

IOC Circular Letter No 2989
(Available in English and French)

IOC/VR/JB/eh
14 March 2024

To : IOC Member States (Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC)
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO, and
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

C.c. : The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission

Subject: Ocean Mapping Stakeholder Survey in the framework of the IOC Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Products

GEBCO provides global bathymetric data, which is crucial for understanding the topography of the ocean floor. This information is essential for a variety of oceanographic studies, including marine geology, ocean circulation patterns, and habitat mapping.

In order to inform the work of the IOC Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Products (also refer to IOC Circular Letter [2981](#)), which will present its conclusions to the IOC Executive Council at its 57th Session in June 2024, a survey has been developed to identify user requirements for GEBCO products, and to identify ways to enhance the potential contributions of the IOC to GEBCO data and products from the perspective of the oceanographic community and wider maritime end-users. The report to be produced by the group and any decision that the IOC Executive Council may take will be forwarded to the IHO and the GEBCO Guiding Committee and will inform the future work of GEBCO.

Through this circular letter, we invite Member State representatives and experts, as well as the officers of and the experts nominated by relevant IOC technical and regional subsidiary bodies and GOOS Regional Alliances, to take part in this process. Using the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO-Seabed 2030 project network, the survey will also be disseminated to a wider group of ocean stakeholders, including industry and civil society organizations.

You are invited to kindly provide your inputs by 15 April 2024 using the following SurveyMonkey link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5SXB622>

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We look forward to your valuable contribution to this process. If you have any questions, please contact the IOC Secretariat (j.barbiere@unesco.org).

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary