About GECBO

For over one hundred years GECBO has been at the forefront of producing maps and digital data sets showing the shape of the global sea floor in the deep oceans with the first chart series initiated in 1903 by Prince Albert I of Monaco.

Today the GECBO community consists of an international group of experts in sea floor mapping who develop and make available a range of data sets and products with the aim of providing the most authoritative publicly-available bathymetric data sets for the world’s oceans.

Our work is directed by a Guiding Committee and is supported by technical and mapping sub-committees and working groups made up of experts in many fields, from organisations all around the world.

During our yearly committee meetings we hold the annual GECBO Science Day - an opportunity to share new developments in ocean-floor mapping and its applications.

GECBO operates under the joint auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

Find out more about GECBO: www.gebco.net/about_us/overview/ Contact us: www.gebco.net/about_us/contact_us/

Grid building and regional mapping collaborations

The GECBO Technical Sub-committee on Ocean Mapping (TSCOM) and Sub-committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (SCRAM) work to develop our technical expertise in bathymetric grid development and to build close collaborations with regional mapping efforts. This is with the aim of coordinating as well as encouraging the incorporation of their compilations into GECBO.

The GECBO_2014 Grid is GECBO’s latest bathymetric data set - it is a global terrain model at 30 arc-second intervals and was released in December 2014. It uses as a base the SRTM30_plus v5 data set - a gridded data set developed from a database of ship-track soundings with interpolation between soundings guided by satellite-derived gravity data. Where they improve on this model, data sets generated by other methods have been included.

The grid includes contributions from many regional mapping projects such as the International Bathymetric Charts of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO) and Southern Ocean (IBCSO); the Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database and EMODnet Bathymetry for European waters. It is accompanied by a Source Identifier (SID) Grid showing which cells are based on soundings and which are interpolated.

The grid can be downloaded from the Internet in netCDF (CF Compliant), Esri ASCII raster or data GeoTiff formats for user-defined areas or as global grid files (netCDF format).

Find out more: www.gebco.net/data_and_products/gridded_bathymetry_data/

Naming undersea features

The GECBO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) maintains and makes available a gazetteer giving the name, geographic location and extent of features on the sea floor. SCUFN arose from the need to have consistency in naming features on maps and charts.

The gazetteer contains over 3,800 features and is available to view, search and download via the Internet in a number of formats including comma separated text, spreadsheet and shapefile.

SCUFN also provides information on undersea feature terms and definitions and details on how to propose names for newly-discovered features.

Find out more: www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea_feature_names/

Our range of products

We develop and make available a range of bathymetric data sets and products:

- GECBO_2014 Grid - a global terrain model at 30 arc-seconds
- Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names
- GECBO Digital Atlas
- GECBO world map
- Web Map Services (WMS)
- IHO-IOC GECBO Cook Book
- History of GECBO Book

Find out more and how to access our data sets: www.gebco.net/data_and_products/

Training Programme

The Nippon Foundation/GECBO Training Programme is helping to train a new generation of seafloor mappers.

The 12 month-course leads to a Postgraduate Certificate in Ocean Bathymetry and has been held at the University of New Hampshire, USA since 2004. Funding for the programme is provided by the Nippon Foundation of Japan.

Over 70 scholars have now taken part in the course, representing 33 coastal states — helping to create and strengthen GECBO’s links in all regions. Find out more: www.gebco.net/training/