The International Hydrographic Organization

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Hydrography provides the fundamental backdrop to every human activity that takes place in, on or under the sea ...

- science
- commerce
- recreation
- environment
- search
- and rescue
- ...

[Image of a ship on the ocean with a map in the background]
What is the IHO?

- Intergovernmental technical and consultative organization
- Established 1921
- ... to ensure that the World’s seas, oceans and navigable waterways are adequately mapped

- IHO encourages and supports:
  - Standardisation
  - Measure once - use many times
  - Data interoperability
  - Data discovery
  - Crowd-sourcing
What is the IHO?

- 87 Member States
  - represented by the national Hydrographer or the authority with responsibility for hydrography or nautical charting services

- IHO headquarters and secretariat in Monaco

- competent authority for hydrography and nautical charting in UN Assembly, IMO, UNESCO-IOC, UN-DOALOS, WMO, ISA, ...

- IHO standards are normative references for IMO, UNCLOS, ... others
Aims of the IHO

- ensuring that the World's seas, oceans and navigable waterways are adequately mapped

- ensuring bathymetry is available for the benefit of as many users as possible
  - safety of navigation
  - supporting *the blue environment*
  - supporting *the blue economy*
  - marine spatial planning
  - ...

- contributing to Marine SDIs
  - as part of national and regional SDI's
IHO Achievements

- Globally implemented standards and guidelines for:
  - hydrographic data measurement and collection
  - standardised presentation of nautical information in charts and allied products and services
  - established protocols for data exchange and distribution
  - the naming of ocean undersea features
  - the training of hydrographic surveyors and nautical cartographers

- IHO provides the global, open access, reference depth dataset for all the seas and oceans (IHO-DCDB, GEBCO)
The IHO and the proposed UN-GGIM - MGIWG

UN-GGIM – MGIWG can:

- provide common strategic guidance to the met-ocean and the terrestrial geo-information communities
  - encourage effective coordination
  - promote global best practices
  - encourage interoperability and accessibility of geospatial information for the benefit of all

The UN-GGIM MGIWG will join the land and sea together!