



IHO File N° S1/5002

CIRCULAR LETTER 62 /2016  
01 December 2016

**PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION  
AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SCIENCE COMMISSION**

References:

- A. IHO Resolution 5/1957 as amended - *IHO relations with other organizations.*
- B. IHO CL 29/2013 dated 22 April - *Proposed Agreement of Cooperation between the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Maritime Organization - Progress Report.*
- C. IHO CL 36/2015 dated 7 May - *Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the International Hydrographic Organization and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), established in 1919 with headquarters in Monaco, is an inter-governmental organization which promotes and encourages research within the Mediterranean and Black Sea perimeter through a network of several thousand marine researchers, applying the latest scientific tools to better understand, monitor and protect the marine ecosystems of the region. The Commission integrates a broad spectrum of marine disciplines, encompassing geo-physical, chemical and biological processes, along with high-resolution mapping of the sea-bottom.
2. The Commission has grown from the eight founding countries of its origin (Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Monaco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) to 23 Member States today (Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine). Structured in six committees and various task forces, CIESM runs expert workshops, collaborative programs and regular congresses, delivering authoritative, independent advice to national and international agencies.
3. Although the headquarters of both organizations are based in Monaco, the relations between the IHO and the CIESM have been occasional so far. The main activity in which both organizations were involved in the past was the regional mapping project of the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean.
4. Recent discussions between the Secretariat of the IHO and the Director General of the CIESM, Professor Frédéric Briand, highlighted significant common interests, beyond the common regional focus of the CIESM and the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission. They include crowd-sourced marine data collection, capacity building and training programmes and materials and more generally supporting the sustainable development of the blue economy. This led to the proposal to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IHO and the CIESM, in accordance with Reference A, in order to provide a framework for active liaison and cooperation between the Parties. The proposal was endorsed by the Board of the CIESM, chaired by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, and a draft text was developed and agreed between the Secretary-General of the IHO and the Director General of the CIESM.
5. The proposed text of the MoU is provided in Annex A (*in English only*). The format of the agreement is based on similar agreements enacted by the IHO and other inter-governmental organisations, notably with the International Maritime Organization (Reference B) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (Reference C).

6. Subject to no adverse comments being received from IHO Member States and subject to the approval of the text of the agreement according to the procedures of the CIESM, the Secretary General will sign the proposed MoU on behalf of the IHO.

7. Member States are kindly requested to review the proposed text at Annex A and to provide their comments, if any, to the Secretariat of the IHO ([cl-lc@iho.int](mailto:cl-lc@iho.int)) not later than **15 February 2017**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert WARD  
Secretary-General

Annex A: Draft text of a Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and the CIESM (*in English only*)



**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)**  
**and**  
**THE MEDITERRANEAN SCIENCE COMMISSION (CIASM)**

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The International Hydrographic Organization and the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIASM), being aware of the benefits of close-co-operation in activities of common interest to both Organizations and their Member States, agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

**Parties**

**The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)**, established in 1921, is an intergovernmental organization which ensures the maintenance of relevant international standards and guidelines and the global coordination of the provision of hydrographic and nautical charting services, and engages all coastal and interested States to advance maritime safety and sustainable use of the marine environment. The IHO has several committees and working groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics. The IHO has also encouraged the establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) to provide focus on regional issues. The Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) provides a regional focus on the IHO objectives in the Mediterranean and Black Sea perimeter.

**The Mediterranean Science Commission (CIASM)**, established in 1919, is an inter-governmental organization which promotes and encourages research within the Mediterranean and Black Sea perimeter through a network of several thousand marine researchers, applying the latest scientific tools to better understand, monitor and protect the marine ecosystems of the region. Structured in committees and various taskforces, CIASM runs expert workshops, collaborative programs and regular congresses, delivering authoritative, independent advice to national and international agencies.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this MoU is to provide a framework for active liaison and cooperation between the Parties in order to:

- (i) strengthen scientific and technical cooperation among both Parties, with a view to develop synergies in their research and monitoring of marine waters, starting with tracking hydrological change, high-resolution seabed mapping, using ships of opportunity for scientific surveys, applications for the blue economy;
- (ii) exchange relevant experience on issues of mutual interest, including capacity building and training, as well as knowledge transfer for third parties;
- (iii) cooperate towards the provision of technical advice so as to rapidly inform the development of marine policy in relevant international bodies and conventions.

### **Scope of activities**

The Parties will consult each other on matters of common interest to both with a view to ensuring maximum coordination of their respective work and activities.

The Secretary-General of IHO and the Director General of CIESM will exchange information and keep each other informed of projected meetings, activities and programmes of work in fields of common interest. Accordingly, when either Party proposes to initiate a programme or activity on a subject in which the other has or may have a substantial interest, consultation will be initiated between the two with a view to harmonizing their efforts as far as possible.

CIESM will, at the request of IHO, consider providing assistance to IHO with respect to matters within the scope of activities of IHO; and IHO will, at the request of CIESM, consider providing assistance to CIESM in matters falling within the scope of activities of CIESM. Where assistance which is required by either Party under the terms of this MoU involves substantial expenditure, consultations will take place with a view to determining the most equitable manner for meeting such expenditure.

Representatives of IHO may attend as observers, and actively participate without the right to vote, in the scientific sessions of the CIESM Congress and participate in CIESM workshops at which subjects of specific interest to IHO are being discussed.

Representatives of CIESM may attend as observers, and actively participate without the right to vote, in the sessions of the IHO Assembly and participate in meetings of IHO subsidiary bodies at which subjects of specific interest to CIESM are being discussed.

### **Financial Commitment**

It is understood that neither organization can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this MoU, without the specific written consent of both organizations.

### **Confidentiality**

The Parties undertake to preserve the confidentiality of any document, information or other material communicated to them in confidence, disclosure of which could harm the other Party, unless required by law or court order.

### **Legal status**

This MoU does not create a legal obligation between the two organizations which will maintain their mutual independence. It is further agreed that nothing in this MoU shall bind any of the Member States of IHO jointly or severally. Similarly, this MoU shall not bind any of the Member States of CIESM jointly or severally.

**Entry into force, review and termination**

This MoU shall come into operation on the date of the last signature.

This MoU shall be reviewed every four years by the two Parties for extension, amendment or termination.

Signed on behalf of IHO:

Signed on behalf of CIESM:

Robert Ward  
IHO Secretary-General

Frédéric Briand  
CIESM Director General

DATE

DATE

DRAFT