

CIRCULAR LETTER 49/2003
10 July 2003

NEW IHO WEB SITE

Reference: IHB CL 18/2003 dated 27 February 2003.

Dear Hydrographer,

1.- The IHB is most grateful to those Member States who have provided useful comments on the IHO web page and thanks them for their congratulations. We will carefully examine all proposals and further amendments will shortly be made accordingly.

We are aware that the IHO web page is of great importance, but to keep it as an operational tool it requires a certain amount of effort by all persons involved.

The IHB has provided training to those staff members who work on particular pages of the web site and who actively participate in the updating process.

We would ask all Member States, as well as the Chairmen of all Working Groups, Committees, Commissions and Regional Hydrographic Commissions, to check the content of each section concerning their activities.

2.- We provide here below some comments on each of the IHO web page sections:

a) About the IHO:

We believe that we are providing useful information to the web user. As for the Hotel page, we will ensure that this page is updated on a regular basis so that it provides accurate information to those attending meetings at the IHB Headquarters.

b) Member States:

We would like to encourage those Member States who still do not have an e-mail address to make all possible efforts to acquire this technology in order to improve communications. Furthermore, we would like to invite Member States who do not yet have a home page to consider establishing one, as a way of improving the visibility of their organization, as well as the important activities they conduct, projects, key persons, etc.

c) Regional Hydrographic Commissions:

We invite the RHC Chairmen to make extensive use of this section of the website. We would like you to provide relevant information to the IHB on the program and activities of each Commission and all other information that could be beneficial to the Organization and its Members. As soon as we receive input it will be posted on the IHO web site.

d) IHO Committees:

We encourage the Chairmen of Commissions, Committees, Working Groups and Advisory Boards to make extensive use of this section. We would like you to provide relevant information to the IHB on the program and activities of each body and all other information that could be beneficial to the Organization and its Members. As soon as we receive input it will be posted on to the IHO web site. Please review the TOR and let us know of any updates.

e) Publications:

Please let us know if you encounter any difficulties in downloading publications and if you have any suggestions in this respect.

f) Meetings:

We would like to invite Member States to provide the IHB, on a permanent basis, with information on events of IHO interest.

g) Finance:

Please provide us with comments regarding this section.

h) Links:

We would like to improve this section by including references to Non-Member States. We invite Member States to provide the IHB with information on links of direct interest to the IHO.

i) ECDIS:

We invite Member States to make comments to improve this section.

j) IHO Bulletin:

In this section the IHB is keeping a record of all important events in an abbreviated form, following the structure of the printed version of the former IH Bulletin. At the end of the calendar year, a new annual version will be initiated, keeping its content in the form of an index for quick reference. Digital copies of previous IHO Bulletin articles will be provided as required. Requests for such articles should be sent to: mpmuro@ihb.mc.

3.- The IHB will continue keeping the IHO web page updated, based on information provided by all IHO subsidiary bodies and persons (RHC Chairmen, Committees, Working Groups, etc.); please send all information directly to info@ihb.mc. To improve the updating process, the Directing Committee has decided to assign each Professional Assistant with the responsibility of handling information received. The Directing Committee is confident that, in this way, the IHB service to Member States will be improved.

On behalf of the Directing Committee,
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director