

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE**

THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHB File N° S3/2620

**CIRCULAR LETTER 72/2011
25 November 2011**

GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF THE OCEANS (GEBCO)

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL UNDERSEA MAPPING
(SCRUM)**

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Directing Committee would like to inform Member States that the Joint Technical Sub-Committee on Ocean Mapping (TSCOM) and the interim Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (iSCRUM) held its meetings at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, San Diego, USA from 3 – 7 October 2011. The GEBCO Guiding Committee met on 7 October.
2. The iSCRUM meeting was chaired by Dr. Martin JAKOBSSON, and included reports and presentations on the status of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting in Antarctica and mapping activities of the International Bathymetric Charts (IBC) projects. Reports on the following IBC regions were provided: the East Pacific (IBCEP), the Southern Ocean (IBCSO), the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO) and the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico (IBCCA). Breakout groups were convened to discuss issues concerning the Antarctic and Arctic mapping activities, and a new Indian Ocean mapping initiative.
3. The work of this Sub-Committee has been guided by the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure approved on an interim basis in 2009, with the following objective: to coordinate, encourage, and provide an interface with the various regional mapping efforts being conducted by IOC, IHO and others, and at the same time act as an Editorial Board endorsing regional products to be included in GEBCO.
4. At the October 2011 meeting, the GGC finalized the text of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure (**Annex A**) for the proposed new Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (SCRUM). As GEBCO is a joint project of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping require the approval of both intergovernmental organizations before they enter into force.

5. The Directing Committee congratulates the GGC for having finalized the text and kindly requests the IHO Member States to complete and return the Voting Paper (**Annex B**) to the IHB by **20 January 2012**. The IOC is already aware of this proposal and as soon as the final text is approved by IHO Member States, the IHB will seek the approval of the IOC.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a smaller 'O' and a final flourish.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Annex A : Proposed Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

Annex B : Voting Paper

**GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF THE OCEANS (GEBCO)
SUB-COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL UNDERSEA MAPPING (SCRUM)**

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

Preamble

At a meeting of some GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) members (and one IHB representative) in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA on 18-29 May 2009, it was decided that a new Sub-Committee was required to coordinate, encourage, and provide an interface with the various regional mapping efforts being conducted by IOC, IHO and others. In addition, such a Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (SCRUM) could function as an Editorial Board endorsing regional products to be included in GEBCO. These Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure were presented to the full GGC at the annual meeting on 1-2 October 2009 in Brest, France, and the creation of the Sub-Committee was approved on an interim basis. At the following GGC meeting in Lima, Peru, on 18 September 2010, the Committee approved the formation of SCRUM on a permanent basis subject to the approval of IOC and IHO. Authority for the creation of this sub-committee is included in the GGC Terms of Reference, paragraph 8, which states that "The GEBCO Guiding Committee shall direct and monitor the work of the GEBCO Sub-Committees and Working Groups; propose to IHO and IOC the creation or termination of Sub-Committees, and create, maintain and terminate Working Groups as deemed necessary." In accordance with paragraph 9 of the GEBCO Terms of Reference, SCRUM shall cooperate with regional International Bathymetric Chart (IBC) projects on the specifications and preparation of regional digital bathymetric models and charts, to ensure their compatibility with, and eventual inclusion in, GEBCO products.

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee reports to the Joint IOC-IHO GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) as its designated authority for all technical matters relevant to the goals of GEBCO as set out in the Guiding Committee Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee shall:
 - 1.2.1 Maintain liaison and cooperate with all existing regional mapping efforts chartered by the IOC under the International Bathymetric Chart (IBC) initiative as well as other relevant regional bathymetric mapping projects.
 - 1.2.2 Act as an Editorial Board by reviewing and validating the resulting regional products before incorporation into the GEBCO global grid.
 - 1.2.3 Foster coordination between the IBC and other relevant regional bathymetric mapping projects and the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (IHO DCDB) to capture, for long-term archive, the bathymetric data used by these projects.
 - 1.2.4 Encourage the establishment of new IHO/IOC regional bathymetric mapping projects to fill current gaps in global bathymetry.
 - 1.2.5 Establish, support, and/or disband working groups, as needed, to carry out specific tasks or product developments that advance the GEBCO Project.
 - 1.2.6 Work with SCUFN on matters of joint interest, such as, but not limited to, facilitating the proposal of new undersea feature names within IBC areas, defining the geometry of named undersea features, and providing contacts with specific regional expertise in bathymetry, geomorphology, and marine geology.

2. Rules of Procedure

2.1 Membership of the Sub-Committee is covered by the following rules:

2.1.1 The Sub-Committee shall normally consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair appointed by the Joint IOC/IHO GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC), and a number of additional members appointed by the Chair, each representing any IBCs and other relevant regional bathymetric mapping projects, particularly where no IBCs exist. Members shall be approved by the GGC based on their ability to represent the activities of each individual project. The Sub-Committee Members List shall be kept updated and posted on the GEBCO website.

2.1.2 The Chair and the Vice-Chair are appointed for a five-year period but not exceeding their current membership of the Committee. The Chair will normally be succeeded by the Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair may be re-appointed for one additional five-year period.

2.1.3 Members of the Sub-Committee shall be appointed for a five-year period, renewable for further five-year terms by majority recommendation of the Sub-Committee and with the approval of the GGC. The Sub-Committee Chair shall inform the GGC of any foreseeable vacancy in a timely manner.

2.1.4 Members of the Sub-Committee are experts acting exclusively for the benefit of the Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Project.¹

2.2 The Chair or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chair shall conduct the business of the Sub-Committee. Meetings will usually be held every year, ideally before the GGC meeting. In the intervening period the Sub-Committee shall conduct its business by correspondence (preferably electronic mail).

2.3 Individuals who can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the Sub-Committee may attend meetings as Scientific Advisors with observer status, at the discretion of the Chair or Vice-Chair.

2.4 Entities and organizations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the Sub-Committee may be represented at meetings with observer status.

2.5 Members are expected to attend every meeting of the Sub-Committee. Sub-Committee Members who are absent from meetings for two consecutive years will normally be considered to have resigned and new nominations shall be sought.

2.6 Observers from IHO and/or IOC Member States may attend meetings. Due to logistic constraints, attendance shall normally be limited to one observer per Member State.

2.7 The quorum to hold a meeting shall be five Sub-Committee Members. The Sub-Committee shall strive to make decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be taken by simple majority vote. Only members present may cast a vote. The Chair shall have the casting vote if there is a tie.

2.8 Recommendations of the Sub-Committee shall be submitted to the GGC for consideration and decision.

2.9 The Chair shall submit an annual report to the Chair of the GGC.

¹ *So far as IOC is concerned, the Sub-Committee is classed as a Joint Group of Experts under the IOC Guidelines for subsidiary bodies.*

VOTING FORM

[to be returned to the IHB by 20 January 2012

E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40]

Member State:

Contact name:.....

Contact E-mail:

1. Do you approve the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the SUB-COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL UNDERSEA MAPPING (SCRUM) as provided in Annex A to this CL?

Yes.....

No

Comments (if any):

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Name/Signature:

Date: