

REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETINGS

Submitted by GEBCO Secretary

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of forthcoming IHO Regional Hydrographic Commission meetings.

Action to be taken: See paragraph 4

Related documents: GGC ToRs and RoPs dated 11 September 2015

1. The current Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee include, in the goals, the GGC is to:
 4. Encourage and facilitate ocean mapping cooperation leading to the exchange and preservation of bathymetric data and associated metadata;
 5. Foster collaboration among individuals and organizations with established and developing expertise so as to assist local and regional mapping efforts to attain a global standard of quality;
 6. Identify oceanic areas that are insufficiently mapped and recommend to appropriate ocean-going organizations and institutions that such areas are surveyed;
 7. Promote education and training in ocean mapping through high level courses in Ocean Bathymetry acknowledged by the IHO and IOC; and
 8. Bring together the ocean mapping community and users of bathymetry thereby leading to products that are more widely used.
2. The ToR also state, in articles, that the GGC shall:
 5. Stimulate the flow of data relevant to the GEBCO Project by actively identifying sources of new data and encouraging and promoting the release of data to appropriate data banks, with the objective of ensuring that maximum available data are provided to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB);
 11. Engage with regional mapping projects to encourage their compatibility with, and eventual inclusion in, GEBCO products; and
 14. Take all practical opportunities to advocate the scientific and societal benefits of mapping the seafloor.
3. The Secretariat of the IHO encourages targeted participation of appropriate GEBCO personnel in Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) meetings to achieve these goals and obligations. Details of recent and forthcoming RHC meetings are at Annex A.

4. The GGC is invited to:
 - a. **Note** the information provided;
 - b. **Identify and prioritise** RHC meetings at which participation is deemed advantageous;
 - c. **Identify** appropriate individuals and **allocate** the necessary resources to support their participation; and
 - d. Take any other **Action** deemed appropriate.

Annex:

- A. Table of recent and forthcoming RHC meetings.

RHC Meeting Calendar

Commission	2016		2017		2018	
	Location	Date	Location	Date	Location	Date
Arctic	<i>Iqaluit, Canada</i>	<i>3 & 6 Oct</i>	Denmark	Oct		
Baltic Sea	<i>Klaipeda, Lithuania</i>	<i>27-29 Sep</i>	Rostock, Germany	Sep		
East Asia	<i>Surakarta, Indonesia</i>	<i>24-26 Feb</i>	Japan	Feb		Sep/Oct
East Atlantic	Cádiz, Spain	18-20 Oct	-	-		
Meso American and Caribbean	Belém, Brazil	14-17 Dec	tbc	Dec		
Mediterranean and Black Sea	<i>Batumi, Georgia</i>	<i>30 Jun-2 Jul</i>	Montenegro	4-6 Jul	-	-
Nordic	<i>Stavanger, Norway</i>	<i>11-13 Apr</i>	Denmark	Mar		
North Indian Ocean	<i>Chittagong, Bangladesh</i>	<i>14-16 Mar</i>	Alexandria, Egypt	13-17 Feb(?)		
North Sea	<i>Dublin, Ireland</i>	<i>21-23 Jun</i>	-	-	Belgium	Mar
ROPME Sea Area	-	-	Muscat, Oman (tbc)	Jan	-	-
<i>South Africa and Islands</i>	<i>Cape Town, South Africa</i>	<i>29-31 Aug</i>	Mauritius (tbc)	Sep		
South East Pacific	-	-	Colombia		-	-
South West Atlantic	<i>Buenos Aires, Argentina</i>	<i>7-8 Apr</i>	Brazil	Mar		
South West Pacific	Nouméa, Nouvelle-Calédonie	30 Nov-2 Dec	tbc	Nov/Dec		
USA and Canada	<i>Halifax, Canada</i>	<i>16 May</i>	USA	May		
Antarctica	<i>Trømsø, Norway</i>	<i>28-30 Jun</i>	tbc	tbc		

Meetings in italics have already taken place.