

IHB Files No. S3/2540, S3/2513, S3/2630

**CIRCULAR LETTER 34/2003**  
**12 May 2003**

## **GEBCO MATTERS**

References: IHB CLs 60/1999, 33/2002, 53/2002, 21/2003, 24/2003.

Dear Hydrographer,

We are pleased to report as follows:

I. The **CENTENARY COMMEMORATION OF THE GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF THE OCEANS (GEBCO)**, jointly organized by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) with a contribution from the Government of Monaco and through the Centenary Organizing Committee, chaired by Sir Anthony LAUGHTON, Chairman of GEBCO, was held in Monaco on 14-16 April 2003 and was a complete success. The whole event included :

- the Conference “*Charting the Secret World of the Ocean Floor. The GEBCO Project 1903-2003*”, chaired by Dr. Michael LOUGHRIDGE, which brought together a selection of very interesting papers on subjects ranging from the early years to the future of GEBCO, with special emphasis on Ocean Mapping in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Conference was attended by more than 150 specialists who were impressed by the high quality of the presentations, including 3-D dynamic pictures of the seabed and other state-of-the-art developments in digital bathymetry. All the Presentations are included on the CD enclosed with this letter;
- the publication of a 140-page book “*The History of GEBCO, 1903-2003*”, with numerous colour plates, edited by Desmond Scott, former Permanent Secretary of GEBCO, and published by GITC by which you will also find enclosed with this letter;
- the Centenary Edition of the “GEBCO Digital Atlas” which was originally created by digitizing the printed sheets of the Fifth Edition of GEBCO and which includes a gridded version of GEBCO contours presented on a one minute (latitude by longitude) global grid. A copy was distributed to Conference participants. The IHB still has in its possession a certain number of GDA CDs which can be distributed to Member States, upon request;
- a technical ocean mapping exhibition, which included the complete sheets of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), as well as the first bathymetric chart of the Indian Ocean recently completed by Dr. Robert FISHER and Dr. Andrew GOODWILLIE;
- the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by H.S.H. Prince ALBERT of Monaco during the Opening Ceremony.

The Directing Committee thanks those Member States who participated in the commemoration or who sent delegates : Canada, Chile, Estonia, France, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Ukraine, UK and USA.

Alongside the Conference, the following associated meetings were held at the IHB :

10-12/04 : 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)  
 12/04 : 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Digital Bathymetry (SCDB)  
 12-13/04 : 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping (CGOM)  
 14-16/04 : GEBCO Centenary Conference (Salle des Variétés)  
 16-17/04 : 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GEBCO Guiding Committee

At the end of the GEBCO Conference and related meetings, the following persons relinquished their post : Sir Anthony LAUGHTON, as Chairman of the GEBCO Guiding Committee, Dr. Robert L. FISHER, as SCUFN Chairman, and Mr. Desmond SCOTT, as SCUFN Member. The IHB Directing Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the work accomplished by these experts throughout their career entirely devoted to oceanographic sciences and for their huge contribution to GEBCO.

## II. GEBCO Guidelines – IHO/IOC Publication B-7 :

During the GEBCO meetings held alongside the Centenary celebrations, an updated edition (April 2003) of the IHO-IOC Publication B-7 “GEBCO Guidelines” was produced, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. This edition includes corrections resulting from comments received in response to IHB CL 60/1999 and most of them concern Chapter 2 “Bathymetric Data Management” and Chapter 4 “Multibeam Echo Sounders”, as well as Annex 2 “Specifications for International Bathymetric Charts (IBC) produced under IOC's Regional Ocean Mapping Projects”. The Annex was approved at the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping (CGOM), whereas the revised B-7 publication was approved at the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GEBCO Guiding Committee.

The meeting decided that this publication will need further updating in order to include the new strategic aspects/orientations of the IHO and GEBCO. In this perspective, Member States are invited to carefully examine this document and to provide their comments, suggested modifications, etc., **before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2003**, in order to help the IHB to prepare proposals which will be examined at the GEBCO Officers Meeting to be held in 2004, tentatively in Mexico. The validity date of each section of B-7 is indicated at the bottom of the page.

## III. Composition of the GEBCO Guiding Committee :

IHB CLs No. 53/2002 and 24/2003 requested Member States to nominate and to elect a candidate for the vacant post on the IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee, following the resignation of Ingénieur général Patrick SOUQUIÈRE (France) in 2002.

The IHB received 24 responses, which included 2 abstentions. The result of the vote is given here below:

➤ Ingénieur général Etienne CAILLIAU (France) :	10 votes
➤ Cdr. Paolo LUSIANI (Italy) :	5 votes
➤ Capt. Valery FOMCHENKO (Russian Federation) :	4 votes
➤ Capt. Nikolai F. GOLODOV (Ukraine) :	3 votes
	2 abstentions

Ingénieur général Etienne CAILLIAU (France) is therefore elected member of the GEBCO Guiding Committee, the composition of which is now the following :

**IHO Members**

- Mr. David MONAHAN (Canada), since 1985. Vice-Chairman from 1 May 1989.
- Mr. Kunio YASHIMA (Japan), since 1991.
- Mr. Alexis HADJANTONIOU (Greece), since 1993.
- Dr. Michael S. LOUGHRIDGE (USA), since 1998
- IGA Etienne CAILLIAU (France), since 2003.

**IOC Members**

- Sir Anthony LAUGHTON (UK), since 1974. Chairman from 1 July 1985, resigned April 2003.
- Dr. Gleb B. UDINTSEV (Russian Federation), since 1974.
- Dr. Robin K.H. FALCONER (New Zealand), since 1985.
- Dr. Ing. Hans-Werner SCHENKE (Germany), since 1991.
- Lic. José Luis FRIAS SALAZAR (Mexico), since 1994.

It should be noted that, following Sir Anthony LAUGHTON'S resignation from the GEBCO Guiding Committee, Mr. David MONAHAN (CHS) was elected Chairman of GEBCO by the 19<sup>th</sup> Guiding Committee meeting. The IHB warmly congratulates Mr. MONAHAN on his election to this important position. The IOC will now have to consider replacing Sir Anthony by a new IOC Member.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA  
Director

Encls. : 1 CD GEBCO Proceedings  
1 book "The History of GEBCO 1903-2003"  
IHO-IOC Publication B-7 "GEBCO Guidelines".