



## **TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON OCEAN MAPPING (TSCOM) (former SCDB) TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **Preamble**

In May 1977, at GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) IV, the Guiding Committee decided to form a small Sub-Committee on Digital Bathymetry (SCDB) to ‘investigate... the question: Is there an advantage [in] having digital bathymetric data?’ This led to a very positive report being submitted to the Guiding Committee in May 1983, the formation of a larger and more representative Sub-Committee, with revised Terms of Reference, and a recommendation leading to the establishment of the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry.

Over the years the annual meetings of this Sub-Committee have gained increasing recognition as being of growing importance to the scientific community. From a meeting of five experts in 1984, the group had grown to thirty-six experts from twenty-five groups in thirteen countries by June 1999.

By 2006 it was recognized that all GEBCO products and nearly all cartographic activities are “digital”, and after the SCDB XXII meeting in Bremerhaven, Germany it is proposed that, as part of the revision of the GEBCO structure, the sub-committee be renamed the “Technical Sub-Committee on Ocean Mapping” (TSCOM).

### **1. Terms of Reference**

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee reports to the Joint IOC-IHO GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) as its designated authority for all technical matters relevant to the goals of GEBCO as set out in the Guiding Committee Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee shall:
  - 1.2.1 Maintain and improve GEBCO products and supporting data such as, but not limited to:
    - a) A global bathymetric grid;
    - b) The GEBCO Digital Atlas;
    - c) Databases of soundings, shorelines, land elevations, remotely sensed and other data, generalized to a useful working scale, as may facilitate update of GEBCO products and maintenance of product quality.
  - 1.2.2 Monitor developments in data availability and relevant technology as may impact GEBCO activities, and recommend to the GC actions that will maintain the excellence of GEBCO products.
  - 1.2.3 Provide advice to individuals and appropriate authorities on the scientific and technical aspects of bathymetric mapping, as requested.
  - 1.2.4 Encourage and facilitate the location, acquisition and exchange of sounding, shoreline, remotely sensed and other data supporting bathymetric mapping.
  - 1.2.5 Investigate the application of GEBCO products, beyond the cartographic sciences, with the aim of producing products that are easily applied to other ocean sciences.



1.2.6 Establish, nurture, and/or disband working groups or project teams, as needed, to carry out specific tasks or product developments that relate to the technical advance of the GEBCO Project.

1.2.7 Work with SCUFN on matters of joint interest, such as, but not limited to, the shapes or outlines of named features and the automatic placement of feature names.

## **2. Rules of Procedure**

2.1 Membership of the Sub-Committee is covered by the following rules:

2.1.1 The Sub-Committee shall normally consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair elected by the members and endorsed by the Joint IOC/IHO GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC), and a number of additional members. Members should be encouraged to participate according to their individual technical expertise and their ability to complement the overall technical breadth of the Sub-Committee as a whole.

2.1.2 Members of the Sub-Committee are experts in their own right acting exclusively for the benefit of the Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Project.<sup>1</sup>

2.2 The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Sub-Committee subject to endorsement by the GGC.

2.3 The Chair and the Vice-Chair are elected for a three year period. The Chair will normally be succeeded by the Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair may be re-elected by the Sub-Committee for additional terms if desired by the sub-committee members and available.

2.4 The Chair, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chair, shall conduct the business of the Sub-Committee. Meetings will usually be held every year, ideally before the GGC meeting. In the intervening period the Sub-Committee shall conduct its business by correspondence (preferably electronic mail).

2.5 Individuals who can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the Sub-Committee may attend meetings as Scientific Advisors with observer status, at the invitation of the Chair or Vice-Chair.

2.6 Entities and organisations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the Sub-Committee may be represented at meetings as Expert Contributors with observer status.

2.7 Members are expected to attend every meeting of the Sub-Committee.

2.8 Observers from IHO and/or IOC Member States may attend meetings. Attendance shall normally be limited to one observer per Member State.

2.9 The quorum to hold a meeting shall be one more than half the members of the Sub-Committee Members. The Sub-Committee shall strive to make decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be taken by simple majority vote. Only members present may cast a vote. The Chair shall have the casting vote if there is a tie.

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<sup>1</sup> So far as IOC is concerned, the Sub-Committee is classed as a Joint Group of Experts under the IOC guidelines for subsidiary bodies.



- 2.10 Recommendations of the Sub-Committee shall be submitted to the GGC for consideration and decision.
- 2.11 The Chair shall submit an annual report to the GGC.