



IHB File N° S1/5015

CIRCULAR LETTER 34/2008
11 April 2008

REQUEST FROM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC)

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) has requested IHO's view on what role IOC should play in contributing to the effective coordination of ocean affairs in the relevant intergovernmental forums and on how IOC could be reinforced in order to carry out effectively its mission. IOC is seeking a statement formally adopted by IHO (as well as from other international organizations) in order to inform IOC's Member States about the views of the IHO Member States on the subject.

2 IHO Member States' should be aware that the IHO and the IOC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2000, replacing one dated 1984. The scope of the 2000 MOU is wide enough to allow cooperation between the two organizations, on all possible areas of common interest in their respective fields of competence.

3 Under the terms of the MOU, IHO and IOC have been and continue to be cooperating and working jointly on several subjects, mainly in the field of Ocean Mapping (GEBCO, International Bathymetric Charts (IBC) and Coastal Bathymetry in support of Tsunami preparedness) and Capacity Building. These are good examples of an effective joint effort on ocean affairs.

4 It is the opinion of the Directing Committee that the IHO's expectation of the role of IOC is clearly stated in Article 2, paragraph 1 of its Statutes:

5 *"The purpose of the Commission is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making process of its Member States".*

6 These expectations are confirmed through the MoU between the IHO and IOC. In the circumstances, it does not seem appropriate for the IHO to adopt a formal Resolution on IOC's role.

7 From the perspective of the IHO, it is the opinion of the Directing Committee that exploiting the terms and spirit of our existing MOU with the IOC constitutes an initiative that reinforces IOC's mission.

8 The Directing Committee welcomes your comments which should reach the IHB no later than **01 June 2008**, in order to enable a formal reply to be made to IOC.

On behalf of the Directing Committee,
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hugo Gorziglia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "G".

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director