



IHB File N° S3/2620

**CIRCULAR LETTER 19/2012
15 February 2012**

**GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF THE OCEANS (GEBCO)
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL UNDERSEA MAPPING
(SCRUM) TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Reference: IHB CL 72/2011 dated 25 November

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 45 Member States who replied to the reference: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, IR of Iran, Japan, Korea Rep of, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine, UK and the USA. All 45 Member States supported the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping under the direction of the GEBCO Guiding Committee. Four Member States provided comments which are attached at Annex A with IHB comments where appropriate. The ToR and RoP of SCRUM are attached at Annex B.

2 There are currently 80 IHO Member States with two States suspended. Therefore in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article VI of the Convention on the IHO, the majority required for adoption of the SCRUM ToR and RoP is 40. Consequently the establishment of SCRUM is approved by the IHO and the IHB will now inform the GEBCO Guiding Committee and seek the approval of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Hugo Gorziglia', is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Annex A : Member States' comments
Annex B : SCRUM Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

Chile:

Point 2.7 - Where it says that 5 members are necessary to hold a meeting, it is suggested to change the amount of members by percentage of appointed members of the Sub-Committee, in order to assure the appropriate quorum to have a meeting, having in mind that, quantity of members may vary from one year to another.

Comment by the IHB: This point is accepted and the first sentence in Article 2.7 has been amended to read: "The quorum to hold a meeting shall be not less than 50% of the Sub-Committee Members."

Colombia:

It is advisable that all IHO members go on contributing to the development of the Bathymetric Charts' projects because of the many applications that such products propose to the scientific and maritime world, as preventive tools against the threat of natural phenomena raised at sea.

The Hydrographic Offices are the most recommendable institutions to work on such projects, as they are the authors and editors of the hydrographic information, the essential basis for the edition of the bathymetric charts.

No comment by the IHB.

France:

Further to the above-referenced Circular Letter, France approves the principle of establishing a Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (SCRUM), the interest of which was widely debated by the GEBCO Guiding Committee. France however would like to submit the following remarks:

1. Whilst the Terms of Reference for SCRUM clearly indicate in para. 1.2.6 that the Sub-Committee shall work with SCUFN, France regrets that no indication is given on the relative scope and intended links with TSCOM on the one hand, and with CGOM on the other.
2. As regards the link with TSCOM, it appears essential, if only for an optimal management of the resources devoted to GEBCO by the Member States, that the MS have a clear and shared vision of the scope, programmes of activity and deliverables of each of the bodies.
3. As regards the link with CGOM, it is indicated in para. 9 of the Terms of Reference of the GGC that cooperation on international bathymetric chart projects is normally through this group. At the same time, para. 1.2.1 of the SCRUM Terms of Reference encourages cooperation with IOC, which goes without saying since GEBCO is a joint IHO-IOC effort. The question then here is: does SCRUM (in place of CGOM) then become the "relay body" of the GGC (joint IHO-IOC body) with the IOC as regards international bathymetric charts in particular?
4. The Terms of Reference of SCRUM are sufficiently generic to encourage the development of the GEBCO products which is most desirable. France would however prefer that a detailed plan of action, fixing firm completion objectives, be used with the TOR along with an associated calendar. This method would enable us to better identify the necessary phasing with the actions of other sub-committees, and of the TSCOM in particular.

Comment by the IHB:

It is agreed that reference to other GEBCO Sub-Committees should be made. Therefore Article 1.2.6 has been amended to read: "Work closely with other GEBCO Sub-Committees on matters of common interest." The GGC will be asked to consider proposing similar amendments to the TSCOM and SCUFN ToR.

The GGC and the IHB understand that the IOC has disbanded the CGOM and consider that SCRUM would be the GEBCO body that could provide the coordinating role previously undertaken by CGOM. The GGC are intending to seek amendments to their ToR to reflect this change once the IOC has accepted the formation of, and ToR for, SCRUM.

With regard to the proposed objectives and calendar it is considered that this should be part of the IHO Work Programme as proposed by the GGC and endorsed by IHO Member States.

IR of Iran:

We are of the opinion that sub-paragraph 1.2.2 shall be deleted, as this paragraph will have high impact on independency of Regional Mapping.

Comment by the IHB: *This is seen as a key role for SCRUM. Their task is to validate the data in regional products so as to assure its validity prior to incorporation into the GEBCO grid.*

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

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 closely with other GEBCO Sub-Committees on matters of common interest.

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 not less than 50% of the 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.