

World Hydrography Day - 2016

Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways

Purpose of World Hydrography Day

In 2005, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Resolution A/60/30 on Oceans and law of the sea, which in particular welcomed the adoption by the IHO of the World Hydrography Day, with the aim of giving suitable publicity to its work at all levels and of increasing the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis. The Resolution urged all States to work with the IHO to promote safe navigation, especially in the areas of international navigation, ports and where there are vulnerable or protected marine areas. As a result, on the 21st of June each year the IHO celebrates World Hydrography Day. World Hydrography Day is our opportunity to increase public awareness of the vital role that hydrography plays in everyone's life.

UN Priority on Good Management of Seas and Waterways

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted its *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The Agenda specifically targets the sustainability of the oceans under its Sustainable Development Goal 14 - *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*. Its Sustainable development goal 11, which addresses the resilience of cities and human settlements, refers to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. This framework, initiated at the request of the UN General Assembly, considers the impact of severe weather events and of natural phenomena such as tsunamis. Sustainably managing the oceans and their resources, assessing and controlling the impact of marine disasters and ensuring the integrity of the oceans as stated in December 2015 in the Paris agreement on climate change, are strongly influenced by our knowledge of the seas and oceans and the work of the world's hydrographers and associated scientists and professionals.

Hydrography and Good Management of the Seas and Waterways

The IHO considers that hydrography is a fundamental enabler for all human activities that take place in, on or under the sea. It is therefore an underpinning factor in the proper monitoring, management and governance of the seas and waterways.

For all these reasons, the IHO has chosen as its theme for World Hydrography Day 2016:

Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways

Our Limited Knowledge of the Seas and Waterways

While the depth of less than 10 percent of the world's seas, oceans and navigable waterways has been measured directly, IHO figures indicate that at least 50% of the world's coastal waters are unsurveyed or are inadequately surveyed. The result is that there are higher resolution maps of the Moon, Mars and Venus than for most of the world's maritime areas. Survey coverage is particularly poor in the Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Oceans and the Polar regions, but all areas of the world are affected to some extent, including the waters of many developed States.

Topics for WHD-2016

The importance of hydrography for sustainable seas and waterways. The theme for 2016 is intended to focus attention on the fundamental importance of hydrography and our knowledge of the shape, nature and depth of the seafloor as a fundamental requirement for the proper, safe, sustainable and cost effective use of the world's seas, oceans and waterways.

The best use of limited knowledge. The theme also provides the opportunity to highlight the fact that while there are significant gaps in our knowledge, most hydrographic offices manage, or have access to the most comprehensive hydrographic data that exists for each country and that they are increasingly making this data available for the widest possible use as part of developing national spatial data infrastructures, in addition to publishing charts for safety of navigation.

The work and contribution of hydrographers. The World Hydrography Day 2016 theme will enable the work of all the world's hydrographers - whether from the public or the private sector, to be highlighted and related to the increasing public and political awareness of the importance of the seas and waterways to everyone's lives.

The theme will also enable all stakeholders involved in hydrography to highlight the significance and importance of their activities. These could include, but are not limited to, the support of safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, coastal zone management, marine spatial data infrastructures, defence, resource exploration, and all other components of the blue economy.

95th Anniversary of the IHO. World Hydrography Day also marks the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the IHO. On this occasion, the IHO and its 85 Member States reaffirm their commitment to continue raising awareness of the importance of hydrography; and coordinate their activities, in particular through maintaining and publishing relevant international standards, providing capacity building and assistance to those countries where hydrographic services require improvement, and by encouraging the collection and

discovery of new hydrographic data through programmes such as crowd-sourcing and satellite derived bathymetry and by ensuring the widest possible availability of this data through the development of national and regional marine spatial data infrastructures.

More Information

For more information about the IHO, visit the IHO website at:

www.iho.int or email *info@iho.int*

IHO Member States

The following countries are Members States of the IHO:

Algeria	Monaco
Argentina	Montenegro
Australia	Morocco
Bahrain	Mozambique
Bangladesh	Myanmar
Belgium	Netherlands
Brazil	New Zealand
Brunei Darussalam	Nigeria
Cameroon	Norway
Canada	Oman
Chile	Pakistan
China	Papua New Guinea
Colombia	Peru
Croatia	Philippines
Cuba	Poland
Cyprus	Portugal
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Qatar
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Republic of Korea
Denmark	Romania
Dominican Republic	Russian Federation
Ecuador	Saudi Arabia
Egypt	Serbia

Estonia	Singapore
Fiji	Slovenia
Finland	South Africa
France	Spain
Georgia	Sri Lanka
Germany	Suriname
Greece	Sweden
Guatemala	Syrian Arab Republic
Iceland	Thailand
India	Tonga
Indonesia	Trinidad and Tobago
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Tunisia
Ireland	Turkey
Italy	Ukraine
Jamaica	United Arab Emirates
Japan	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Kuwait	United States of America
Latvia	Uruguay
Malaysia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Mauritius	Viet Nam
Mexico	

The following countries have applied to join the IHO:

Bulgaria
Congo
Haiti
Malta
Mauritania
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Vanuatu