

# Work Plan 2018/2019

## 1. Introduction

Water is at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, energy and food production, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself. Water is also at the heart of adaptation to climate change, serving as the crucial link between society, the global economy and the environment.

Approximately 70% of the Earth's surface is water, inland water bodies, rivers and tributaries, seas and oceans, it is estimated that more than three billion people depend on the seas and oceans for their primary source of protein. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has estimated that 90% of the world's trade is carried upon seas and oceans.

Marine geospatial information including information on tributaries is needed to support the administration, management and governance of these environment to meet the demand for critical analysis when questions arise pertaining to the governance, management and coordination of these environments and the resources. Such needs include information on spaces for recreation, telecommunication and transportation and for natural resources yielding food, medicine, energy and minerals. The information gathered will play a vital role in measuring, monitoring and mitigating climate risk in coastal zones, deltas and tributaries, seas and oceans, and in supporting national development priorities and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.




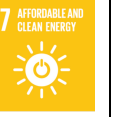




In addition to the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Decision 7/111, this work plan recognizes two recent calls to action as foundational to its goals:

July 2010 - The United Nations General Assembly recognized the human right to water and sanitation. The Assembly recognized the right of every human being to have access to sufficient water for personal and domestic uses.

December 2017 – The United Nations General Assembly's resolution 72/73 recognized that hydrographic surveys and nautical charting are critical to the safety of navigation and life at sea, environmental protection, including the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and the economics of the global shipping industry, and encouraging further efforts towards electronic charting, which not only provides significantly increased benefits for safe navigation and management of ship movement, but also provides data and information that can be used for sustainable fisheries activities and other sectoral uses of the marine environment, the delimitation of maritime boundaries and environmental protection.

This work plan will support ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 by aiming to strengthen, within resources, the operations of the Committee that focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many of the SDGs have strong dependencies on their relationships with water and therefor need access to accurate data, that honors international standards, in order to make evidence based decisions and to monitor progress. Geospatial information in the marine domain and the inland waters must work in concert with other geospatial data, on land and in the atmosphere.



SDGs with interest in marine geospatial information								
								

Working Group’s objectives as stated in the Terms of Reference:

- play a leading role at the policy level by raising political awareness and highlighting the importance of reliable; timely and fit-for-purpose marine geospatial information to support the administration, management, and governance of the marine and ocean environments.
- encourage the use of internationally agreed-upon geospatial information frameworks, schemas, systems and established standards to improve the growing inter-dependent relationships between people and the marine environments; and
- support the Committee of Experts in the development of norms, principles, guides and standards to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable geospatial information including any regional capacity development initiatives

## 2. Goals for the Work Plan

Building the foundation to ensure that standardized, accessible, and easy to interpret geospatial information in the marine domain is available for decision makers will have to be a coordinated effort that unfolds in many steps.

The plan takes a graduated approach to presenting a path toward managing and promoting this type of information. It starts with tasks that can be completed in the short term and are critical toward establishing the business practices of the working group. It then offers steps that are more long term in nature and those that are ongoing. The work plan strives to support the Committee of Expert’s mandated objectives as they relate to water in the global geospatial information management domain:

Leadership	Coordination	Capacity Development	Standards	Inclusion
Provide Leadership in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges	Provide a forum for coordination and dialogue with and among Member States and relevant international organizations on enhanced cooperation	Provide a platform for the development of effective strategies to build and strengthen national capacity and capability concerning geospatial information, especially in developing countries	Propose work-plans, frameworks and guidelines to promote common principles, policies, methods, standards and mechanisms for the interoperability and use of geospatial data and services	Make joint decisions and set the direction for the production and use of geospatial information within and across national, regional and global policy frameworks



