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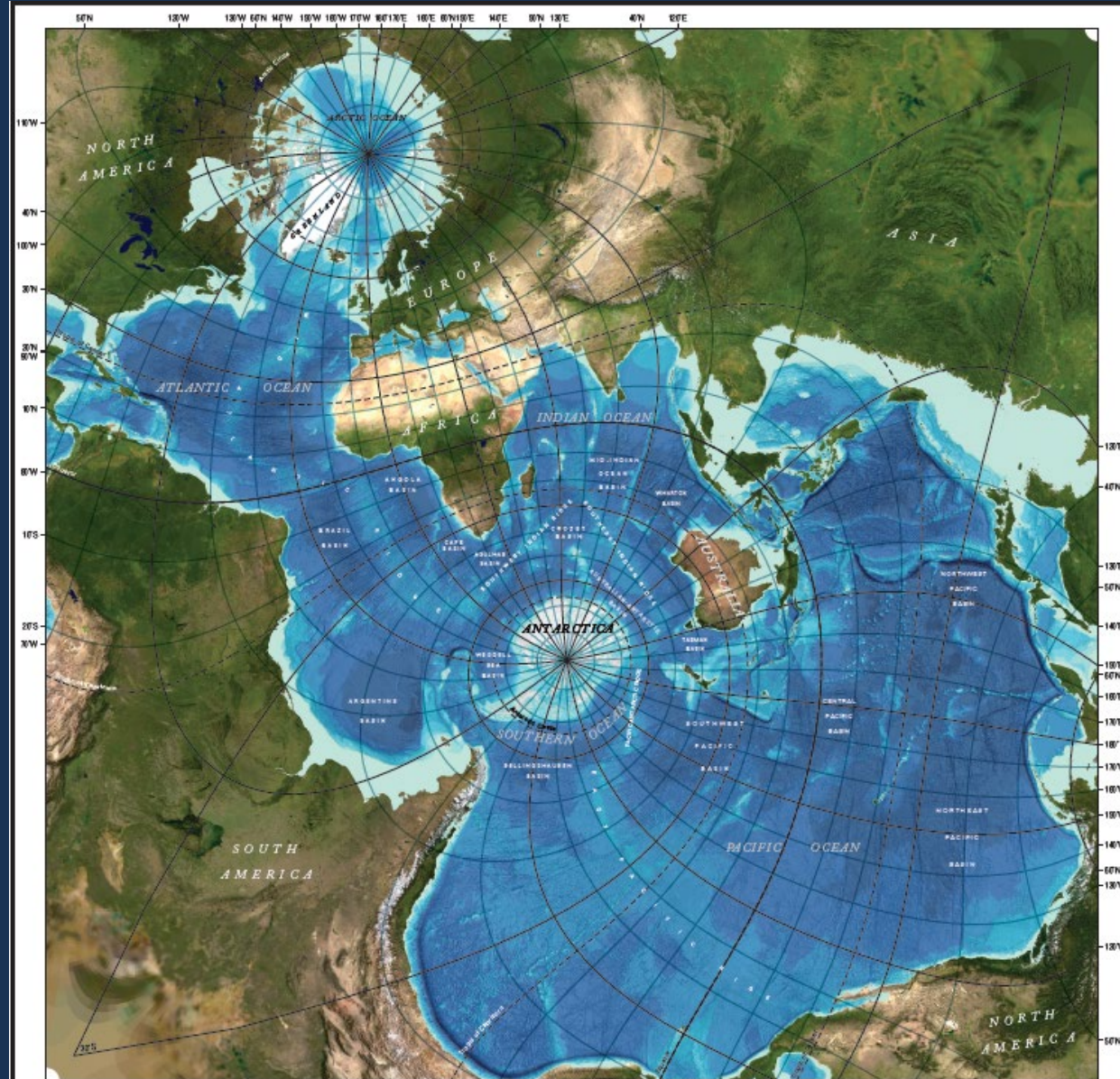
Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission

**GEBCO**

**Evert Flier, GEBCO Guiding Committee Chair**  
**1 July 2025**

# Highlights

- Increased attention to Ocean mapping (WOS + UNOC 3)
- GEBCO strategy + implementation, incl GEBCO Governance Review
- High activity at and intense cooperation with Seabed 2030
- 27.3% of the global ocean seabed mapped





# GEBCO VISION / MISSION

## VISION

*Bring knowledge about our planet's seabed to everyone.*

## MISSION

*Produce free, open and complete seabed data and information for the world's oceans. This is achieved by enabling and inspiring seabed mapping efforts through international collaboration, technological innovation, capacity development, and education.*



## The Pillars

GEBCO's objectives and outcomes are organised through five pillars critical to achieving its Vision and Mission:

- 1 Data
- 2 Technologies & Standards
- 3 Capacity
- 4 Community
- 5 Governance



PILLAR ONE: DATA

Delivering open and fit for purpose seabed **data**.



