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**CIRCULAR LETTER 39/2011
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**IHO PUBLICATION M-2, VERSION 3.0.0, JULY 2011
"THE NEED FOR NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES"**

Ref.: CL 62/2004 dated 04 October 2004.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In 2004 the IHB distributed, under cover of the above-referenced CL, a copy of the IHO Publication M-2 "National Maritime Policies and Hydrographic Services", which essentially explained the importance of Hydrography to Governments and National Authorities of maritime countries without a hydrographic infrastructure and gave the IHO's view on the merits of developing such capabilities. The publication is widely used and referenced.
2. In the meantime, the Directing Committee decided that this publication should be updated and the IHB undertook the task of producing a third edition of M-2 - "The Need for National Hydrographic Services", which is now available on the IHO website under the "Standards & Publications" section. The French and Spanish versions of M-2 will be posted on the web as soon as they are available.
3. Member States will note that the title of M-2 has been changed from "National Maritime Policies and Hydrographic Services" to "The Need for National Hydrographic Services" to better reflect the objective of the publication.
4. A limited number of printed copies will be produced to be used as introduction material when conducting assessment and technical visits to developing countries.
5. Please feel free to make wide use of this third edition which cancels and replaces the previous one.

On behalf of the Directing Committee,
Yours sincerely,

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director