

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC  
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE**

**IHB File No. S1/1809**

**CIRCULAR LETTER 30/2005  
21 March 2005**

**IHO Seminar 2005  
The Role of Hydrographic Services with Regard to Geospatial Data and Planning Infrastructure**

Dear Hydrographer,

The IHB wishes to bring to your attention the above Seminar, which will take place in Rostock, Germany from 8 –9 November 2005. An information sheet and registration form is enclosed and can also be downloaded from the IHO website by clicking on the announcement in the “Meetings” section.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
President

Encl: IHO Seminar 2005 announcement

**IHO Seminar 2005**  
**The Role of Hydrographic Services with Regard to Geospatial Data and Planning Infrastructure**

**Rostock, Germany 08/09 November 2005**

**Conference Announcement / Registration Form**

During the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) in Cardiff, it was decided to hold a seminar on the subject "The Role of Hydrographic Services with Regard to Geospatial Data and Planning Infrastructure".

It had become apparent that an issue deserving more attention by Hydrographic Offices (HO's) was the need for the development of a spatial data infrastructure (SDI) in the maritime sector.

The importance of spatial data has increased considerably over the past few years, and the data have become an indispensable basis for economic activities. Quite a number of different initiatives have been started worldwide to build up infrastructures for spatial data. Examples are the „National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in the U.S.A., and the „INfrastructure for SPatial InfoRmation in Europe (INSPIRE). However, a closer look reveals that almost all of the spatial data initiatives cover land data exclusively. The huge expanse of the world oceans is often left out although these areas are of economic importance as well, especially near the coasts; to mention just a few issues: maritime transport, coastal zone management, spatial planning etc.

The HOs are making considerable efforts to collect data covering the oceans, and they have accumulated an enormous wealth of spatial data. These data often are „only“ used for the production of navigational charts and other nautical publications. The data are far too valuable to limit their use to these applications. They should also be made available to other applications.

Promising approaches have already been made in some countries, and more and more HOs have had to deal with novel tasks involving the use of spatial data. Therefore, the Hydrographic Offices are very much interested in exchanging their experiences.

To start this exchange of experiences, the International Hydrographic Organisation and the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency of Germany (BSH) invite all interested Hydrographic Offices to attend a seminar at Rostock.

Venue:            Hanseatic City of Rostock, Germany  
Date:             8 and 9 November 2005, two full days  
Participants:    Hydrographic Offices and other interested organisations

It is planned to outline the issue with view on the planning of the European Union and corresponding other international activities, and with regard to important technical aspects involved. It is intended to develop a common conclusion regarding the role of hydrography in the evolving spatial data infrastructure.

Rostock is one of the two headquarters of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency. The city lies on the Baltic Sea and has a population of about 200,000. Its airport (Rostock-Laage) is linked to the international airports of Munich and Cologne/Bonn. Rostock can be reached by train or car from Hamburg and from Berlin in about two hours. Venue of the meeting is the „Bürgerschaftssaal“ at the Rostock city hall. The BSH will be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding your travel to and from Rostock.

If you plan to attend the IHO Seminar, kindly return the attached registration form (Annex) to the BSH **before 31 August 2005**. A block booking has been made at the hotel :

**Courtyard by Marriott \*\*\*\***

Kröpeliner/Schwaansche Strasse 6

18055 Rostock

Phone: +49 381 4970-0, Fax 4970-700

E-mail: [courtyard-hotel-rostock@t-online.de](mailto:courtyard-hotel-rostock@t-online.de)

The special rates are 70 € for single rooms and 82 € for double rooms per day including breakfast.

Your reservation should be sent to the BSH. If you need any additional information, please contact Mrs. Kern (e-mail: [madeleine.kern@bsh.de](mailto:madeleine.kern@bsh.de)), phone +49 381 4563 945). Your reservation should be made as early as possible because only a limited number of rooms are available at the above hotel. In case all reservations are full, the BSH could arrange for alternative hotel accommodation.

Additional information about the seminar as well as travel details can be found on the BSH's website ([www.bsh.de](http://www.bsh.de)).

We look forward to your participation in the IHO Seminar 2005.

Annex – Reservation Form

**Rostock, Germany, 8/9 November 2005**

**RESERVATION FORM**

to be returned to:

**BSH / ROSTOCK (Na)**  
**Fax: 0049 381 4563 948**  
**e-mail: [madeleine.kern@bsh.de](mailto:madeleine.kern@bsh.de)**

Rank/Title	
Family Name	
First name	
Organisation	
Address	
Tel.	
Fax	
E-Mail	
Date of Arrival	
Date of Departure	
Nr. of Single Room (s)	
Nr. of Double Room (s)	

Date

Signature

Encl. Seminar Announcement and Registration Form.