PILLAR TWO:  
TECHNOLOGIES & STANDARDS

Supporting, promoting and using **innovative solutions** to continuously **improve** the GEBCO data value chain.



PILLAR FOUR: COMMUNITY

Engaging **communities and partners** to best deliver GEBCO's mission.



PILLAR FIVE: GOVERNANCE

Gaining support for our mission through robust processes that **influence decision-making**.



PILLAR THREE: CAPACITY

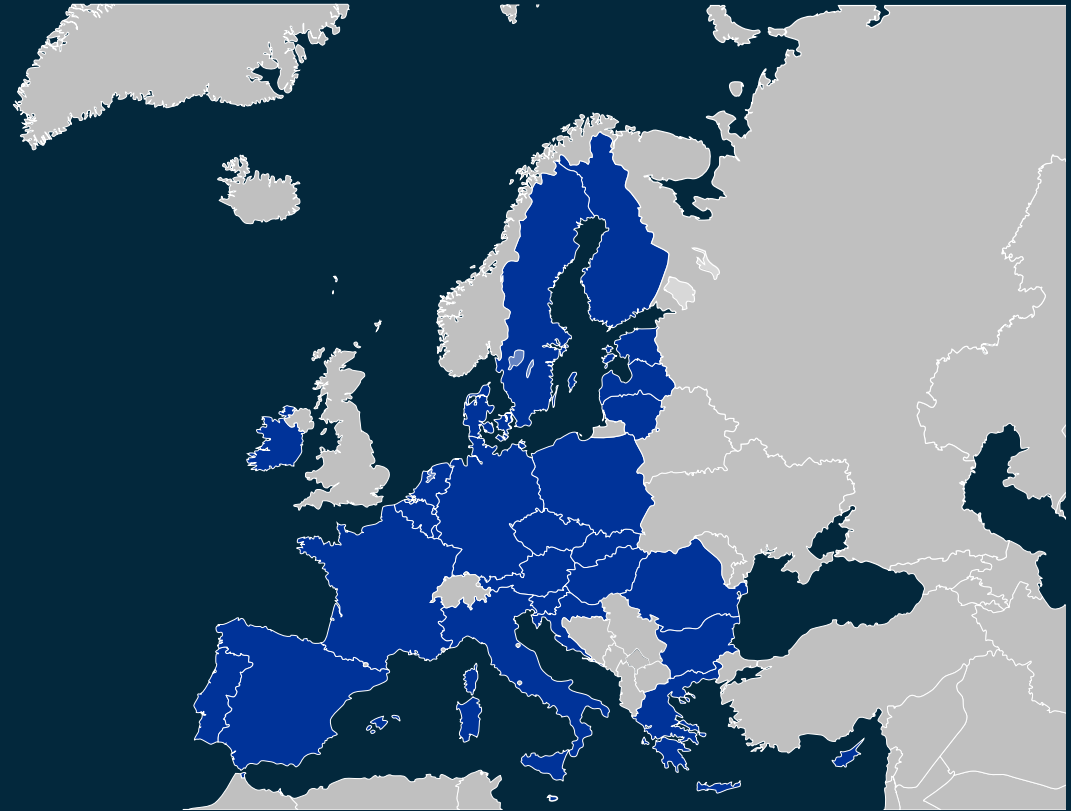
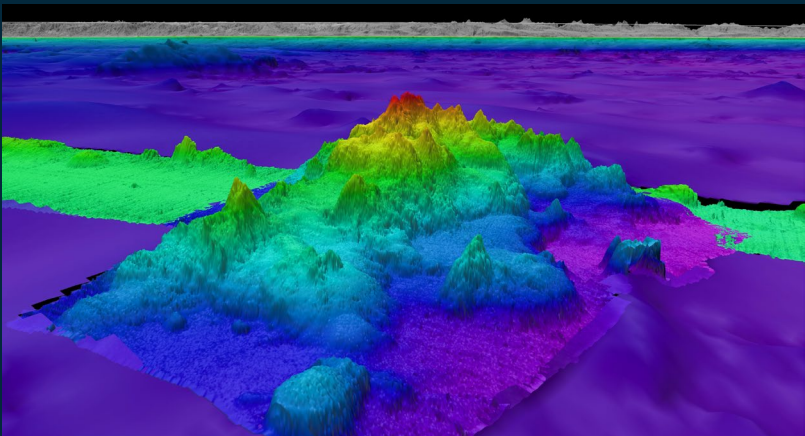
Establishing global infrastructure to develop **capacity**.

