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Marine geospatial information

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on marine geospatial information, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress of the working group in its efforts to provide guidance and encourage the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information for the benefits of society, the environment and the economy.

Summary of the report

At its ninth session, held in New York from 7 to 9 August 2019, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 9/108, in which it noted the progress made by the working group on its use case exercise on data availability and interoperability and invited it to consider the variety of marine data sources that might be available, and in that regard to consider capacity development activities to strengthen marine geospatial information capabilities in developing countries and small island developing States. The Committee noted that the working group's terms of reference included the consideration of coastal zones, inland waterways and water bodies and requested it to consider and facilitate integrated ecosystems geospatial data management practices.

In the report, the working group provides information on its progress to date, including its 2nd expert meeting, held in Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany, from 24 to 28 February 2020. The working group discusses progress in the use case exercise to explore the issues, challenges and benefits of making available, and providing easy access to, marine geospatial information, documenting these issues and considering solutions from real-world practices and experiences. In that regard, it has prepared a white paper in which it reports on the findings and conclusions of the use case

* E/C.20/2020/20.



exercise and related case studies provided by members of the working group. In the white paper, provided as a background document to the report, the working group seeks to demonstrate the benefits of readily available and accessible marine geospatial information conceptually, provide information on the challenges that many countries face in making marine geospatial information more readily available and accessible, and develop some guidance on actions to enhance the availability and accessibility of marine geospatial information in order to ensure its widest and fullest utility.
