

**9th MEETING OF THE IHO MARINE SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURES
WORKING GROUP (IHO-MSDIWG9)**

Niteroi, Brazil, 30 January - 1 February 2018

Report of the IHO Secretariat

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| Submitted by: | IHO Secretariat |
| Executive Summary: | This paper provides a summary report of matters of interest related to the work of the IHO Secretariat. |

Status of Membership of the IHO

1. Malta, Vanuatu and Seychelles have become 86th, 87th and 88th Member States of the IHO during the report period. One of the main changes resulting from the entry into force of the revised IHO Convention is that, for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations, there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO.
2. The Dominican Republic has been reinstated as IHO Member State in 1 January 2018 (IHO CL 6/2018 refers).

IHO GIS and Databases

3. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS which is composed of two main parts:
 - a country information database, and
 - a regional information database.
4. **IHO Yearbook.** The country information database has been progressively upgraded to include additional administrative information and to facilitate the maintenance of the IHO Yearbook (IHO Publication P-5) and related lists posted on the IHO website.
5. An Esri-based **GIS solution** is being implemented to develop further the **regional information database**. This enables access to various layers of information through the IHO website and through cloud-based online GIS options. The IHO ENC Catalogue and the IHO GIS for Antarctica have already been transferred to this new environment.
6. **C-55.** Work has continued on developing a GIS database application to support C-55 – *Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide* and the work of the IHO. In response to the request to complement C-55 composite data (percentage of areas adequately surveyed / requiring re-survey / not surveyed) with CATZOC information (see IHO CL 52/2015), CATZOC data was provided by PRIMAR - on behalf of IC-ENC, PRIMAR and Canada, Singapore, Sweden and Thailand. Useful options for visualizing the data in the IHO C-55 GIS continue to be investigated.
7. **On-line Registration for IHO Meetings.** The Secretariat has introduced an online registration system, financed and developed by the Republic of Korea, for IHO meetings. Anyone that has not previously registered for a meeting must firstly register their identity so as to obtain a password. Thereafter, that person can register for any meeting for which they are entitled to attend.

Outcomes of the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly

8. See document IRCC9-08A and CL 48/2017 dated 22 August.

Outcomes of the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council

9. See CL 55/2017 dated 31 October.

IHO Outreach

10. The theme of World Hydrography Day 2018 (WHD 2018) *Bathymetry – the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways* (CL 3/2018 refers) took into account the world's increasing focus on the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the outcome of the UN Ocean Conference in support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 concerning the ocean, as well as the declaration of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO to commit to an International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

11. The theme provides the opportunity to raise awareness for a better understanding of the depth and shape of the seafloor which is key to a broader understanding of natural processes and the success of all human activities in, on or under the sea -including safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, development of the blue economy and the sustainable use and governance of the marine domain.

12. The theme also reflects the aims of IHO Resolution 1/2017 - Improving the Availability of Bathymetric Data Worldwide that was adopted by the first session of the Assembly of the IHO. The theme may also be used to support the promotion and encouragement of innovative supplementary data gathering therefore maximizing initiatives such as crowd-sourced bathymetry (volunteered geographic data) and satellite-derived bathymetry as well as promoting the related activities of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Programme (including the Nippon Foundation - GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project) and national hydrographic surveying programmes.

13. The theme will also help to promote the role of hydrographic data in national and regional spatial data infrastructures and advertise for the benefits of making hydrographic data accessible to the widest possible audience for use that goes well beyond safety of navigation. It will also acknowledge the increasing interest being shown by the UN-Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in marine geospatial data, as shown by its consideration of establishing a dedicated UN-GGIM working group on marine geospatial information.

14. International Hydrographic Review (IHR). The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Regional Hydrographic Commissions and Member States to publicize technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ian.halls1@defence.au.gov). The deadlines are end of January for the May Edition and end of July for the November Edition.

Capacity Building Programme

15. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme in 2017 (873 051 Euros) was 14% larger than the previous year. The IHO Capacity Building programme is funded from the IHO budget and is supplemented by additional financial support from Member States (currently the Nippon Foundation of Japan, and the Republic of Korea) with in-kind support from Member States and from industry. However, considering the growing demands for IHO Capacity Building activities, more funds and contributions are required.

16. The Secretary-General established a full-time Capacity Building Assistant in the IHO Secretariat as of 1 January 2018 as tasked by the IHO Council in its 1st Meeting.

Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry

17. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC-5, IRCC7 established a Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowd-sourced bathymetry. The WG is intensively working on a CSB Guidance document with a target completion date for the final draft in the first quarter of 2018 (CL 49/2017 refers).

18. The web-based interface portal to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry, hosted by the USA in Boulder, Colorado, as part of its commitment to the system of World Data Centres, is being upgraded to be

compatible with the crowd-sourced bathymetry concept. This will enable an IHO-led CSB infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community.

IHO Publication C-17

19. The draft Edition 2.0.0 of the IHO Publication C-17 - *Spatial Data Infrastructures: "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices* is in the process of approval by Member States (CL 67/2017 refers). Deadline is 30 January 2018.

Action Requested of MSDIWG:

20. The MSDIWG is requested to:

1. Note this report;
2. Consider submitting papers for publication in the International Hydrographic Review; and
3. Take any other actions as considered appropriate.