

CIRCULAR LETTER 18/2003
27 February 2003

NEW IHO WEB SITE

Dear Hydrographer,

The IHO web site history is as follows:

- a) It was originally created in July 1996, and since then hosted and operated by the Principal Establishment of SHOM (EPSHOM), to whom the IHO is grateful.
- b) In 1999, the web site was upgraded with the addition of new sections which provided Member States with access to IHO internal working documents and to IHO publications. It will be recalled that both of these new sections are protected by passwords which Member States were requested to supply (CL 25/1999, May 1999).
- c) Due to the need to improve communications within all IHO bodies and with the outside world, the Directing Committee decided to further upgrade the IHO web site, in order to accommodate several new sections and to consolidate some of the existing ones.
- d) During the 14th CHRIS Meeting (August 2002), it was agreed and recommended that the IHO web site should be considered as the primary means of communicating CHRIS information to Member States and the outside world. An advisory group was consequently set up, and "Publishing Guidelines" and "Site Mock up" documents were produced. Although these documents only became available after work on the new web site had commenced, they have been used as guidance documents and will continue to provide the framework for further development. The IHB is thankful for the excellent work done by the CHRIS advisory group.
- e) The new web site developed by the IHB between 1 September 2002 until today comprises the following main sections:
 - About the IHO
 - Member States
 - Regional Hydrographic Commissions
 - IHO Committees
 - Publications
 - Calendar of Meetings
 - Finances
 - Links
 - ECDIS
 - IHO Bulletin News

The changeover to this new web site will take place over the **weekend of 8th / 9th March**. Member States are kindly requested to consult the new web site after 10 March and to provide comments on its content **no later than 30 June 2003**. Please note that the IHO web site address remains the same: www.iho.shom.fr.

Considering that updating the information is crucial for the success of this project, the IHB for the time being, will try to keep it as up to date as possible based on the information provided by the relevant and appropriate IHO subsidiary bodies and persons (Chairmen of RHC, Committees, Working Groups, etc.) directly to info@ihb.mc. Meanwhile the IHB will draft a set of procedures for decentralizing the updates based on a direct intervention by the appropriate persons representing different bodies within the IHO. As soon as the IHB finalizes this draft, it will be circulated for comments.

It should be noted, however, that **the existing usernames and passwords** allocated to Member States and subscribers for the “Member States only” and “Publications” sections respectively, **HAVE NOT CHANGED**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee,
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director