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Executive Summary

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is the inter-governmental international

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1. The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is the inter-governmental international organization whose and navigable waters are properly surveyed and charted, through the coordinated endeavours of national Hydrographic Offices that also contribute to the promulgation of Maritime Safety Information (MSI). The requirement to provide these services is set out in Regulation 9 of Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and is therefore an obligation placed on all contracting governments. Regulation 9 requires, among other things

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to the requirements of safe navigation

breaking work which was done during this period. The goal is to highlight the past, present, and future of hydrography by showing the important work of early hydrographers, progress in technology, and state of the art in technology.

Promoting the marine dimension in global agendas

17.

mitigation of marine disasters such as storm and tsunami inundation. IHO Member States are encouraged to contribute bathymetric data in shallower coastal areas to support the production of higher resolution gridded data products.

22. A new GEBCO 15 arc-second global grid, GEBCO_2020, was published in June 2020. This is the second GEBCO grid produced in cooperation with the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO (al, 2014) - a fusion of land topography with measured and estimated seafloor topography. This base grid is augmented with the gridded bathymetric data sets developed by the four Seabed 2030 Regional Centers and compiled into a global bathymetric grid at the Seabed 2030 Global Center. Information on how to access the grid and the data sets included can be found on the GEBCO web site: www.gebco.net/data_and_products/gridded_bathymetry_data/.

23. 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. Under the Directorship of Mr Jamie McMichael-Phillips, the project has established the four regional centres (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 Seabed 2030 project has a goal of completing the GEBCO grid by 2030, such that each grid cell at the defined target resolutions that varies by depth, will contain at least one depth sounding. The new GEBCO grid released in June 2020, contains significantly more data, and the overall coverage has increased to approximately 19%. Work continues on making additional datasets available and encouraging the IHO Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB) initiative to help increase the publicly available bathymetric data. The Seabed 2030 regional and global centers continue to work closely with the CSBWG.

24. The IHO established a Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) in 2015 to