

MEASURING THE PHYSICS & FEATURES OF THE OCEAN

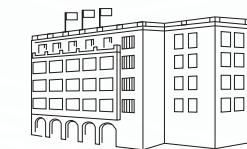
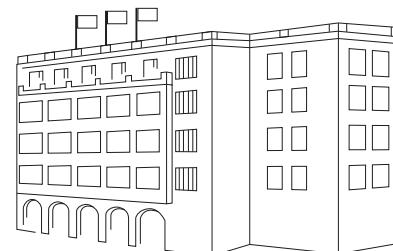


INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

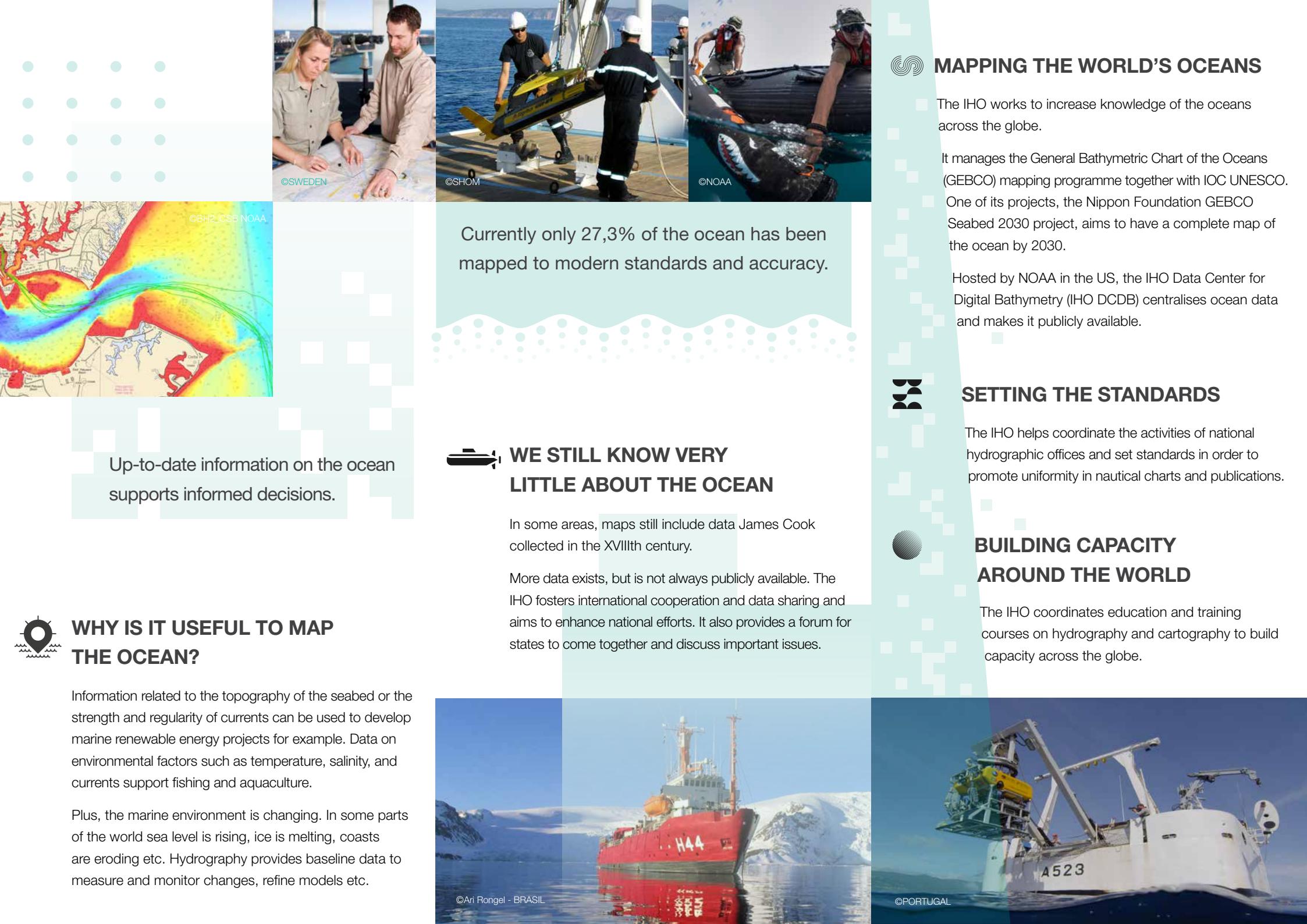
The IHO is an intergovernmental organization which works to ensure all the physics and features of the oceans are measured and charted. This includes sea level, topography of the seabed (mountains, volcanoes, ravines...), bathymetry (depth), currents, etc.

This information supports all marine activities centered around the ocean including navigation, scientific research, environmental protection, and the development of the Blue Economy.

With 104 Member States across five continents, the IHO sets standards and coordinates activities of national hydrographic offices to increase our knowledge of all oceans, coastal areas, lakes and rivers.



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WHY IS IT USEFUL TO MAP THE OCEAN?

Information related to the topography of the seabed or the strength and regularity of currents can be used to develop marine renewable energy projects for example. Data on environmental factors such as temperature, salinity, and currents support fishing and aquaculture.

Plus, the marine environment is changing. In some parts of the world sea level is rising, ice is melting, coasts are eroding etc. Hydrography provides baseline data to measure and monitor changes, refine models etc.

WE STILL KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE OCEAN

In some areas, maps still include data James Cook collected in the XVIIIth century.

More data exists, but is not always publicly available. The IHO fosters international cooperation and data sharing and aims to enhance national efforts. It also provides a forum for states to come together and discuss important issues.

MAPPING THE WORLD'S OCEANS

- The IHO works to increase knowledge of the oceans across the globe.
- It manages the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) mapping programme together with IOC UNESCO.
- One of its projects, the Nippon Foundation GEBCO Seabed 2030 project, aims to have a complete map of the ocean by 2030.
- Hosted by NOAA in the US, the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry (IHO DCDB) centralises ocean data and makes it publicly available.

SETTING THE STANDARDS

The IHO helps coordinate the activities of national hydrographic offices and set standards in order to promote uniformity in nautical charts and publications.

BUILDING CAPACITY AROUND THE WORLD

The IHO coordinates education and training courses on hydrography and cartography to build capacity across the globe.