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**CIRCULAR LETTER 52/2018**  
**06 November 2018**

**WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY  
REPORT ON MEMBER STATES ACTIVITIES IN 2018 AND  
THE PROPOSED THEME FOR 2019**

References:

- A. IHO CL 03/2018 dated 11 January - *Theme for World Hydrography Day 2018*
- B. IHO CL 51/2018 dated 29 October - *Outcome of the 2nd meeting of the IHO Council*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the theme of World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2018 was “*Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways*”. This theme was intended to raise awareness for a better understanding of the depth and shape of the seafloor, which is key to a broader understanding of the natural processes and the success of all human activities in, on or under the sea.

2. The following IHO Member States have reported hosting events in connection with World Hydrography Day 2018: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, UAE, UK and USA. Reports are available at:

[www.iho.int>Home>About IHO>World Hydrography Day>WHD 2018 Celebrations around the World](http://www.iho.int/Home>About IHO/World Hydrography Day/WHD 2018 Celebrations around the World)

**Proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2019**

3. At the second IHO Council meeting held in London, UK from 9 to 11 October, the Secretary-General proposed the theme for WHD 2019 as follows:

***“Hydrographic information to drive marine knowledge”***

4. The theme signals the eminent role of hydrographic data in combination with information provided by adjacent maritime domains and advertises the benefits of making hydrographic data accessible to the widest possible audience for use that goes well beyond safety of navigation. It will also acknowledge the increasing interest being shown by the UN-Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in marine geospatial data.

5. The Council Member States endorsed this proposal and invited the IHO Secretariat to issue the corresponding IHO Circular Letter. (Reference B, Decision and Action C2/36).

6. Member States are requested to take the endorsement of the IHO Council into account and to consider the proposed theme for WHD 2019 and to provide their comments, if any, to the IHO Secretariat **no later than 28 December 2018**. The IHO Secretariat would also welcome any comments and suggestions aimed at improving the impact and the organization of annual WHD celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mathias JONAS  
Secretary-General