

Relevant Outcomes of IRCC11

Submitted by GGC Secretary

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details on the relevant draft outcomes of IRCC 11.

Action to be taken: 3

Related documents: GGC36/1/8.1 (IRCC10-07I1)

1. The 11th session of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) meeting in Genoa, Italy, 3-5 June 2019. Mr Shin Tani presented the report from the GGC (IRCC 10-07I1), which included the outcomes and actions from the 35th meeting in Canberra, Australia, on 8 to 9 November 2018.

2. The IRCC made the following Decisions, Actions and Recommendations with respect to the particular actions requested of it by the GGC:

a) GEBCO GUIDING COMMITTEE (GGC):

Presented by Mr Shin Tani (Japan), Chair of the GGC. He informed the meeting on the development of the GEBCO activities in particular the progress on Seabed 2030 Project and introduced the GEBCO Work Plan and proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the GEBCO Guiding Committee. The meeting was informed on the new edition 4.0.2 of IHO Publication B-6 (Standardization of undersea features names, CL 34/2019 refers) to make the supporting bathymetric data available to the IHO DCDB as part of a submission. The IRCC noted that the new GEBCO grid was released in March 2019, which contained significantly more data, particularly in the Arctic and Antarctic regions, where the coverage has increased to approximately 15%. The IRCC was informed on the creation of the new Sub-Committee on Communications, Outreach and Public Engagement (SCOPE) by the GGC.

He informed the meeting on the Seabed 2030 under the IHO-IOC GEBCO framework with the focused goal of producing the definitive, high-resolution bathymetric map of the entire World Ocean by the year 2030. Initiated at the Forum for Future Ocean Floor Mapping by Mr Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, in Monaco in June 2016, the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 project commenced its operational phase at the beginning of February 2018. The project stood up the four regional centers (North Pacific-Arctic Oceans, South and West Pacific Ocean, Atlantic-Indian Oceans, and Southern Ocean) and the Global Center based at the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) of the National Oceanographic Centre (NOC) in the United Kingdom (UK).

The Committee noted that a number of regional meetings have been held with a focus on data discovery, making data publicly available and gap assessment. A reappraisal analysis of the data coverage of the GEBCO 15 arc-second grid, based on current technology variable resolution bands, indicates that about 6% of the current GEBCO grid has been completed. He

informed the meeting that the selection process for a permanent Director of Seabed 2030 has been completed and the final contract negotiations are underway.

The Committee agreed the following:

Recommendations to RHCs:

Recommendation 16. Continue to organize contribution of bathymetric data in shallower coastal areas from their member states to DCDB in order to support the production of higher resolution gridded data products of GEBCO.

Recommendation 17. Invite and communicate with GEBCO members to their meetings as appropriate;

Decision 28: to endorse the work programme of the GGC and proposed amendment to the GGC ToRs (Annex E of doc. IRCC11-07I1), removing "a maximum of" before "additional term" in Para 2.1.

Decision 29: to endorse the amendments to the IHO Publication B-6 (ref. doc. IRCC11-07I2).

Action 11: IHO Secretariat to issue a CL seeking Member States' approval for the draft amendments of the IHO Publication B-6 (deadline: 30 July 2019).

3. The GGC is requested to:

- a. **Note** the information provided;
- b. **Encourage** closer engagement between the GEBCO community and Regional Hydrographic Commissions to improve the contribution of all bathymetry data for inclusion in GEBCO products; and
- c. **Take** any other actions, as appropriate.