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**CIRCULAR LETTER 119/2005
30 November 2005**

IHO SEMINAR 2005

**THE ROLE OF HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES WITH REGARD TO GEOSPATIAL DATA
AND PLANNING INFRASTRUCTURE.**

- References:
- A. CL 30/2005 dated 21 March 2005
 - B. CL 73/2005 dated 26 July 2005
 - C. CL 100/2005 dated 28 September 2005

Dear Hydrographer,

The seminar with the theme "The Role of Hydrographic Services with regard to Geospatial Data and Planning Infrastructure" as announced in the above-referenced Circular Letters and organized by the IHO and the German Hydrographic Service (BSH), was held in Rostock, Germany on 8-9 November 2005. The IHB wishes to thank the BSH for hosting and organizing this seminar and congratulates them on the excellent arrangements made.

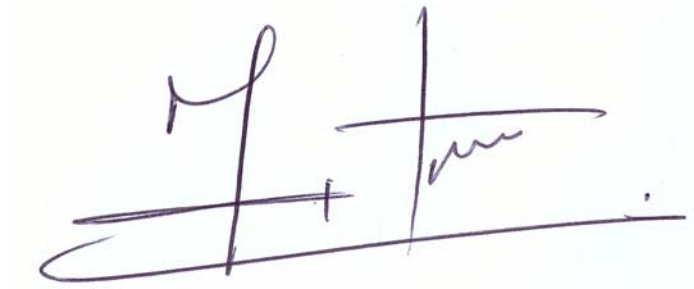
Fifty representatives from twenty Hydrographic Offices (HOs), international organizations, interested States and private companies participated in the seminar. The first day was devoted to some very interesting presentations from international organizations, Member States and the IHB, and on the second day three groups were established to discuss different topics related to establishing SDI, of specific interest to HOs and the IHO. The final detailed seminar programme, the list of participants and the outcome of the work of the three groups for consideration by HOs in their efforts to establish a Marine SDI, are included on the enclosed CD and are also posted on the IHO web site : www.iho.shom.fr>Committees>CHRIS.

The term Spatial Data Infrastructure encapsulates a framework of policies, institutional arrangements, technologies, data and people, which enables the sharing and effective use of geographic information. The principle of "obtain once", "use many times" by "different users" is now well accepted by SDI communities. The IHO recognizes the importance of hydrographic data and information for purposes other than for navigation in its definition of "Hydrography", in its "Strategic Issues" and in its amended Convention. However, in deciding to establish national SDIs and especially their marine components, HOs will also have to consider other matters such as the financial, technical and administrative issues that will impact on this decision. Subjects presented and discussed at the seminar included: What kind of marine spatial data will this infrastructure include?; Whether hydrographic data other than that necessary for navigation should be collected?; How "provision of services other than for navigation" is defined?; Do we need to standardize the coverage area for the Marine SDI?; What funding is needed for the development, maintenance and dissemination methods for the SDIs? and The common standards and well documented metadata needed for the SDIs.

All participants agreed that this first seminar had been successful in exchanging views on the developments of SDIs at the national, regional and global level and particularly on the marine and

hydrographic components. It was recognized that all those involved with this topic must now try to identify and provide responses to the various issues associated with the SDI and that the IHO should facilitate developments and take actions as will be deemed appropriate. CHRIS has been identified as the appropriate Committee to consider this issue and advise the Organization. This has been agreed by the Chairman of CHRIS. Member States are kindly requested to forward any comments that they may have on this issue to the IHB by **30 January 2006**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a light blue rectangular background. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Encl: CD-ROM