



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANISATION (IHO)
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SOCIETIES (IFHS)**

1. Parties

This document constitutes an agreement between The International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS).

2. Background

The IHO and IFHS each recognises that the other is an international organisation with many complementary activities serving similar professional and public constituencies.

IHO is an Inter Governmental Organisation of consultative and technical nature comprising over 70 member states represented by their respective national hydrographic offices. IHO objectives include the coordination of national hydrographic offices activities, standardisation of nautical charts and publications and the adoption of reliable and efficient methods to conduct hydrographic surveys, all aiming to contribute to safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. In its endeavour, IHO has several Regional Hydrographic Commissions to provide focus on regional issues as well as several Committees and Working Groups to deal with particular technical and policy topics.

IFHS is a partnership of learned national and regional hydrographic societies dedicated to the promotion of hydrography and related sciences. IFHS represents all those with an expressed interest in these sciences, including but not limited to qualified hydrographic surveyors. As such it promotes the interests of those who use hydrographic services, whether for private or public applications. IFHS promotes the development of hydrography and hydrographic learning and provides opportunities for the exchange of ideas and best practice. The Federation provides a global focal point for the wider hydrographic community, both individual and corporate, with its objective to provide members of affiliated societies with a range of products and services.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a continuing liaison between the two organisations. This will be achieved by maintaining and increasing the opportunities of scientific, technical and professional as well as academic and educational exchange between their members, through a continuing programme of co-operation leading to mutual sharing of knowledge and expertise to the advantage of both organisations.

4. Programme of Activities

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organisations agree to endeavour to intensify their co-operation for mutual benefit. The following steps will be taken, among others:

1. Regular contact is to be established between the two organisations in order to institute and maintain a continuing liaison to address matters of common interest

2. Each organisation should inform the other of all Conferences, Commissions, Working groups, etc. that it has established and invite representation from the other where it is agreed that it would be appropriate.
3. Each organisation should inform the other of its programme of proposed seminars, workshops, etc. to enable joint participation should it be of mutual benefit and inform its members of these events as appropriate.
4. Both organisations should identify opportunities to organise specialised seminars or workshops under joint sponsorship.
5. Each organisation should invite one representative from the other organisation to attend respective Congresses/Conferences and offer complimentary registration.

5. Financial Commitment

It is understood that neither organisation can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this agreement, without the specific written agreement of both organisations.

6. Legal Status

This Memorandum of Understanding does not create a legal relationship between the two organisations who will maintain their mutual independence.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force unless terminated by either party upon three months written notice. Changes may be proposed by a resolution from one party and agreed by resolution from the other.

Date: _____

On behalf of IHO

On behalf of IFHS

Vice-Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President IHB

Paul Hornsby
Chairman IFHS