THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHO File No. S3/7198 & S3/2649

CIRCULAR LETTER 66/2026
09 November 2026

CALL FOR THE APPROVAL OF

EDITION 6.3.0 of S-44 - IHO STANDARDS FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS

AND

EDITION 4.0.0 OF B-12 – GUIDANCE FOR CROWDSOURCED BATHYMETRY

References:

A. HSSC18 List of Decisions and Actions – Action HSSC18/71

B. IRCC18 Draft List of Decisions, Actions and Recommendations – Decision IRCC18/59

C. IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended

Dear Hydrographer,

1. During the 18th meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC18), the committee considered the submission of the draft Edition 6.3.0 of S-44 – *IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys* by the Hydrographic Surveys Working Group (HSWG). HSSC endorsed Edition 6.3.0 of S-44 (Reference A, decision HSSC18/71), and the favourable outcome of the associated impact study was subsequently noted.

2. During the 18th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC18), the committee considered and endorsed the draft Edition 4.0.0 of B-12 – *Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry* submitted by the Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) (Reference B, decision IRCC18/59).

3. The draft Edition 6.3.0 of S-44 – *IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys* and draft Edition 4.0.0 of B-12 – *Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry* are now available to IHO Member States, for their consideration and approval on the IHO website at: https://iho.int/en/draft-publications.

4. Member States are requested to take into account the endorsement of the HSSC to consider the adoption of Edition 6.3.0 of S-44 – *IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys* and the endorsement of the IRCC to consider the adoption of Edition 4.0.0 of B-12 – *Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry* by providing their reply at their earliest convenience.

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5. Responses are requested **no later than 12 December 2026** by email (cl-lc@iho.int) or using the Voting Form provided in Annex A or, but preferably, using the IHO Online Form System available at the following link: https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/cl_66_2026

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,



John NYBERG
Director

Annex: Voting form

CALL FOR APPROVAL OF DRAFT EDITIONS OF S-44 ED. 6.3.0 AND B-12 ED. 4.0.0

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VOTING FORM

to be returned to the IHO Secretariat **no later than 12 December 2026**

E-mail: cl-lc@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40

Member State:	
Contact:	
E-mail:	

All proposed draft Editions are available at: https://iho.int/en/draft-publications.

1. **Do you approve Ed. 6.3.0 of S-44 "*IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys*"?**

Please tick ☑ the appropriate box:

YES ☐ NO ☐

Please provide any additional comments in the section below.

Comments (if required)

2. **Do you approve Ed. 4.0.0 of B-12 "*Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry*"?**

Please tick ☑ the appropriate box:

YES ☐ NO ☐

Please provide any additional comments in the section below.

Comments (if required)
