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CIRCULAR LETTER 09/2010  
25 January 2010

**ADOPTION OF C-17 AS A NEW IHO PUBLICATION**

Reference: IHB CL78/2009 dated 18 November

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The IHB would like to thank the following 42 Member States who replied to CL 78/2009 proposing the adoption of C-17 as a new IHO Publication: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UK and USA.

2 All responses supported the proposal with five Member States providing comments which are included at Annex A. There are currently 80 Member States of the IHO, two of whom have been suspended. Therefore in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article VI of the Convention on the IHO, the majority required on "questions concerning the technical functioning of the Organization" is 40. As a result, C-17 - *Spatial Data Infrastructures: "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices* (Edition 1.0 - October 2009) has been adopted as a new IHO publication.

3 Edition 1.0 of C-17 is available for downloading from the IHO website ([www.iho-ohi.net/iho\\_pubs/CB/C-17\\_e1.0\\_Guidance\\_on\\_MSDI.pdf](http://www.iho-ohi.net/iho_pubs/CB/C-17_e1.0_Guidance_on_MSDI.pdf)).

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Captain Robert WARD  
Director

Annex A: Comments from Member States

COMMENTS BY MEMBER STATES

**Canada**

This new IHO publication suggests a practical and realistic approach towards implementation of Marine SDI. CHS thanks the MSDIWG and its chairman for their contribution. The CHS can attest to the completeness of C-17, as we now have an initiative underway to make gridded bathymetry available for non navigational purposes. This initiative has been developed in collaboration with GeoConnections, the leading authority of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI).

**Ecuador**

Grateful for this publication which is a great contribution to those countries that are developing their SDI.

**France**

1. As with other IHO publications, such as C-16, it seems desirable to include a brief introduction at the beginning of C-17, explaining how this guidance has been developed; to be prepared by the IHB or MSDIWG.

*Comment by the IHB: A short preface by the IHB has now been included.*

2. In the absence of a glossary of acronyms, it is suggested writing DEM and TIN in full (re : p.11 and p. 12/21), as it has been done for other terms.

*Comment by the IHB: This improvement on the text has been done.*

**Papua New Guinea**

PNG acknowledge the good work put forward by the Chairman (MSDIWG) and its members.

**USA**

The US supports the adoption of C-17 Spatial Data Infrastructures, and applauds the good work of the MSDIWG. The US would like to recognize the strong leadership by the former Chair of the MSDIWG and the significant contribution made by Working Group members.