



# 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee

## Report of IHO-IAG Advisory Board on the Law Of the Sea (ABLOS)

### Agenda Item 6.1



IHO

# PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

1. 10th ABLOS Conference, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Business Meetings.
2. The **10th ABLOS Conference**, titled ‘Opportunities and Challenges in the Governance of the Planet Ocean’ took place from 8 to 9 October 2019 in Monaco. The Conference was attended by 70 delegates from 25 different States.
3. The **BM26** was held at the IHO Secretariat, also in Monaco, on 7 and 10 October 2019.



IHO

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

### 4. ABLOS members and observers discussed notable topics:

- CB training course - a small group was established to lead the revision of the material.
- Creation of ABLOS web site - increase ABLOS visibility and provide information regarding its activities and the TALOS Manual (C-51). The ABLOS fund will partially support the web site maintenance.
- Discuss the legal status of Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB) with respect to UNCLOS in its conferences and seminars - opinion papers can be developed for publication and supporting presentations made at appropriate events to help clarify the status of CSB and potentially gain wider national acceptance for the activity.



IHO

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

5. Edition 6.0.0 of the TALOS Manual (HSSC11 action) was concluded - 33 Member States responded to IHO CL 61/2019, 32 voted to approve Edition 6.0.0, which has been adopted.  
French and Spanish translations of Edition 6.0.0 are being produced by the French and Chilean members.
6. It had been agreed that the 2020 Business Meeting (BM27) and Seminar would be in Brazil however due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 the meeting was held by VTC, 6-8 October, and the Seminar was cancelled.



IHO

# PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

7. The **27th Business Meeting** was held by VTC with the attendance of all members and observers.
8. Among other subjects the BM27 decided:
  - Postpone the 11th ABLOS Conference until 2022 due to the possible restriction imposed by COVID-19 still in 2021.
  - Held one-day online seminar in 2021 to promote the IHO100, the launching of the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable and the work of ABLOS. This webinar will be held together with ABLOS BM28, in Monaco.



IHO

# PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

9. The draft of the new ABLOS website (<https://www.ablos.org/>), hosted at the Danish Technical University (DTU), was presented. In the website information about the group, the forthcoming events, past events, and relevant information regarding Law of the Sea is available.
10. Commence TALOS 7th Edition. It was discussed the possibility of changing its the format, making it a digital publication (e-book), in addition to creating a simplified version of its content, so that it covers professionals from other areas besides geosciences.



IHO

# PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

## 11. Planning for the next Conference (11th ABLOS Conference).

- Organizing Committee has been formed
- Mr. Larry Mayer - Director Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping
- University of New Hampshire was invited as a keynote speaker.



IHO

## PROBLEMS OR OUTSTANDING ISSUES

International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

1. Two of the four IHO appointed ABLOS members are now serving their second term and due to complete their appointments in 2021. Those members were requested to advise whether they would be available for re-nomination by their respective host organizations or whether they were aware of suitable candidates to fill the forthcoming vacancies.
2. It is noted that 1 of 4 IAG members has not yet been appointed, but finding a suitable candidate is in full process in coordination with IAG Secretary General.





**IHO**

# **ACTIONS REQUESTED FROM HSSC**

International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

1. Note this report
2. Note excellent IHO Secretariat support to ABLOS
3. Endorse the continuation of ABLOS to pursue its work under its Terms of Reference
4. Review and endorse the work program of Annex B