



## **WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY IN BRAZIL**

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly (UN) adopted Resolution A / 60/30, which welcomed the proposal of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) for the establishment of World Hydrography Day. This resolution called on the Member States to work with the IHO to promote safe navigation, especially in port areas and in protected or vulnerable maritime areas. As a result, and in order to increase public awareness of the vital role that Hydrography plays in our daily lives, IHO celebrated June 21 as World Hydrography Day.

The IHO, in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, in cooperation with other international organizations, and believing that Hydrography, through detailed knowledge of the topography of the seabed, will contribute to the appropriate, safe, profitable and sustainable use of the world's seas, oceans and watercourses, is working to use satellite-derived and collectively-based bathymetry, known as participative bathymetry, to provide relevant information through a marine spatial data infrastructure.

In this context, the data provided by the General Oceanic Bathymetric Map (GEBCO), an initiative of the IHO and the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), represent the most comprehensive and public available dataset of hydrographic surveys. Along the same lines, there is also a project to complete the Global Topography of the Seabed, called "Seabed 2030". This ambitious project, initiated in 2018 and coordinated by GEBCO, aims to consolidate available information on the seabed and support the development of research to provide a better known underwater world by 2030.

Most international trade is transported by waterways. With the adoption by July 2018 of the requirement for electronic charting (ECDIS) on vessels governed by the Convention for the Safeguarding of Human Life at Sea (SOLAS), navigation system will definitely enter the digital age, thus completing a process started in 2008. The use of Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC) will allow

the world fleet to have access to nautical and hydrographic information in a totally digital environment, safer and more efficient. The great transformation of Analog Nautical Cartography into Digital Cartography – a project of generations – will finally be concluded.

In Brazilian Navy, in addition to World Hydrography Day, we also celebrate today the 2nd anniversary of the Regional Office for the Validation of Electronic Nautical Charts for Latin America (LA-RENC). LA-RENC integrates the structure of the International Center for Electronic Navigation Charts (IC-ENC), whose mission is to validate the ENC's produced by the National Hydrographic Services affiliated, in order to contribute to the use of certified and better quality products, resulting in more safety. LA-RENC, based at Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação (DHN), the Brazilian Hydrographic Service, performs the validation of the electronic charts produced by all IC-ENC member countries, but, as a priority, those of Latin American countries, assisting the Hydrographic Services of that region in the production and understanding of the reports validation. Throughout its first two years, the LA-RENC team validated about 900 Electronic Charts from the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Spain, United States, Greece, Netherlands, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Portugal, United Kingdom, Romania, Russia, Suriname and Uruguay.

After 97 years of its foundation, IHO and its 89 Member States are firmly committed to making the World Society aware of the importance of Hydrography's role by continuing to coordinate international standards publication, development, capacity-building and assistance activities to Hydrographic Services of developing countries, and encouraging the acquisition of new methods of data collection in order to ensure a better quality and availability of this information by stimulating the development of national and regional infrastructures.

The Navy, as the representative of Brazil in the IHO and other international organizations that contribute to the management of the oceans and in line with the theme defined for 2018: “Bathymetry - Basis for the sustainability of the seas, oceans and waterways”, continues to cooperate with the global hydrographic community in the joint effort to plan, produce and make available increasingly reliable and timely data on our rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, thus contributing to the sustainable development of our country.