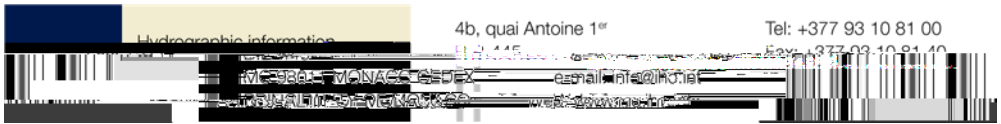


IHO Input to the Report of the UN Secretary General on Oceans and Law of the Sea



General

1. The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is the inter-governmental international organization whose principal aim is to ensure that all the world's oceans, seas and navigable waters are properly surveyed and charted, through the coordinated endeavours of national Hydrographic Offices

- nautical charts, issued on paper or in digital format (Electronic Navigational Charts), which are produced by national Hydrographic Offices to support safe navigation in accordance with the requirements of SOLAS;
- the maritime component of spatial data infrastructures being developed at the national and regional levels, which includes in particular high-resolution bathymetry (depth data) compiled by national Hydrographic Offices;
- the global reference bathymetric data sets developed and made available through the GEBCO programme (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) operated jointly by the IHO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

8. The current worldwide coverage of Electronic Navigational Charts is now effectively corresponding with paper chart coverage. However, numerous remote areas that are far away from the highly frequented shipping routes are still not sufficiently covered by modern up-to-date nautical chart information. Further progress is hindered by the lack of reliable survey data and the allocation of appropriate resources and priority by the governments of many coastal States. While most of the world's established shipping routes are relatively safe navigationally because of widespread use by many ships over many years, the advent of larger vessels and the need for vessels to travel to new destinations, in particular with regard to the expansion of the cruise industry, are not supported by adequate surveys and charts.

9. The IHO is also developing and maintaining guidelines to assist stakeholders in implementing the requirement of international instruments such as UNCLOS and SOLAS. An example is the Manual on Technical Aspects of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (TALOS Manual - IHO Publication C-51). The TALOS Manual is maintained jointly by the IHO and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). Its purpose is to provide guidance in order to ensure maximum international standardization of the technical aspects of UNCLOS. The Manual can be downloaded free of charge from the IHO website at www.iho.int.

10. The IHO develops and sets standards and issues guidance which ensure that hydrographic information is available and can be delivered to users through appropriate harmonized and interoperable products and services. The current maintenance of existing standards and the development of new ones are driven by the need to continue to satisfy the SOLAS requirements of enhancing safety of navigational, and more recently, supporting the implementation of "e-navigation", which is being led by the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO). Both elements require easy access to standardized, high quality digital geospatial information that can support marine spatial management. Accordingly, the IHO continues to work on its S-100 framework to support the creation and maintenance of interoperable maritime data product specifications compliant with the ISO-19100 series of geographic information standards. The IHO member states have agreed about the S-100 implementation roadmap which envisions the digital provision of all relevant marine geoinformation themes under this new paradigm. The foundation for will be laid by the start of the provision of the generation

Authoritative Dataset on the Limits of Oceans and Seas

12. The IHO's responsible technical body is currently taking action to develop a new Product Specification named Polygonal Demarcations of Global Sea Areas (S-130). The objective is to use the S-130 Product Specification as a dataset model for the subsequent production of the authoritative S-130 Dataset with global coverage of all geographic limits of the oceans and seas as maintained in analogue form by the IHO since 1919 by means of IHO publication S-23.

Global map of Marine Protected Areas

13. The adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

