Working Together Across Borders and Regions
- in the Hydrographic Domain

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Hydrography:

Surveying and charting (mapping) the world’s seas, oceans and navigable waters

... measuring the depth of the sea

... defining the shape of the seafloor

... locating seafloor hazards
So, what are the drivers for successful cooperation and coordination in hydrography?

- Many (most?) maritime geodata users travel the seas and operate cross its man-made borders …

  - Most need the same information
  - Many are obliged to use the same systems and to use official geodata sources
    - dialogue and mutual cooperation
    - interoperable data exchange standards
    - capacity building, training, education
Cooperation and Coordination in the IHO

- **Dialogue and mutual cooperation**
  - IHO – established 1921
    - 82 Member States
  - 16 Regional Hydrographic Commissions
Cooperation and Coordination in the IHO

- Encourages Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures - MSDI
- Establishment of national hydrographic priorities committees
- Promotes inter-organizational cooperation and support
  - measure once, pay once, use many times
Cooperation and Coordination in the IHO

- **Establishment of common data exchange standards**
  - Universal implementation of IHO standards and guidelines

- **Active capacity building programmes**
  - Minimum level of capability in every coastal State
  - Established baselines
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**The Obstacles:**

- limited inter-disciplinary recognition, contact or collaboration
  - *sea blindness*
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The Obstacles:

- inflexible attitudes

  ➔ “… our data is special - and only we know how to use it properly ”

  ➔ “… digital bathymetry is a defence asset – so access is denied

  ➔ “… I must protect copyright ( =income?) and my government’s exposure to liability…”
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The Obstacles:

- lack of public awareness
- lack of high level government support
- hydrography is not sexy
- it doesn’t win elections!