

CIRCULAR LETTER 11/2026

09 February 2026

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY
FROM THE CANADIAN HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE AS PART OF THE UN OCEAN DECADE
ALLIANCE AND THE IHO PROJECT EMPOWERING WOMEN IN HYDROGRAPHY**

References:

- A. CL 20/2021 dated 31 May IHO Project Empowering Women in Hydrography.
- B. List of decisions and actions from C-9 (Decision C9/055).

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A presented the proposal of the IHO Project Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH), and the IHO Secretariat encouraged the Member States to consider the recommendation of the 2nd Session of the Assembly (A-2 Decision 36) to participate in the EWH Project. In reference B, the IHO Council expressed its general support of the IHO becoming a member of the UN Ocean Decade Alliance.
2. In the context of the UN Ocean Decade Alliance, the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) is offering an opportunity to four students or recent graduates to participate in a three-week, trans-Atlantic hydrographic survey, aboard the Canadian Coast Guard ship *Louis S St. Laurent*. The survey will begin mid-July 2026, departing from St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador and would conclude in early August 2026, tentatively in Tromsø, Norway (exact dates to be confirmed). Hydrographic data collected during this mission would be used by the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) programme in addition to updating specific CHS nautical products.
3. Pursuant to the EWH project, at least two of the four opportunities under this UN Ocean Decade Alliance initiative are offered to female candidates.
4. Selected candidates will have the following responsibilities during the survey:
 - Assist in the operation of hydrographic survey equipment as required during the mission;
 - Collect/process hydrographic data obtained during the trans-Atlantic crossing aboard the *Louis S St. Laurent* from St. John's, NL to Tromsø, Norway; and
 - Contribute to daily/weekly hydrographic survey reports and survey statistics.

5. Nominated candidates must fill the following requirements:
- Currently enrolled or a recent graduate with an undergraduate degree/diploma in hydrographic surveying, geomatics or other related field;
 - Ability/interest in working at sea collecting/processing hydrographic data;
 - Strong attention to detail and ability to work independently or as part of a team while performing hydrographic seagoing operations;
 - Strong communication skills and willingness to learn;
 - Previous experience in hydrographic data collection an asset but not required.
 - Ability to communicate in English;
 - Valid security/medical clearance.
6. Nominated candidates must be able to obtain the necessary visas to travel or transit through Canada (if required) if they are selected.
7. Member States are invited to nominate up to two candidates.
8. Applications should be sent no later than **20 of March 2026** via e-mail to CHS Hydrographic Project Supervisor, Mr. Michael White (Michael.White@dfo-mpo.gc.ca), providing the following documents:
- a. A short cover letter.
 - b. Resume/CV.
 - c. A statement of the nominating authority.
 - d. The completed Candidate Application Form (Annex A).
9. Canada will cover all expenses for the selected candidates, including travel and accommodation. Insurance, Passport and Visa are the responsibility of the applicant or the applicant's administration.
10. The IHO Secretariat would like to thank Canada for this opportunity and encourages other Member States to participate in the EWH project and the UN Ocean Decade Alliance.

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of the Secretary-General



Luigi SINAPI
Director

Annex A: Candidate Application Form

CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM

1. Project: Ocean Decade Alliance Seabed Mapping Survey.

- Type of Project: Deep Water Hydrographic Survey.
- Survey Vessel: CCGS *Louis S. St. Laurent*.

2. Applicant's Personal Information:

- Title*: _____
- Family Name*: _____
- Given Name (preferred)*: _____
- Gender: (optional): _____
- Academic Program*: _____
- Address*: _____
- Telephone (with country code)*: _____
- E-mail*: _____

*Mandatory fields

3. Applicant's Current Position/Description of Responsibilities (300 words).

4. Signature of Applicant

5. Date.
