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CIRCULAR LETTER 55/2002  
20 November 2002

**REVISED DEFINITION OF THE TERM "HYDROGRAPHY"**

Dear Hydrographer,

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC), there were discussions on whether the present definition of the term "hydrography", as given in the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Hydrographic Dictionary (IHO Publication S-32), was still appropriate. The EIHC proposed that the definition be revised and updated.

The Directing Committee has been informed by the Chairman of the IHO Committee on the Hydrographic Dictionary, that the Committee has now adopted a new definition, which reads as follows:

**2335 hydrography.** *That branch of applied sciences which deals with the measurement and description of the features of the seas and coastal areas for the primary purpose of navigation and all other marine purposes and activities, including –inter alia- offshore activities, research, protection of the environment, and prediction services.*

As this new definition might be of importance in conjunction with the Strategic Planning process, the Directing Committee prefers to bring it to the attention of Member States via CL, instead of waiting for the publication of a new edition of the Hydrographic Dictionary.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

*(original signed)*

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA  
Director