



IHO File No. S1/6200

CIRCULAR LETTER 33/2019
30 June 2019

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

References:

- A. General Regulations of the IHO - Article 16 - *Selection of Members of the Council*
- B. 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference - Decision 6 - *Council Selection Process*
- C. 1st Session of the Assembly – Decision 26 – *Endorsement of the Selection Process for the Council*
- D. IHO CL 20/2019 dated 28 March - The IHO Online Form System for Responses to Circular Letters and Input to IHO Publications (P-5 and C-55).

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A requires the Secretary-General to inform all Member States of the number of seats allocated to each RHC and those Member States eligible for selection by each RHC three months before the ordinary session of the Assembly and determine the procedure for the composition of the Council.
2. The start of the process for determining the composition of the Council is for Member States to indicate to the Secretary-General, at least six months before the session of the Assembly, to which RHC they apply for the selection (Reference A, sub-paragraph (b)(iii) refers) while the Secretary-General is tasked to determine the number of seats allocated to each RHC (Reference A, sub-paragraph (b)(iv) refers).
3. Following the principles of the guidance agreed at Reference B, and noting that the selection process for the Council was endorsed at the 1st Session of the Assembly (Reference C), it is proposed to proceed in the same way for the 2nd Session of the Assembly.
4. This Circular Letter invites **Member States which are full members of more than one RHC**, as listed in Annex A, to indicate in which RHC they wish to be counted for the purpose of enabling the Secretary-General to determine the number of seats on the Council allocated to each RHC.
5. As indicated in Reference B, in the event that no preference is expressed by a Member State that is a member of more than one RHC, the Secretary-General will, in the first instance, allocate that State to the RHC that it joined first. However, following this principle may not be possible in the event that doing so would leave any of the RHC's with no possible candidates to occupy a seat allocated to it on the Council.

6. In order to provide as much time as possible for the Secretary-General to determine the allocation of the number of seats and to inform the Chairs of RHCs accordingly, the Member States concerned are encouraged to express their preferences at their earliest convenience and no later than **20 October 2019** using the form at Annex B, by email (cl-ic@iho.int) or by fax (+377 93 10 81 40), but preferably using the IHO Online Form System (Reference D) by accessing the following link:

https://iho.formstack.com/forms/cl33_2019

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mathias Jonas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

Annexes: - Annex A: List of Member States members of more than one RHC
- Annex B: Response Form

LIST OF IHO MEMBER STATES MEMBERS OF MORE THAN ONE RHC

Brazil
Canada
Colombia
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Iceland
Indonesia
Morocco
Netherlands
Norway
Pakistan
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Spain
Sweden
Thailand
United Kingdom
United States of America

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RESPONSE FORM

To be returned to the IHO Secretariat by **20 October 2019**

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

Member State:	
Point of Contact:	
Contact e-mail:	

RHC in which the Member State wishes to be counted:

(Indicate your choice in decreasing order of priority as applicable. The first choice will be retained whenever possible)

1

2

3

4

Name/Signature: Date: