

**CIRCULAR LETTER 62/2001**  
**18 December 2001**

**NEW FORMAT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BULLETIN**

Dear Sir,

1. A reorganization of the arrangements for distributing publications was proposed to the IHO Member States in Circular Letter 25/1999. This package of proposals (which also included arrangements for the Chartroom) was approved by the IHO Member States and has been in force since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000.
2. As a consequence of the adoption of these new arrangements, all IHO publications (except those which are still in preparation) are now available from the IHO WEB site and can be downloaded by IHO Member States and subscribers to the site. IHO publications are also available on CD-ROM and an updated issue is dispatched annually to Member States. Additionally a basic "print-on-demand" service is available to Member States who do not yet have access to Internet and/or are unable to read digital publications. The IHB has recently extended this possibility to certain publications, such as the 2001 edition of "National Maritime Policies" (M-2) and "List of Books for Training in Hydrography" (M-6), where Member States were requested to communicate the number of printed copies that they wish to receive.
3. The IHB Directing Committee believes that this approach has been efficient and satisfactory for all Member States and individuals interested in hydrography and that the IHO has succeeded in facing the future by updating its method of disseminating information, taking advantage of powerful new technologies. The creation of the IHO WEB site clearly offers a more modern system, at reduced cost.
4. However, the experience gained over the past two years has been extremely useful in identifying certain refinements which now appear necessary. In this respect, the Bureau has received valuable comments from some Member States which are given here below:
  - Reports on meetings attended are very often published in the Bulletin a long time after the event;
  - The inclusion of technical articles in the Bulletin duplicates those articles which are published in the International Hydrographic Review, produced by the commercial firm, GITC, on behalf of the IHO.
  - Sometimes the same information is communicated twice - by Circular Letter and also in the Bulletin. The IHB should better distinguish between the information, which must be circulated by Circular Letter, and that given in the Bulletin.
5. To overcome these shortcomings and achieve better results, the IHB Directing Committee has decided to re-organize the Bulletin, as follows:

5.1. The reports on the meetings and conferences attended by the IHB Directors or Professional Assistants (or other IHO representatives), as well as other more pressing information, will be made available on the IHO Web site, in the form of a Newsletter, as and when they are produced and translated.

5.2. The Bulletin will be produced in 3 annual printed issues: April, August and December. The content of these issues will be basically as follows:

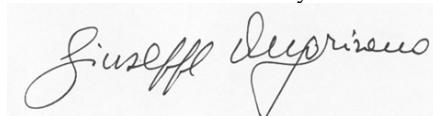
- An Editorial Article related to some current topic, prepared by the IHB Directing Committee.
- News from the IHO (new Hydrographers, new ships, technical co-operation with other countries, hydrographic survey operations of importance, new tools for a better dissemination of nautical information, etc.)
- Recent IHO publications issued.
- Bibliography.
- Other former sections, at present inactive, such as "From the Chartroom" will be re-activated and have an article written for each issue.
- Member States' cooperation will be sought proactively. 3 main topics (one for each issue) will be selected by the Directing Committee at the beginning of the year and the Member States will be requested to provide papers on that topic.<sup>1</sup> It must be stressed that technical articles are NOT requested for the Bulletin; on the other hand they are requested for the International Hydrographic Review, which the IHB continues to control. For the Bulletin only general information will be required on the topics selected. The Directing Committee will also contact certain individuals in the hydrographic field with specific requests for articles.
- A summary of the main meetings reported on in the Web Site during the 4 month period will also be included.
- The Bulletin will be published in English, French and Spanish and will include as many colour photographs and drawings as possible, within the limits of the budget assigned to this publication. The D.C. will also consider the possibility of including advertisements which might help to finance the publication.

6. This new format will be implemented as from January 2002 and reports on meetings and other relevant information will be found under each monthly division (January to December) of the IHO Web site heading "I.H. Bulletin – Newsletter".

You are kindly requested to send your comments, if any, to the IHB, **by 15 February 2002.**

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,



Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO  
President

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<sup>1</sup> For example, "New Methods of dissemination of Notices to Mariners and Maritime Safety Information, adopted by the Member States."