

IHO File No. S1/1900/A

**CIRCULAR LETTER 63/2019
13 December 2019**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CHANGEOVER TO THE NEW IHO WEBSITE

Reference: IHO CL24/2019 dated 16 May - *New IHO Branding materials*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Secretariat is pleased to announce an updated IHO website will be launched on 20 December 2019. The new website will keep the same web address: www.iho.int and will have a fresh new design, a revised structure and a colour scheme in keeping with the new IHO corporate identity as announced in Circular Letter 24 /2019. It is intended to be visually more appealing and more navigable to help visitors identify relevant content regarding the IHO and its activities.

2. Up to now, the IHO website also served as a repository for nearly all working documents on hydrography produced in the digital age. This situation was difficult to manage and at the same time, the website did not have a document search functionality. In the updated IHO website the repository function is now separated from the core functionality of the website, which is to present the IHO. The new website links to a web-based archive that hosts all documents produced since 2009 and provides advanced search functionalities. IHO Member States can access the document archive using a username and password that will be provided separately. Interested third parties will also be given access on request. The download of documents is not limited. As part of the process to improve the search function, documents and publications older than 10 years have not been included in the archive, but are available on request.

3. The new menu structure has been designed to better reflect the IHO work programme, with all Programme 2 activities falling under a top level “Services and Standards” menu; and all Programme 3 activities under an “Inter-Regional Coordination” menu. The structure of all committee, sub-committee, commission, working group and project team pages remains the same. Working documents for the current year and the previous year will be available on the website, whereas earlier documents dating back to 2009 will be accessible from the archive.

4. The Secretariat’s GIS web map catalogue services have also been improved and extended. These include map services showing ENC and INT Chart coverage, IHO Member States, global capacity building initiatives and the location of national MSDI portals. New embedded web maps have been included in each of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions and Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) pages.

5. In order to keep Member States updated with the latest events, “News” items will be regularly posted on the website. Links to social media sites have also been included in order to facilitate communication between site visitors and the Secretariat. Member States wishing to stay up-to-date with IHO actions can also follow the IHO Secretariat directly on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/IHO), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/IHO) or [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/iho).

6. The task of updating the website has required a complete review of all content and in many cases the redrafting or updating of text. The Secretariat is making every effort to translate these changes for inclusion in the French site, however this task is still ongoing.

7. In case some information cannot be found on the new website, visitors may still access the old content on the legacy site at <http://legacy.iho.int>. Content on the legacy site will however no longer be updated and visitors should refer to the new website for up-to-date information.

8. Member States are invited to provide feedback on the new website and provide comments for improvement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mathias Jonas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General