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CIRCULAR LETTER 53/2019
23 October 2019**WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY**
REPORT ON MEMBER STATES ACTIVITIES IN 2019 AND THE PROPOSED THEME FOR 2020

References:

- A. IHO CL 01/2019 dated 9 January - *Theme for WHD 2019 and Media Outreach*
- B. Summary Report of the 3rd meeting of the IHO Council dated 23 October 2019.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the theme of World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2019 was "Hydrographic information driving marine knowledge". This theme was intended to stress the eminent role of hydrographic data in combination with information provided by adjacent maritime domains and advertises the benefits of making hydrographic data accessible to the widest possible audience for use that goes well beyond safety of navigation.

2. The following IHO Member States have reported hosting events in connection with World Hydrography Day 2019: Bangladesh, Italy, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom. Reports are available at:
www.iho.int>Home>About IHO>World Hydrography Day>WHD 2019 Celebrations around the World

Proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2020

3. At the 3rd IHO Council meeting held in Monaco, from 15 to 17 October 2019, the Secretary-General proposed the theme for WHD 2020 as follows:

"Hydrography - enabling autonomous technologies"

4. The theme highlights the role of hydrography in various dimensions: Firstly for the conduct of hydrographic survey itself by means of autonomously acting sensor carriers such as autonomous surface vehicles (ASV), autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) and flying drones with Lidar equipment. Secondly to pave the way for the expected development of safe, secure and environmentally sound Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) operations under the auspices of the IMO, which will definitely rely on certified hydrographic information.

5. The Council Member States endorsed this proposal and invited the IHO Secretariat to issue the corresponding IHO Circular Letter. (Reference B¹, Decision and Action C3/39).

6. Member States are requested to note the endorsement of the IHO Council, to consider the proposed theme for WHD 2020 and to provide their comments, if any, to the Secretariat **no later than 31 December 2019**. The Secretariat would also welcome any comments and suggestions aimed at improving the impact and the organization of annual WHD celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

¹ Available at www.iho.int > IHO Council > C-3 > Documents > Post Meeting Documents > Summary Report