

Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information Work Plan for 2021 - 2022

1. Background

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 inland water bodies, rivers and tributaries is needed to support the administration, management and governance of these environments 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 addressing issues, challenges and opportunities in oceans and seas, coastal zones, deltas and tributaries, inland waters and water bodies, and in supporting national development and strategic priorities and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



At its sixth session in August 2016, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) recognized the need to consider the marine environment, namely, shorelines, coastal waters, seas and oceans, as a key component of the spatial data infrastructure that underpins the administration, management and governance of land and marine spaces, and the national geospatial resources of many littoral Member States. In addition to the UN-GGIM Decision 7/111 that endorsed the terms of reference and established the Working Group, this work plan recognizes two recent calls to action as foundational to its goals:

The United Nations General Assembly's resolution 72/73 (December 2017) 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; and

The United Nations General Assembly in July 2010 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.



The work plan supports ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 (July 2016) aiming to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, in capacity-building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data sharing, among others, through appropriate coordination mechanisms, bearing in mind that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway unequivocally call for globally coordinated actions in new data acquisition and integration approaches and in employing geospatial information for sustainable development and disaster risk reduction.

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 UN-GGIM 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

At its second expert meeting from 24 – 28 February 2020, the Working Group agreed that its current work plan (for the biennium 2019 – 2020) be reviewed and updated to reflect completed activities, the white paper on ‘Readily Available and Accessible Marine Geospatial Information’, emerging issues, challenges and opportunities and the views, guidance and decisions of UN-GGIM at its tenth session. At the sixth online meeting, the Working Group agreed that the work plan should be updated for the period 2021 - 2022 and to include efforts to consider and implement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for Earth’s watered surface.

2. Goals for the Work Plan 2021-2022

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



The work 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 UN-GGIM's mandated objectives as they relate to the marine environment (including inland waters and water bodies) within 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/ Status	Action	Expected Outcome	Person/Area Responsible	Comments <i>Level of effort and impact</i>
1 Coordination	<i>Ongoing</i>	Liaise with relevant organizations and coordination bodies	<i>Maintain network of organizations with complementary objectives</i>	Co-Chairs	Easy Supports Requests from UN-GGIM
2 Capacity Development and Inclusion	<i>Ongoing</i>	Recognize one existing capacity development initiative that is underway and could benefit from WG expertise	<i>Help the WG focus on work that will support capacity development</i>	<i>Chile, IHO Joint Capacity Building Working Group</i>	Moderate
3 Leadership, Coordination, Capacity Development and Inclusion	<i>Ongoing</i>	Liaise with and participate in plenary meetings of regional committees of UN-GGIM to raise awareness and promote the objectives, functions and activities of the Working Group	<i>Increased cooperation at the regional level and increased opportunity to raise awareness and engage in capacity development</i>	Co-Chairs	Moderate Helps with future direction
4 Leadership, Coordination, Standards	<i>Ongoing</i>	Recognize and endorse established standards for marine geospatial information – formalize in 'IGIF-W' ¹	<i>Users of geospatial information will have a single reference for internationally recognized standards in marine and inland waters</i>	Work Group	Easy Important for Standards and a foundation for WG
5 Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2021	Consider and begin documenting good practices on working across land and sea interface (coastal zone) in order to bring terrestrial and maritime data and standards together	<i>Users of geospatial information will have a single reference for working with land and sea datasets including inland tributary hydrographic data</i>	<i>Collaborate with OGC Marine Domain Working Group</i>	Difficult High Impact
6 Leadership, Coordination, Standards	<i>On hold until resources are identified</i>	Produce guide on marine geospatial information standards for the common person	<i>Users of geospatial information will have a plain language guide to using standards in the marine domain</i>	OGC	Difficult High Impact

¹ The Working Group has embarked on a body of work to leverage the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and its Implementation Guide and explain/expound the need for integrated marine geospatial information to be readily available and accessible for national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Goal	Timeline/ Status	Action	Expected Outcome	Person/Area Responsible	Comments <i>Level of effort and impact</i>
7 Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2022	As part of the 'IGIF-W', 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>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>to be decided</i>	Difficult High Impact
8 Leadership, Capacity Development and Inclusion	2021, 2022	Organize side events and open meetings at annual sessions of UN-GGIM	<i>Providing a forum for exchange and dialogue with and among Member States, sharing knowledge and promoting understanding of good practices and experiences</i>	Co-Chairs	Moderate Helps with future direction
9 Leadership, Coordination	2021, 2022	Conceptualize and develop the 'IGIF-W' to explain and expound to implementors of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, as well as to provide guidance to address issues and ensure that the watered/marine aspect is addressed when operationalizing the IGIF at the country-level	<i>The 'IGIF-W' as a reference and guidance when operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework at the country-level, and to include IHO/ISO/OGC standards, maritime limits and boundaries and integrated ecosystems based data management</i>	Co-Chairs, Singapore/IHO Technology Laboratory	Difficult High Impact
10 Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2021 – 2022	Propose and submit 'IGIF-W' to the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as a UN-GGIM contribution towards the science driven innovative solutions	<i>Supports the UN-GGIM consistent guidance to participate in the Decade</i>	Co-Chairs	Easy/Moderate High Impact
11 Leadership, Capacity, Coordination, Development and Inclusion	2021	Deliver an international seminar to support the development of the 'IGIF-W' in conjunction with the IHO Technology Laboratory and the IHO MSDIWG	<i>Engages Member States and relevant stakeholders, supports the development of the 'IGIF-W' to meet the operational needs of Member States and builds upon partnership with the IHO, its IHO Technology Laboratory and relevant stakeholders</i>	Co-Chairs, Singapore/IHO Technology Laboratory	Moderate High Impact



4. Activity and Meeting Schedule

For 2021-

Activity		Time and deadlines
Reporting to UN-GGIM	Summary	Mid-May
	Report	End-June
11 th Session of UN-GGIM 4– 6 August 2021	Side events	2 - 5 August 2021
	Open meeting with delegates	4 – 5 August 2021
Meetings of the Working Group	Eighth online meeting	February 2021
	Third Expert Meeting and UN-GGIM International Seminar on Integrated Marine Geospatial Information	May 2021 <i>(to be confirmed)</i>
	Ninth online meeting	October 2021

For 2022-

Activity		Time and deadlines
Reporting to UN-GGIM	Summary	Mid-May
	Report	End-June
12 th Session of UN-GGIM August 2022	Side events	August 2022
	Open meeting with delegates	August 2022
Meetings of the Working Group	Tenth online meeting	January 2022
	Fourth expert meeting (<i>face- to-face and to be confirmed</i>)	March 2022
	Eleventh online meeting	May 2022
	Twelfth online meeting	October 2022

(November 2020)

