

“Chartlet Method” of the Revision of S-23 (Limits of Oceans and Seas)  
(Proposal by Japan)

- I. Procedures for the revision (Chartlet Method) (See the [attached chart](#), as well)
  1. The revision of S-23 will be predicated on the current edition (the third edition) which is officially valid.

(N.B. It is possible to revise S-23 by using the draft 2002 version, except for the following categories of oceans and seas:

    - 1) Those oceans and seas on whose names and/or limits there existed divergent views among member states in 2002; and
    - 2) Those oceans and seas whose names and /or limits were not considered in 2002, but since then proposals for their changes have been raised.)
  2. A new standing working group on the revision of S-23 (hereinafter referred to as “WG”) will be established in the IHO.

[STEP 1]

3. The oceans and seas described in S-23 (third edition) will be divided into, for example, ten zones for administrative purposes as follows. The actual zoning will be conducted and decided by the WG. (N.B. It is expected that each zone and its sub-divisions constitute a chapter of the publication.)
  - Zone 1 North Atlantic Ocean and its sub-divisions.
  - Zone 2 Baltic Sea and its sub-divisions.
  - Zone 3 Mediterranean Region and its sub-divisions.
  - Zone 4 South Atlantic Ocean and its sub-division.
  - Zone 5 Indian Ocean and its sub-division.
  - Zone 6 South China and Eastern Archipelagic Seas and its sub-divisions.
  - Zone 7 North Pacific Ocean and its sub-divisions.
  - Zone 8 South Pacific Ocean and its sub-divisions
  - Zone 9 Arctic Ocean and its sub-divisions.
  - Zone 10 Southern Ocean and its sub-divisions.

[STEP 2]

4. Each sub-division is given a number for administrative purposes so that all of the oceans and seas contained in S-23 will have their own numbers.

[STEP 3]

5. When a member state wants to change any names and/or limits of an ocean or sea in S-23, this member state proposes such changes to all the interested member states, including those who are geographically close to the ocean/sea in question, for their consideration and approval. Having obtained the approval, the member state will submit the proposed change to the WG.
6. After due consideration and approval by the WG, the proposal will be submitted to the next International Hydrographic Conference for its final approval.
7. After the aforementioned proposal is officially approved at the International Hydrographic Conference, a new chartlet covering the said ocean/sea will accordingly overwrite the corresponding part of S-23.
8. The revised S-23 will be specified with the year in which the official approval is made at the Conference, for example "S-23/version2012".
9. Updating and maintenance of S-23 will be made by repeating STEP 3 (paragraphs 5 to 8) of the procedures.

II. Merits

1. The Chartlet Method allows the revision of S-23 at every Conference so that S-23 will be able to reflect any new developments that may arise concerning names and/or limits of certain oceans or seas in a timely manner.
2. The Chartlet Method would not prevent the revision of entire S-23 even if there remain different views among some member states regarding names and/or limits of certain oceans or seas.