

Proposal to support the Seabed 2030 initiative by inviting willing IHO MS to inform the RENC's of their desire that S-57 data in their ENC's be made available to the IHO DCDB

Submitted by:	Norway supported by Germany, New Zealand, Sweden and USA.
Executive Summary:	If IHO MS that distribute their ENC's through a RENC, would allow their S-57 data, already available in the RENC-system, to be distributed also to the IHO DCDB, we can make a genuine contribution to the important but ambitious Seabed 2030 project
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- IHO CL 11/2016, 1 March - Request For Shallow Water Bathymetric Data- IHO CL 90/2009, 17 December - Request For Shallow Water Bathymetric Data- IHO CL 14/2007, 2 February - Request For Shallow Water Bathymetric Data- IHO CL 36/2006, 28 March - Request For Shallow Water Bathymetric Data

Background

Seabed 2030 is a global project within the IHO-IOC GEBCO framework with the focused goal of producing the definitive, high-resolution bathymetric map of the entire World Ocean. This ambitious initiative is driven by a strong motivation to empower the world to make policy decisions, to use the ocean sustainably and undertake scientific research based on detailed bathymetric information of the Earth's seabed.

The references show that this is not the first initiative to collect and make available seabed knowledge on a global scale. Responses to the referred earlier initiatives have been meagre and support the need for a new initiative. One for which the IHO community must take ownership to make it a success.

Though some areas of the world are covered by high resolution bathymetric data, this proposal aims to support the Seabed 2030 initiative in making existing data available for areas where GEBCO has little or poor coverage.

The vast majority of IHO MS distribute their ENC's through a RENC for the purpose of standardized, quality assured and controlled ENC distribution to our SOLAS end-users. As a consequence, nearly all ENC's worldwide are available through the RENC system in S-57 format. If IHO MS would allow for the RENCs to distribute their S-57 bathymetric data (or parts of it) to the IHO DCDB, this would be both a big first data contribution of the IHO to the Seabed 2030 program and, with that, a recognition of the importance of the Seabed 2030 program by the IHO MS. At present, the RENCs do not have tools to automatically extract

depth-sounding data from ENCs but can be asked by their members to develop this. The RENCs should cooperate with the IHO DCDB as to the most pragmatic solution.

Norway recognises that the national regulations of each sovereign IHO MS might set limits as to the level of detail of the contribution, either for raw sensor data or for bathymetric data of any other format, but simply asks for each MS to consider if and how they can contribute.

If, and only if, permission is granted by a MS, and a pragmatic solution for depth-sounding extraction is developed, RENCs could distribute S-57 bathymetric data to the IHO DCDB for the sole purpose of the GEBCO Seabed 2030 program.

Recommendation

Norway would like the GEBCO Guidance Committee, the WEND WG and the RENCs, to actively engage with their respective MS and ask them to contribute to the Seabed 2030 program as proposed. In order to facilitate contribution Norway would like to ask the two RENCs to work together to create a common interface/data re-use form that allows nations to identify permissible data re-use parameters, beyond the SoN use of the ENC. The RENCs can then offer to extract sounding data and provide for delivery of extracted data to the IHO DCDB and/or the Seabed 2030 Regional Mapping Centers for use within the GEBCO grid.