



International Hydrographic Organization

## 21<sup>st</sup> MODEG MEETING

Oostende, Belgium, 18-19 February 2014

EC-IHO Meeting Update

## Background

- Memorandum of Understanding on establishing a cooperation on maritime affairs between the European Commission and the International Hydrographic Organization signed in April 2012 in Monaco (18<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference)
- Establishment of an IHO Working Group on EU matters composed of representatives of EU/EEA members of the IHO
- 5 EC-IHO meetings between October 2012 and October 2014



## Background

### ■ Items of discussions:

- Review of projects of mutual interest (including EMODnet and implementation of INSPIRE through Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures)
- IHO input to the Green Paper on Marine Knowledge 2020
- Identification of initiatives that could address EU requirements and benefit from EU support
  - > European programme of hydrography
  - > European coastal mapping
  - > Vertical reference & chart datum
  - > Marine dune dynamics

### => Priorities

- Support of EMODnet
- Joint European Coastal Mapping Project



## IHO and EMODnet

### ■ IHO objectives:

- 1) Avoid duplication
- 2) Promote synergies and the use of best practices

### ■ IHO contribution:

- 1) The IHO considers the development of EMODnet as the best driver for Marine Knowledge 2020
- 2) The IHO is committed to support EMODnet in the long term
- 3) The IHO will provide sustainable operational solutions with appropriate QA/QC and updating mechanisms through current IHO regional structures and approaches
- 4) The IHO strongly recommends the use of relevant international standards such as ISO, IHO and Inspire compatible standards within EMODnet



## IHO and EMODnet

### ■ Way forward to improve IHO-EMODnet synergies:

- 1) **EMODnet = EU Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure**
  - Implement appropriate standards, based on ISO and INSPIRE-compatible (including IHO S-100)
  - Establish EMODnet as the marine component of GGIM Europe and GEO Europe
- 2) Establish a sustainable **partnership between EMODnet and EU HOs** via the relevant Regional Hydrographic Commissions (=> RHCs to establish a trans-RHC coordination), covering the relevant themes
  - Bathymetry (regional component of GEBCO)
  - Contribution to other themes (geology, physics, human activities, ...)

Implementation through the **preparation** of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EMODnet call for proposals



## IHO and EMODnet

### ■ Way forward to improve hydrographic knowledge:

- 1) Set up an harmonized reporting procedure on the status of hydrographic knowledge in EU waters through the relevant Regional Hydrographic Commissions
- 2) Assess navigational and non navigational requirements & priorities
- 3) Elaborate a prioritized survey scheme to address the gaps
- 4) Investigate potential extension/synergies with other themes (geology, physics, ...)
- 5) Implement the survey scheme
- 6) Upgrade the EMODnet products and services with appropriate QA/QC procedures



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