

The World Hydrography Day

1. BACKGROUND

The World Hydrography Day was celebrated for the first time in June 2006. Most of the HOs have been involved in such celebrations (ref. http://ohi.shom.fr/MEM_STATES/WH_Day/world_hyd_day_E.htm), with significant efforts but mixed results.

When positive feedbacks have been received, they were on a pure national basis.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The World Hydrography Day is a great opportunity to raise the situation awareness in hydrography at the highest level of the national, European and international institutions. France suggests HOs to cooperate and investigate the possibility of organising joint celebrations in 2007 (or 2008), the aim of which would be to better impact the policy and decision makers across our boundaries. In accordance with the proposals made for NSHC 27 Item C3.4 (EU Hydrographic Service(s)), it is proposed for NSHC members to target specifically EU institutions (Commission and Parliament) and other relevant regional forums (see NSHC Item C3.2 - North Sea Ministerial Conference).

3. PROPOSAL

In order to achieve this task, NSHC's members are invited to consider the following proposals:

- setting up of a task group of volunteer HOs;
- liaison and coordination with IHB to define the main theme for 2007 (or 2008);
- analysis of national assets and potential contributions;
- inventory of relevant regional forums;
- definition of the best strategy and mechanisms to reach EU Commission and Parliament members and other regional forums.