Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information
Work Plan for 2019 - 2020

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 Committee of Experts 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 Committee of Experts 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 first expert meeting from 7 – 9 March 2019, the Working Group agreed that its current work plan (for the biennium 2018 – 2019) be updated to reflect completed activities and revised to include additional agreed activities.

2. Goals for the Work Plan 2019-2020

Building the foundation to ensure that standardized, accessible, and easy to apply geospatial information in the marine domain 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 Committee of Expert'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 *Level of effort and impact*
1. Leadership, Coordination	*Completed*	*Draft communications plan to describe the benefits, results and value that the WG is providing*	*Facilitates the discovery of WG efforts and expands results to larger community of practice*	*United States*	**Moderate Medium Impact**

2. Coordination	*Ongoing*	*Liaise with relevant organizations and coordination bodies*	*Maintain network of organizations with complementary objectives*	*Co-Chairs*	**Easy Supports Requests from UN-GGIM**
3. Capacity Development and Inclusion	*Ongoing*	*Recognize one existing capacity development initiative that is underway and could benefit from WG expertise*	*Help the WG focus on work that will support capacity development*	*Chile, IHO Joint Capacity Building WG*	**Moderate**
4. Leadership, Coordination	*Completed*	*Build list, and make initial contact with relevant international organizations apart from IHO*	*Establish network of organizations with complementary objectives and those who could benefit from WG expertise*	*Denmark*	**Easy Supports Requests from UN-GGIM**
5. Leadership, Coordination, Capacity Development and Inclusion	*Ongoing*	*Liaise with and participate in GGIM Regional Entities to establish regular MGI agenda presence*	*Increased cooperation at the regional level and increased opportunity to participate in capacity development*	*co-Chairs*	**Moderate Helps with future direction**
6. *Leadership, Coordination, Standards*	2019	*Recognize and endorse established standards for geospatial information in marine and inland waters*	*Users of geospatial information will have a single reference for internationally recognized standards in marine and inland waters*	*Work Group*	**Easy Important for Standards and as foundation for WG**
7. Leadership, Coordination, Standards		*Produce best practices document for working across land and sea interface (coastal zone) in order to bring terrestrial and*	*Users of geospatial information will have a single reference for working with land and sea*	*pending*	**Difficult High Impact**

		marine data standards together	*datasets including inland tributary hydrographic data*		
8. Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2019	*Produce guide on marine geospatial standards for the common person*	*Users of geospatial information will have a plain language guide to using standards in the marine domain*	*OGC*	**Difficult High Impact**
9. Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2019	*Review questions for use case and present edits for use case survey scenario questions*	*Updates will clarify the questions for the use case, yielding better results*	*Australia, Denmark, Italy, Jamaica, Netherlands, Norway and United States (USA to coordinate)*	**Moderate High Impact**
10. Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2019, 2020	*Produce use case document showing the benefits of open (readily available and accessible) marine geospatial information – include minimum standards needed for data; and embark on the use case exercise*	*Member States will have a reference for the benefits of providing easy access to marine data and the recommends data types to make available*	*Co-Chairs and Denmark, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, United Kingdom and IHO*	**Difficult High Impact**
11. Leadership, Coordination, Standards	2020	*Develop understanding (and subsequently provide guidance) to link any marine spatial data infrastructure to national spatial data infrastructure, and to ensure the principle*	*The integration of any marine spatial data infrastructure into the jurisdiction's national spatial data infrastructure and national*	*pending*	**Difficult High Impact**

		of "build once, use many times"	*geospatial information system provides immense benefits to Member States*		
12. Leadership, Coordination	Completed	*Consider, coordinate and deliver session(s) and panel(s) on marine geospatial information development and application at United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (19 – 21 November 2018, Deqing, China)*	*Raised awareness and value of marine geospatial information and promote understanding of WG's activities and efforts*	*Co-Chairs*	**Moderate High Impact**
13. Leadership, Capacity Development and Inclusion	*2019, 2020*	*Organize side events and open meetings at annual sessions of UN-GGIM*	*Providing a forum exchange and dialogue with and among Member States, sharing knowledge and promoting understanding of good practices and experiences*	*co-Chairs*	**Moderate Helps with future direction**
14. Leadership, Coordination	2019, 2020	*Contribute to the development of the Implementation Guide of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework with a marine geospatial information "lens"*	*The Implementation Guide provides guidance and recommends actions for Governments to strengthen or organize their arrangements in geospatial information management and its related infrastructures*	*co-Chairs*	**Difficult High Impact**

4. Activity and Meeting Schedule

For 2019 -

Activity		Time and deadlines
Reporting to UN-GGIM	Summary	Mid-May
	Report	End-June
9th Session of UN-GGIM 5 – 9 August 2019	Side events	5 - 6 August 2019
	Open meeting with delegates	7 – 9 August 2019
Meetings of the Working Group	Fourth online meeting	May 2019
	Fifth online meeting	September/October 2019

For 2020 -

Activity		Time and deadlines
Reporting to UN-GGIM	Summary	Mid-May
	Report	End-June
10th Session of UN-GGIM August 2020	Side events	August 2020
Meetings of the Working Group	Sixth online meeting	January 2020
	Second expert meeting (face-to-face and to be confirmed)	March 2020
	Seventh online meeting	May 2020
	Eighth online meeting	September/October 2020

(May 2019)