

**APPROVAL OF IHO PUBLICATION B-12 –
IHO GUIDELINES ON CROWDSOURCED BATHYMETRY**

<i>Submitted by:</i>	IRCC Chair
<i>Executive Summary:</i>	This paper proposes that IHO Publication B-12 should be adopted by member states, as endorsed at IRCC-10. IHO Publication B-12 – <i>IHO Guidelines on Crowdsourced Bathymetry</i> – has been developed by the Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) since tasked by the IRCC in 2015.
<i>Related Documents</i>	IRCC10 – Report, Decisions and Actions of IRCC10. IRCC10-07G – Report of CSBWG CSBWG ToRs IHO CL42/2015 dated 18 June 2015
<i>Related Projects</i>	GEBCO

Introduction and Background

1. The 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC5) recognized the need to examine how best to incorporate, manage and use bathymetric data acquired by other-than-conventional means, such as through crowdsourcing. It was agreed that there was a need to develop appropriate principles and guidelines to enable the appropriate collection and use of crowdsourced bathymetry for the benefit of all stakeholders interested in knowing the shape and nature of the seafloor and its depths. As a result, Decision 8 of EIHC5 instructed the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) to:

... establish a Working Group to prepare a new IHO publication on policy for trusted crowd-sourced bathymetry, taking into account EIHC5 PRO4 and the comments during the Conference. The WG should comprise IHO MS and invited expert contributors, including members of IHO-IOC TSCOM. The WG should seek advice and input from relevant HSSC Working Groups as required.

2. As instructed by EIHC5, the IRCC, at its 7th meeting in Mexico City, established a CrowdSourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG). The IRCC appointed Ms Lisa Taylor, Director of the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) as its first Chair, a role passed to the current Director of the IHO DCDB, Ms Jennifer Jencks.

Analysis

3. The adoption and approval of the IHO publication B-12 is the initial stage in the process of populating the global bathymetric dataset. Once adopted it will be essential for IHO Member States to support the effort by providing to the DCDB, or by other means, datasets or subsets within national archives. This effort will need to be supported with positive actions, such as requesting all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities.

4. In addition it will be necessary for member states to clarify their national policy on data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction to enable CSB activities to be undertaken. The IHO Secretariat proposes to maintain and publish a list of those member states supporting CSB activities in their maritime areas of jurisdiction, highlighting any caveats or limitations of which the Secretariat has been made aware.

Conclusion

5. The approval and publication of B-12 will provide valuable guidance to the maritime community on the collection and assessment of CSB data for inclusion in the global bathymetric dataset which is maintained in the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry. The proposed version of B-12 Edition 1.0.0 is available on the CSBWG section of the IHO website (https://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/CSBWG/CSBWG_Misc/CSB-Guidance_Document-Edition_1.0.0-Clean.pdf).

Recommendations

6. Following approval of B-12, the CSBWG, through the IRCC, should be instructed to ensure the maintenance and development of the publication.

Justification and Impact

7. There will be no significant additional impact on the IHO Secretariat for the maintenance of the publication. IHO Member States assistance will be sought for the task of translating the publication into French and Spanish

Actions required from the Council

8. The Council is invited to:
- a. Approve the IHO Publication B-12 – *IHO Guidelines on Crowdsourced Bathymetry*;
 - b. Instruct the CSBWG, through the IRCC, to continue to maintain and develop the publication for subsequent submission to the IHO Member States for approval as necessary;
 - c. Encourage IHO Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB;
 - d. Request IHO Member States to state their policy on data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction to enable CSB activities to be undertaken;
 - e. Request IHO Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requesting all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities; and
 - f. Consider any other actions as appropriate.