

# Item 4.3:

## IOC Review into Future GEBCO Engagement

33rd Meeting of Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee

VALPARAISO, CHILE  
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# Background

- GEBCO: a joint IHO-IOC project since 1973 (Resolution VIII-3)
- IOC's involvement in GEBCO reduced over the past 10 years.
- 28th IOC Assembly (Paris, 18–25 June 2015)
  - **Decision 6.2(II)**: the GEBCO project would be reviewed by the review group to consider IOC's role and involvement in the project, mainly from a view point of users of GEBCO bathymetric dataset and products.

# Review Group

## The objectives of the Review Group :

- 1) Generally, consider IOC's role and involvement in the GEBCO project, and specifically identify the user needs in bathymetry from the relevant IOC programmes and regional subsidiary bodies in relation to the GEBCO bathymetric dataset and products;
- 2) Consider IOC's role and involvement in the GEBCO project, based upon needs identified under (i) above;
- 3) Recommend key elements for future governing mechanism of the GEBCO project in relation to IOC's role and involvement.

## Review Group Members:

- 8 experts nominated by GEBCO Guiding Committee GLOSS, JCOMM, IODE, TOWS-WG, IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE and WESTPAC.
- 15 IOC Member State representatives

# Review Activities 2015-2016

## A questionnaire survey:

- A questionnaire survey through Group members to collect inputs concerning potential and existing user needs from IOC's relevant subsidiary bodies for GEBCO datasets and products.
- 7 Members (GLOSS, JCOMM, IODE, TOWS-WG, IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE and WESTPAC) responded the questionnaire.
- In addition, 9 Members representing Member States responded to the questionnaire.

# Review Activities 2015-2016

## The Review Group:

- Evaluated the results of the survey and
- Produced a report (IOC/EC-XLIX/2 Annex 8 and Addendum) through collaborative document editing, focusing on:
  - the relevance of GEBCO products to IOC activities
  - User needs for GEBCO products within IOC relevant subsidiary bodies
  - capacity development needs
  - possible cooperation among GEBCO and IOC relevant subsidiary bodies.
  - Potential mechanism to identify user needs for GEBCO products

# Review Activities 2015-2016

## The Review Group:

- Concluded and recommended:
  - GEBCO products are useful for relevant activities of IOC technical and regional subsidiary bodies
  - IOC should continue to be involved in the GEBCO project
  - IOC user requirements to GEBCO products should be collected and integrated on a regular basis.
- Submitted the report to the 49th Executive Council to be considered for further action.

# 49th Executive Council

The Executive Council at the 49th session (Paris, 7-10 June 2016)

- Considered the outcome of the review
- Adopted **Decision EC-XLIX/4.4**

# Decision EC-XLIX/4.4

IOC/EC-XLIX, Dec.4.4

## IOC Role in Support of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Project, State of Progress in the Associated Review

The Executive Council,

1. Having examined documents IOC/EC-XLIX/2 Annex 8 and Addendum,
2. Recalling decision IOC-XXVIII/6.2(II) on the review of IOC's role and involvement in the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO),
3. Noting the finding of the Review that GEBCO's "traditional" and "shallow water" products are indispensable to IOC activities,
4. Further noting the conclusion of the review group with regard to IOC's role and involvement in the GEBCO Project,
5. Decides to:
  - (i) Enhance the IOC involvement in the GEBCO project;
  - (ii) Establish a regular working group tasked to collect, integrate and assess the user requirements to GEBCO products; and
  - (iii) Address ways of potential contributions to GEBCO data and products;
6. Encourages Member States to:
  - (i) Cooperate to advance basin-scale, campaign mapping and accelerate the delivery of GEBCO objectives and general knowledge of the ocean; and
  - (ii) Facilitate GEBCO capacity development including training opportunities;
7. Requests the Executive Secretary to:
  - (i) Convey this decision to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the GEBCO Guiding Committee;
  - (ii) Establish the working group in accordance with the terms of reference of the working group contained in the Annex to this decision, in consultation with IHO and GEBCO Guiding Committee; and
  - (iii) Explore the possibility of seeking additional funds to GEBCO, including extrabudgetary sources.



# IOC Working Group on GEBCO

## Mandate:

- Collect, integrate and assess the user needs and requirements to GEBCO data
- Identify IOC potential contributions to GEBCO data and products

## Modus operandi:

- Work by correspondence
- Produce a document on needs, requirements and potential contributions in bathymetric data and products.
- Conduct every two years

## Membership:

- Experts nominated by relevant IOC subsidiary bodies & GOOS regional alliance, GEBCO Guiding Committee, Member States, IHO, other partners and stakeholders

***Thank you!***

***Merci beaucoup!***

***¡Muchas Gracias!***

