

**CIRCULAR LETTER 34/1999**  
**16 July 1999**

**GLOBAL SEA LEVEL OBSERVING SYSTEM (GLOSS) MATTERS**

Dear Sir,

During its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (11-14 May 1999) the GLOSS Group of Experts (GGE) discussed several matters which the Bureau would like to bring to the attention of Member States.

1. The GGE expressed its appreciation of the ongoing support of the GLOSS programme by numerous Member States who operate GLOSS gauges and collect the corresponding data. The GGE clearly stated that this support is of vital importance for GLOSS.
2. The GGE also expressed its gratitude for the donation of tide gauges by several IHO Member States, most recently by Singapore, and has asked the Bureau to repeat the request for equipment. **Member States are therefore kindly requested to continue to investigate as to whether and how they might be able to provide tide gauge equipment for the GLOSS network.** Any offers should be addressed to Dr. Phillip WOODWORTH, Proudman Oceanographic Library, Bidston Observatory, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L43 7RA, UK (e mail: plw@pol.ac.uk; fax: +44 151 653 6269).
3. During the next 2 years the GGE plans to review and update the IOC Manuals on Sea Level Measurement and Interpretation so that these Manuals will cover recent tide gauge technology. Furthermore, the draft of a new Manual on GPS positioning of Tide Gauges is being developed. This draft, including case studies, will be available on the WEB under the URL <http://www.pol.ac.uk> in about 2 months.
4. Being aware of the concern of Member States about abuse of their data, tide modellers within the GGE pointed out that the complete set of data contained in the IHO Tidal Constituent Databank is very important for global models comprising coastal zones, as these data would allow to improve models considerably. Unfortunately, the present policy for the release of tidal data from the IHO Tidal Constituent Databank prevented them from making optimum use of these data. Taking into consideration the concerns of Member States as well as the requirements of tide modellers within the GGE, they proposed the following procedure for the release of data to them:
  - A complete set of the data contained in the IHO Tidal Constituent Databank is sent to the GGE Chairman (Dr. Woodworth);
  - The GGE Chairman in turn will provide these data to tide modellers within GGE upon written request and written confirmation that the data will only be used for scientific purposes;
  - The GGE Chairman will inform the IHB of requests made and data provided.

Member States are kindly requested to fill in the attached form and return it to the Bureau **no later than 15 October 1999.**

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO  
President

Annex A: Reply Form

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Copy to: Associate Members of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions

**REPLY FORM**  
*(to be returned to the IHB, duly completed by 15 October 1999)*

The Directing Committee  
International Hydrographic Bureau  
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**RELEASE OF TIDAL DATA FROM THE IHO TIDAL CONSTITUENT DATABANK  
TO THE GLOSS GROUP OF EXPERTS.**

We agree that the complete set of our national data contained in the IHO Tidal Constituent Databank is released to the GLOSS Group of Experts under the conditions outlined in paragraph 4 of CL 34/1999.

YES

NO

Date: ..... Signature .....