



**IHB File No S1/5517**

**CIRCULAR LETTER 46/2013  
17 July 2013**

**THS UK-IFHS-IHO Conference “Digital Hydrography on the Maritime Web”  
(Southampton, UK, 29-30 October 2013)**

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In line with the IHO Work Programme tasks concerning outreach and engagement with stakeholders, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is co-sponsoring with the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS) a two-day conference called “Digital Hydrography on the Maritime Web / Embracing the Challenges and Opportunities”. The Conference will be organized by The Hydrographic Society UK (THS UK), in Southampton, United Kingdom, on 29 and 30 October 2013.

2. The Conference will review the progress already made and steps still to be taken by professional Hydrographers to support the move towards an e-navigation digital information environment. A key objective of this event is to stimulate debate, and help inform decision-makers within the international community about current issues and user requirements, especially for digital hydrographic products and services. Further details on the conference content, a call for abstracts and logistics information are available on a dedicated website at [www.digitalhydro.org.uk](http://www.digitalhydro.org.uk). The detailed programme will be drawn up in liaison with the organizer and both co-sponsors as the preparation progresses. The relevant information will be posted on the Conference website as it becomes available.

3. The programme will be based on four half-day sessions which will address respectively “The users’ perspective”, “Presentation and quality of products”, “Innovations in surveying” and “Training”. It is planned that each session will start with an invited key note address followed by two or three presentations, selected from the abstracts received, and then a stakeholders’ forum led by a panel moderated by the session chair.

4. This Conference offers a real opportunity to bring together the various stakeholders in the hydrographic community and to develop a useful dialogue with all interested parties, but its success largely depends on a good level of participation.

5. The Directing Committee invites Member States to consider participating in the THS UK-IFHS-IHO Conference and to encourage other stakeholders to participate as well.

On behalf of the Directing Committee,  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gilles BESSERO', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Gilles BESSERO  
Director