

IHB File No. S1/5014

**CIRCULAR LETTER 23/2004
1 April 2004**

**IMO RESOLUTION A.958(23) ON THE PROVISION OF
HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES**

Reference: CL65/2002 dated 20 December 2002

Dear Hydrographer,

The 23rd Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), held at IMO headquarters in London from 24 November to 5 December 2003, adopted the IHO sponsored resolution on the Provision of Hydrographic Services, as discussed in the referenced CL above. This has now been published by IMO as resolution A.958(23) and the IHB is pleased to enclose a copy for your information.

It is considered that this resolution enhances the national focus of Hydrographic Offices in meeting the national requirements of SOLAS Chapter 5 Regulation 9.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A. IMO resolution A.958 (23)



ASSEMBLY
23rd session
Agenda item 17

A 23/Res.958
5 March 2004
Original: ENGLISH

Resolution A.958(23)

**Adopted on 5 December 2003
(Agenda item 17)**

PROVISION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations concerning maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution A.706(17), as amended, by which it adopted the IMO/IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service – Guidance Document,

BEARING IN MIND regulations 2, 9, 13, 19, 27, 31 and 34 of the revised chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended, which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

BEARING IN MIND ALSO regulation 9 of the revised SOLAS chapter V, under which Contracting Governments undertake to arrange for the collection and compilation of hydrographic data and the publication, dissemination and updating of all nautical information necessary for safe navigation,

RECALLING ALSO that, by resolution A/RES/53/32 (1988), the United Nations General Assembly invited States to provide hydrographic services needed for safety at sea and the protection of the marine environment,

FURTHER RECALLING that, by its resolution 5, the International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973, recommended that the Organization continue to work on the development of measures to minimize accidental spillages,

RECALLING FINALLY resolution A.532(13) concerning the collecting and forwarding of hydrographic data,

RECOGNIZING the close relationship between safety of navigation and prevention of pollution from ships,

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NOTING that the collection and dissemination of accurate and up-to-date hydrographic information is vital to safe navigation,

APPRECIATING that, in many parts of the world, waters used by international shipping have not yet been surveyed to the modern hydrographic survey standards laid down by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) or are not regularly surveyed by an established hydrographic service,

REALIZING that the authorities responsible for ports, rivers, canals, dredging, aids to navigation and other matters, including regional and local authorities, obtain and receive hydrographic information which could be used to update navigational charts issued by charting authorities,

1. RECOMMENDS Governments to take all necessary measures to arrange for or encourage prompt transmission of any new hydrographic information to the International Hydrographic Bureau or to the hydrographic authorities in those countries which issue charts covering waters off their shores, and to otherwise ensure the earliest and widest dissemination of hydrographic information, following where appropriate the procedures recommended in resolution A.706(17), as amended;

2. INVITES Governments, in addition to their existing obligations under SOLAS regulation V/9, to:

- (a) promote, through their national maritime administrations, the use of Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) together with the use and further production of official Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs);
- (b) co-operate, as appropriate, in the collection and dissemination of hydrographic data with other Governments having little or no hydrographic capability;
- (c) promote support for Governments which may request technical assistance in hydrographic matters, in consultation with, and with the assistance of, the Organization and the International Hydrographic Organization;
- (d) establish hydrographic offices where they do not exist, in consultation with IHO;

3. FURTHER INVITES Governments which are not members of IHO to consider joining that organization;

4. REVOKES resolution A.532(13).