### 3. Activities and deliverables

Goal	Timeline	Action	Expected Outcome	Person/Area Responsible	Comments <i>Level of effort and impact</i>
1. Leadership, Coordination	2018	<i>Draft communications plan to describe the benefits, results and value that the WG is providing</i>	<i>Facilitates the discovery of WG efforts and expands results to larger community of practice</i>	United States	<b>Moderate Medium Impact</b>
2. Coordination	Ongoing	<i>Liaise with relevant organizations and coordination bodies</i>	<i>Maintain network of organizations with complementary objectives</i>	Co-Chairs	<b>Easy Supports Requests from UN-GGIM</b>
3. Capacity Development, Inclusion	2018	<i>Recognize one existing capacity development initiative that is underway and could benefit from WG expertise</i>	<i>Help the WG focus on work that will support capacity development</i>	Chile	<b>Moderate</b>
4. Leadership, Coordination	2018	<i>Build list, and make initial contact with relevant international organizations apart from IHO</i>	<i>Establish network of organizations with complementary objectives and those who could benefit from WG expertise</i>	Denmark	<b>Easy Supports Requests from UN-GGIM</b>
5. Leadership, Coordination, Capacity Development, Inclusion	Ongoing	<i>Liaise with and participate in GGIM Regional Entities to establish regular MGI agenda presence</i>	<i>Increased cooperation at the regional level and increased opportunity to participate in capacity development</i>	co-Chairs	<b>Moderate Helps with future direction</b>
6. Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2019	<i>Recognize and endorse established standards for geospatial information in marine and inland waters</i>	<i>Users of geospatial information will have a single reference for internationally recognized standards in marine and inland waters</i>	Working Group	<b>Easy Important for Standards and as foundation for Working Group</b>



7. Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2020	<i>Produce best practices document for working across land and sea interface (coastal zone) in order to bring terrestrial and marine data standards together</i>	<i>Users of geospatial information will have a single reference for working with land and sea datasets including inland tributary hydrographic data</i>	<i>pending</i>	<b>Difficult High Impact</b>
8. Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2020	<i>Produce use case document showing the benefits of open (readily available) marine geospatial information – include minimum standards needed for data</i>	<i>Member States will have a reference for the benefits of providing easy access to marine data and the recommended data types to make available</i>	<i>Co-Chairs and Denmark, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom and IHO</i>	<b>Difficult High Impact</b>
9. Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2020	<i>Develop understanding (and subsequently provide guidance) to link any marine spatial data infrastructure to national spatial data infrastructure, and to ensure the principle of “build once, use many times”</i>	<i>The integration of any marine spatial data infrastructure into the jurisdiction’s national spatial data infrastructure and national geospatial information system provides immense benefits to Member States</i>	<i>pending</i>	<b>Difficult High Impact</b>
10. Leadership, Coordination	2018	<i>Consider, coordinate and deliver session(s) and panel(s) on marine geospatial information development and application at United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (19 – 21 November 2018, Deqing, China)</i>	<i>Raised awareness and value of marine geospatial information and promote understanding of WG’s activities and efforts</i>	<i>Co-Chairs</i>	<b>Moderate High Impact</b>



#### 4. Activity and Meeting Schedule

For 2018-

	Activity and Place	Time and Deadlines
Reporting to the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts	Summary	May
	Report	June
	The 8 <sup>th</sup> Session of UN-GGIM	30 Jul to 3 Aug, 2018
Meetings of the Working Group	First Meeting (virtual)	26 March 2018
	Second Meeting (virtual)	June (report review)
	Third Meeting (New York City)	during 8 <sup>th</sup> UN-GGIM
	Fourth Meeting (virtual)	November

For 2019-

	Activity	Time, Place and Deadlines
Reporting to the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts	Summary	May
	Report	June
	The 9 <sup>h</sup> Session of UN-GGIM	5 to 9 Aug, 2019
Meetings of the Working Group	Fifth Meeting (TBD)	February
	Sixth Meeting (virtual)	June (report review)
	Seventh Meeting (New York City)	during 9 <sup>th</sup> UN-GGIM

(26 April 2018)



**Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information**

**UN-GGIM**

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management

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