



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHO File No. S3/2513

CIRCULAR LETTER 63/2017
14 November 2017

**CALL FOR APPROVAL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF IHO PUBLICATION B-7
- GEBCO GUIDELINES**

References:

- A. IHO CL 47/2012 dated 7 May – *New Bathymetric Publication – IHO-IOC GEBCO Cook Book (B-11)*;
- B. B-11 – *IHO-IOC GEBCO Cookbook*;
- C. IHO CL 70/2015/Rev.1 dated 21 September – *IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) – New IHO Representatives and Approval of Revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure*;
- D. GEBCO Guiding Committee Terms of Reference;
- E. 1st Session of the IHO Assembly P-6 – *Proceedings including List of Decisions*;
- F. IHO CL55/2017 dated 31 October - *Outcome of the First Meeting of the IHO Council*.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. A review and revision of IHO Publication B-7 – *GEBCO Guidelines* – was commenced by the IHO Secretariat in 2009 and the publication was distributed to members of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) for consideration, comment and input. The partially completed publication was included as a meeting document at GGC31 in 2014, GGC32 in 2015 and GGC33 in 2016, where it was decided to propose its withdrawal.
2. During this period the GGC Terms of Reference were comprehensively revised and expanded with the amended version being adopted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO on 22 June 2015 at its 28th Assembly and then subsequently by the IHO Member States on 11 September 2015 as announced in IHO CL70/2015/Rev.1. Over the same period work was completed on the creation of IHO Publication B-11 (IOC Manuals and Guides 63) – *The IHO-IOC GEBCO Cookbook* – whose subsequent adoption by IHO Member States was announced in IHO CL47/2012 and it was approved by the IOC Executive Council in October 2012.
3. The adoption and approval of the new GGC ToRs and the publication of B-11 have resulted in the fact that the majority of material proposed to be included in the revised version of B-7 was already available and therefore the GGC considered there was no requirement to continue with the revision and updating of B-7, in fact it was considered more appropriate to withdraw the publication so as to avoid duplication of information and material, which would require additional resources to ensure its harmonization with B-11 and the GGC ToRs.
4. It was agreed by the GGC that a comprehensive check would be conducted to ensure any material in B-7 which was not already included in either B-11 or the GGC ToRs, and which was considered current and relevant, would be identified and subsequently included in either document as appropriate.

5. The withdrawal of B-7 will remove a long standing, but stalled, review from the GGC Work Plan and allow resources to be focused on the creation of improved GEBCO products and a revised GEBCO Grid.
6. At its 1st meeting in October 2017, the IHO Council endorsed the decision to withdraw IHO Publication B-7 – *GEBCO Guidelines* and tasked the IHO Secretariat to seek consideration and approval from the IHO Member States (see Reference F – Decision C-1/27).
7. Member States are requested to take into account the endorsement of the IRCC and the IHO Council and to consider the withdrawal of IHO Publication B-7 by providing their reply on the Voting Form in Annex A, at their earliest convenience and **no later than 30 January 2018**.

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M IPTES', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Mustafa IPTES
Director

Annex:

- A. Voting Form

IHO File No S3/2513

B-7 – GEBCO GUIDELINES

Withdrawal of Publication

Voting Form

(to be returned to the IHO Secretariat by 30 January 2018)

E-mail: cl-lc@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40

Note: The boxes will expand as you type your answers.

Member State:

Contact:

E-mail:

Do you approve the withdrawal of B-7 (*tick the appropriate box*)?

YES

NO

If you answer 'NO', please explain your reasons in the comment section below.

Comments:

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Signature :

Date :
