



International Hydrographic Organization

IENWG-4

Saint-Mandé, France, 18-19 January 2016

Galway Statement and relations with EMODnet

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Background

- Galway Statement (24 May 2013)

EU, Canada, USA *“intend to advance our shared vision of an Atlantic Ocean that is healthy, resilient, safe, productive, understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations”*

- Implementation through the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (AORA) and the Galway Implementation Committee (Canada/DFO, USA/NOAA, EU/DG RTD)

- Link to Horizon 2020

- Seabed Mapping component

- Initial workshop in Dublin, December 2014 (EU, Canada, USA and Brazil)
- 1st North Atlantic Seabed Mapping Meeting, Brussels, February 2015
 - Chaired by Mr Alan Stevenson, British Geological Survey (BGS) / EuroGeoSurvey Marine Geology Expert Group (EGS MGEG)
 - IHB invited through NOAA (not the EC!)
 - general discussions of ideas and challenges for seabed mapping
 - considerations on improving linkages across programmes and leveraging existing ocean exploration data, knowledge and infrastructure
 - agreement to identify a target pilot area in the North Atlantic and the minimum data required
 - acknowledgment of the requirement to raise awareness of the need for mapping the Atlantic
 - agreement to encourage engagement with the GEBCO project and the use of the DCDB



Background

■ Seabed Mapping component (continued)

- 2nd North Atlantic Seabed Mapping Meeting, Cork, Ireland, July 2015
 - review of related activities and projects
 - further discussion on pilot project areas
 - further discussion on the connection with GEBCO and consideration of DCDB development and opportunity for specific provisions
 - establishment of the Atlantic Seabed Mapping International Working Group (ASMIWG)
- 3rd ASMIWG Meeting, St John's, Newfoundland, Canada, October 2015
 - reports on transects in the North Atlantic and the Arctic
 - agreement to use DCDB as project data store
 - looking for harmonization with Transatlantic Ocean Literacy Working Group
 - discussions on the preparation of draft recommendations to the Galway Implementation Committee (initial deadline of end of 2015 not met ...)
 - review of draft terms of reference and rules of procedure
- Next meetings
 - ASMIWG-4, New Orleans, USA, in conjunction with Ocean Sciences 2016 Meeting, 21-26 Feb
 - ASMIWG-5, Ireland, mid-summer (tbd)
 - IHB investigates the possibility to arrange back-to-back meeting with the CSBWG in the second half of 2016

