



IHO-EU Network

Messages for EOOS Event 21-23th November 2018

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is an international technical organization of more than 85 coastal States, that was established in 1921 to support safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. The object of the Organization is to bring about the coordination of the activities of national hydrographic offices, the greatest possible uniformity in nautical charts and documents, the adoption of reliable and efficient methods of carrying out and exploiting hydrographic surveys, the development of the sciences in the field of hydrography and the techniques employed in descriptive oceanography

The IHO established in 2012 a network of its European members (IHO-EU Network) to work in partnership with the European Commission on European topics.

Hydrography is the branch of applied sciences which deals with the measurement and description of the physical features of oceans, seas, coastal areas, lakes and rivers, as well as with the prediction of their change over time, for the primary purpose of safety of navigation and in support of all other marine activities, including climate change, economic development, security and defence, scientific research, and environmental protection.

IHO-EU Network was invited to participate to the advisory board of the EOOS conference and to the revision of the EOOS strategy and implementation plan.

The IHO-EU network strongly support the necessity;

- to reduce the fragmentation of observations
- to increase the quality, sustainability and re-use of data by generalizing the use or development of standards for acquisition and dissemination of data and best quality control
- to increase the sharing of expertises in the different domains to develop the necessary integrated picture of the situation (climate change, eco-system based approach, sustainability of blue economy, safety of navigation)
- to integrate the data produced in the global databases to nourish the vision of global ocean,

They warmly approve ;

- the introduction of bathymetry and more generally hydrography in the EOOS strategy and implementation plan and better taking into account of observation platforms for these key data.
- the necessity to widen the EOOS area of work not only to EOVs (Essential Ocean Variables) and EBVs (Essential Biodiversity Variables), but “define priorities for wider ocean variables and parameters in Europe, from biology to hydrography, used for environmental monitoring assessments, industry and wider stakeholder purposes”

They recommend, to fully integrate the SEABED 2030 programme in the objectives of the EOOS strategy, on line with the ambition to contribute to global efforts in ocean observing such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and climate change. The IHO is one of the pillars of SEABED2030¹ and the IHO-EU Network will facilitate the establishment of stronger links between EOOS objectives and SEABED 2030 program, like with EMODNET bathymetry.

The IHO-EU Network will promote and support the EOOS development, participating to the Advisory committee or other governance organization and projects of the implementation plan in function of possibilities.

¹ <https://seabed2030.gebco.net> ; <https://youtu.be/dQTTMDM0zJA>