BSHC in 1983.

IHO Table of tonnages in force since 1st January 2024 until 31st December 2026¹⁰ - 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 000¹¹
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

¹⁰ As per Decision A3/29 (reference E).

¹¹ Source: IMO NV.068 – Notice of 2025 Assessment dated 26 November 2024