

November 20, 2019

Dear Colleagues of the Meso American-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission:

I am pleased to contact you on the occasion of the upcoming MACHC-20 and to introduce myself as Director of the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) and Chair of the IHO Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB) Working Group.

As you are aware, Seabed 2030 is in its third year since launch and I am excited to report notable progress has been achieved in the expansion of data coverage of the world's oceans from 6% to 15%! The DCDB and the Seabed 2030 Regional Data Assembly and Coordination Centers (RDACCs) work closely together to ensure the archiving of and access to bathymetric data throughout the global oceans. Data contributions made to the IHO DCDB, or through RDACCs to the IHO DCDB, are assembled and integrated into the freely available GEBCO Global Ocean Map. We envision the RHCs and RDACCs working closely together on matters of coordination to ensure that all efforts are complementary. I am pleased to know that the MACHC has already initiated collaboration with the RDACC for the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, which includes your region.

Crowdsourced bathymetry activities continue to expand around the world. While systematic surveys will primarily be used to improve Seabed 2030 products, “passage soundings” will play an important role as a powerful source of information to supplement the more rigorous and scientific bathymetric coverage done by hydrographic offices, industry, and researchers. We are pleased to announce the recent publication of *B-12 IHO Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry* (iho.int/iho_pubs/bathy/B_12_Ed2.0.2_2019.pdf) and encourage all Member States to respond positively to *IHO CL 11/2019 Annex B: Acceptance of Crowdsourced Bathymetry Activities in National Waters of Jurisdiction* (iho.int/mtg_docs/circular_letters/english/2019/CL11_2019_EN_v1.pdf).

For your consideration, the DCDB has reviewed its holdings of singlebeam and multibeam bathymetric data in the Meso American-Caribbean Sea Region commensurate with IHO INT Region B and has produced the attached summary. We are actively working on similar views of Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry and ENC data holdings and will make that information available as soon as possible.

I welcome learning the results of your meeting, ideas you may have toward future Seabed 2030 and crowdsourced bathymetry collaborations, and any way the IHO DCDB may be of assistance in your work.

Sincerely,



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Figure 1: **Multibeam** bathymetric ship tracks (green lines) of IHO DCDB data holdings in the MACHC Region commensurate with IHO INT Region B (yellow polygon).

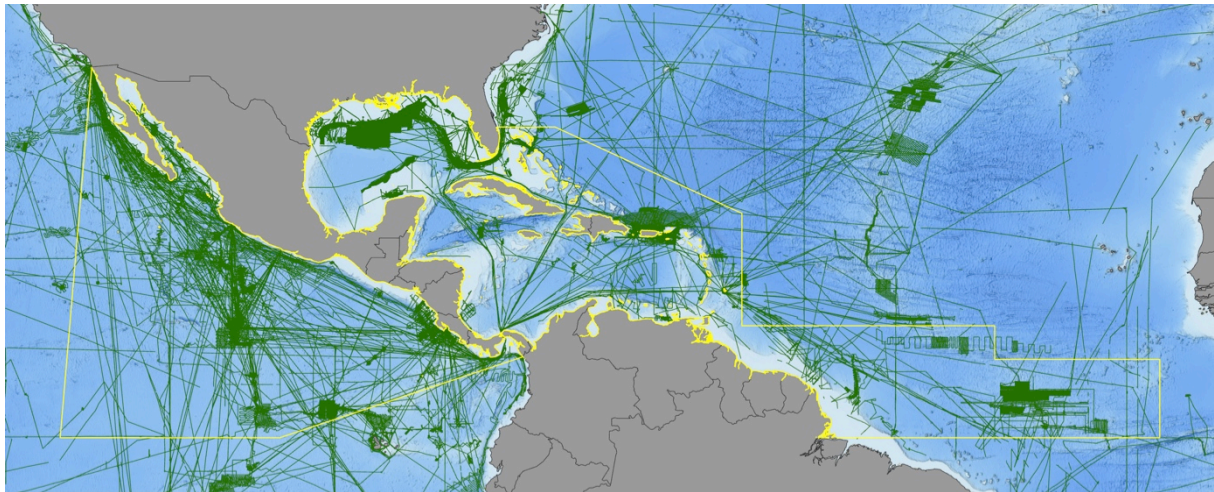


Table A: Information on IHO DCDB-held **multibeam** bathymetry surveys in the MACHC Region.

Contributing Country	# of Surveys
Germany	2
Russia	4
USA	565
Industry	12
Total Surveys	583

Figure 2: *Singlebeam* bathymetric ship tracks (purple lines) of IHO DCDB data holdings in the MACHC Region commensurate with IHO INT Region B (yellow polygon).

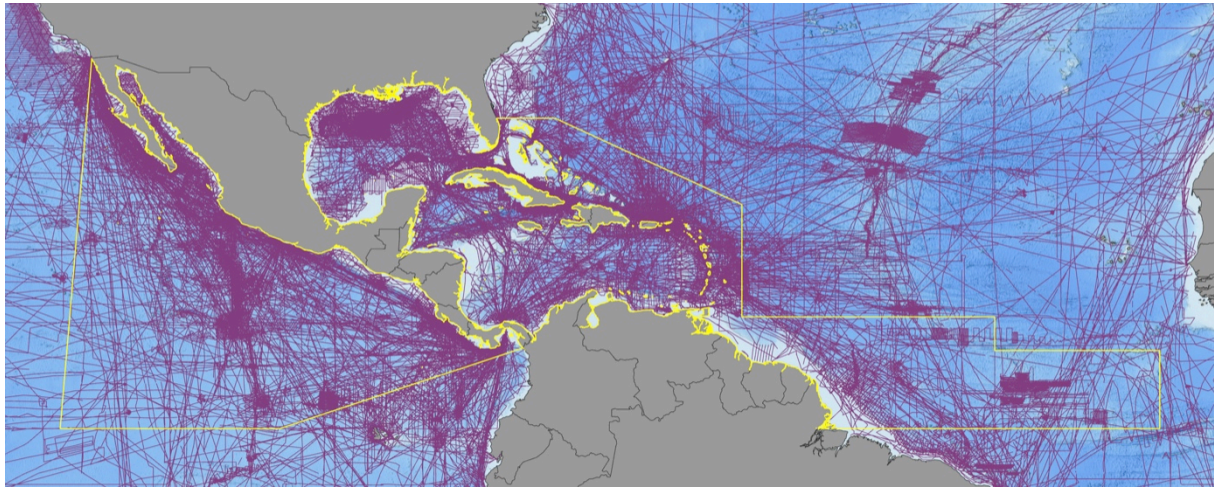


Table B: Information on IHO DCDB-held *singlebeam* bathymetry surveys in the MACHC Region

Contributing Country	# of Surveys
Brazil	9
Canada	6
Chile	1
Cuba	5
France	41
Germany	7
Japan	2
Mexico	2
Netherlands	4
Russia	15
Spain	1
UK	77
UK/Netherlands	2
USA	872
USA/Mexico	1
Total Surveys	1045