



**Eighth Session of the Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management**
Side Event on Marine Geospatial Information
“Maritime limits and boundaries”

Monday, 30 July 2018

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Venue: Conference Room 11 (CR-11)
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

The Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information recognized that Geospatial information on inland water bodies and waterways, and coastal zones, seas and oceans, is needed to support its administration and management, and to meet the demand for critical analysis when questions arise pertaining to the governance of these waters and their resources. The information gathered plays a vital role in measuring, monitoring and mitigating climate risk in coastal zones, deltas and tributaries; in supporting national development priorities; and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has a goal to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources”, - Goal 14. Under this goal, there is a target -

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”¹.

and there is an indicator –

14.c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources.

¹

“The Future We Want”

158. We recognize that oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth’s ecosystem and are critical to sustaining it and that international law, as reflected in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), provides the legal framework for the conservation and the sustainable use of the oceans and their resources. We stress the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through the contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security, creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change. We therefore commit to protect, and restore, the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, and to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities impacting on the marine environment, to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development.

159. We recognize the importance of UNCLOS to advancing sustainable development and its near universal adoption by States, and in this regard, we urge all its Parties to fully implement their obligations under the Convention.

“This is an open side event and all Session Attendees are invited”



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Noting that SDG indicator 14.c.1 is currently classified as Tier III (no internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested)², there is an urgent need for an internationally agreed standard(s) and methodology(s) to facilitate building open, coordinate-based, geospatial information management system and infrastructure containing maritime zones and maritime boundaries, and their associated rights, restrictions, and responsibilities, enabling Member States, among others, to prepare and deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations information on the outer limits of those maritime zones and maritime boundaries in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

This side event is supported by the International Hydrographic Organization S-121 Maritime Limits and Boundaries Project Team. The side event will allow Member States to appreciate the progress in the development of the above-mentioned standard for maritime limits and boundaries that allows for the representation of marine areas and their associated rights, restrictions, and responsibilities in alignment with UNCLOS. The standard is also based on ISO standard 19152 Land Administration Domain Model.

Proposed Agenda

Moderator: Sébastien Durand, IHO S-121 Vice-Chair, and Member of the Canadian Delegation

- Opening of the side event, welcoming the audience, introducing the presenters (5 min)
- Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information - Promoting established standards in inland waterways, coastal zones, seas and oceans (20 min)

John Nyberg, Co-Chair of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information, USA

- Maritime limits and boundaries standard (S-121) (30 min) including short videos
Mathias Jonas, Secretary-General, International Hydrographic Organization

- Maritime limits and boundaries infrastructure (20 min)
Stuart Minchin, Chief, Environmental Geoscience Division, Geoscience Australia

- MarineCadastre.gov - An Ocean of Information (20 min)
Tony LaVoi, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA

- Moderated interactive discussion with participants and presenters (25 minutes)

- Summary and Conclusions by Moderator (5 min)

²

Indicators were classified into three tiers based on their level of methodological development and data availability

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