

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





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 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 !







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