



IHB File N° S1/0906

**CIRCULAR LETTER 23/2014
24 February 2014**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF A COUNTRY INFORMATION DATA BASE AT THE IHB FOR
THE MAINTENANCE AND PUBLICATION OF THE IHO YEARBOOK**

References:

- A. IHO General Regulations - Article 33 (*Publications - Yearbook*)
- B. IHO Work Programme 2013-2017 - Task 1.2.2 - *Develop IHO GIS and webserver and web mapping services in support of RHCs, ENC availability, INT chart coordination, C-55 and other related activities, including using commercial contract support.*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A requires the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) to publish a Yearbook (P-5). In order to gain efficiencies in the maintenance of the Yearbook, the IHB has developed a country information data base from which P-5 can be derived automatically. This has been carried out in accordance with Reference B. Much of the work has been done by the officer seconded to the IHB from Japan.

2. The intention is that Member States will eventually be able to access the country information interface directly via the internet to browse the latest data. However, the current arrangements limit access to the IHB staff only, through the IHB internal network.

The following parameters have been adopted to define the structure of the country information data base and therefore the entries in the Yearbook:

- a) Information about Member States has been classified into three categories (contact, country/dependency and agency information);
- b) Contact information now consists of four fields as follows:
 - National Hydrographer or equivalent
 - Head of the Hydrographic Office (if different from the National Hydrographer)
 - Other point(s) of contact
 - Website;
- c) All information about additional personnel that was listed previously in "Staff employed", "Other information of interest" or "Name and Rank of the Director or Head" has been moved to the field "Other point(s) of contact";
- d) The content of the field "Staff employed" is limited to the total number of staff employed.

3. The new edition of P-5 based on the country information data base has been posted on the IHO web site at (Home > Standards & Publications > Download > Periodical Publications). As all the information contained in the new edition was entered manually into the database, some errors may have slipped through the checks. Member States are invited to review this new edition and in particular the information related to their country and to provide their comments to the IHB (info@iho.int), at their earliest convenience.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert WARD
President