# Progress so far ...

Jun 24 to June 25

4 million km<sup>2</sup> new  
bathymetry added

- Equates to size of EU



Credit: [Wikipedia](#) Kolja21

Courtesy: Martin Jakobsson, SU

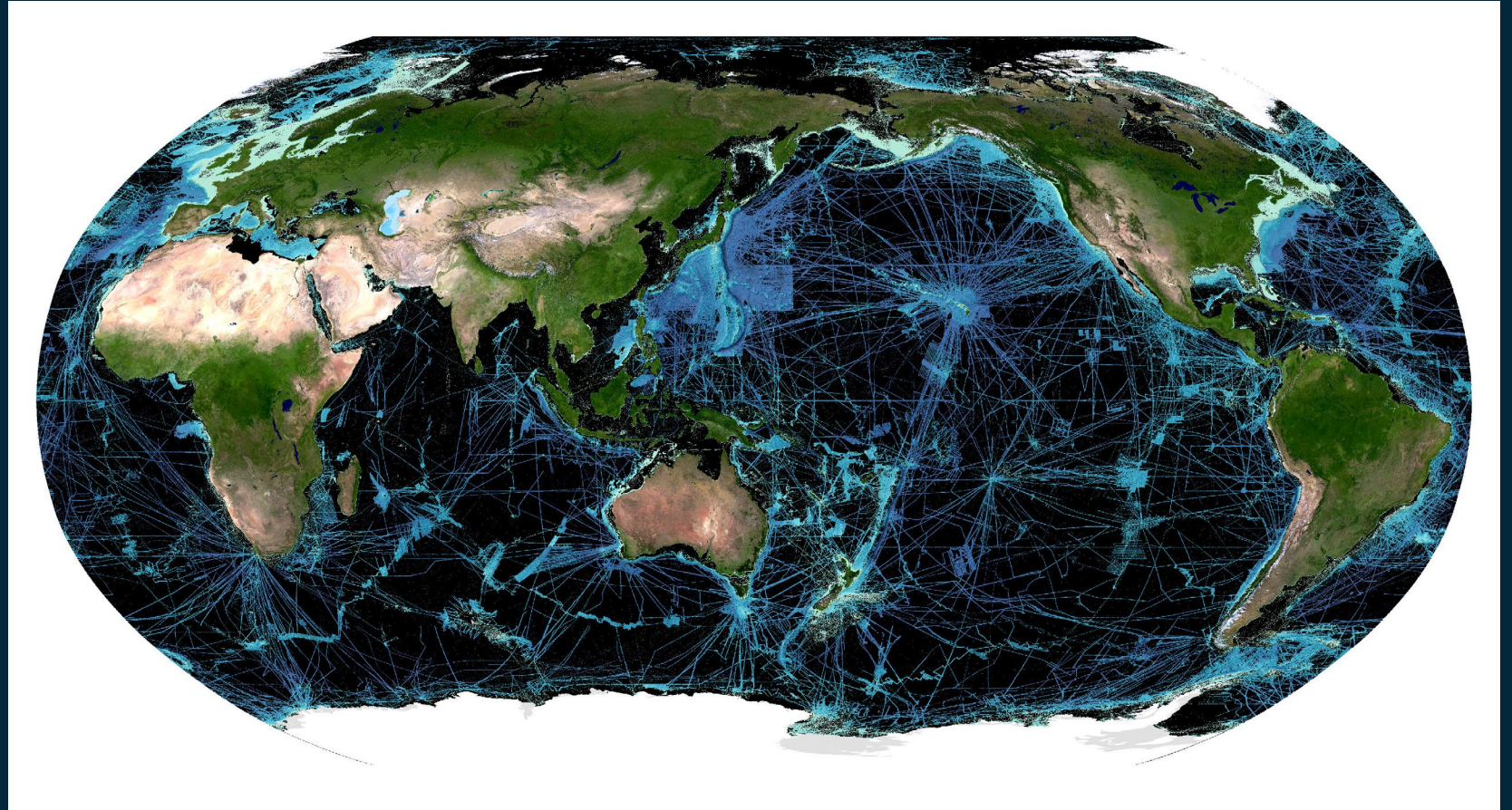
*.... a significant quantity of data ....*



# Progress so far ... (cont'd)

## GEBCO Map:

- 6% in 2017
- Now 27.3%



Courtesy: Martin Jakobsson, SU

*Just under 3/4 of ocean floor still to go .....*



# Meetings

- GGC40: Nov 2023: Monaco
- GGC41: Nov 2024: Fiji
- GGC42: Oct 2025: Victoria, BC



# New office holders GEBCO Guiding Committee



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Position	Incoming	Outgoing	Tenure
IOC appointed GGC member	Ms Pip BRICHER (Australia)	Dr Marzia ROVERE (Italy)	2024-2029
IOC appointed GGC member		Ms Kim Picard (Australia)	2021-2024
IOC appointed GGC member		Commander Prashant Srivastava (India)	2021-2024



# Major outcomes Sub-Committee Undersea Feature Names

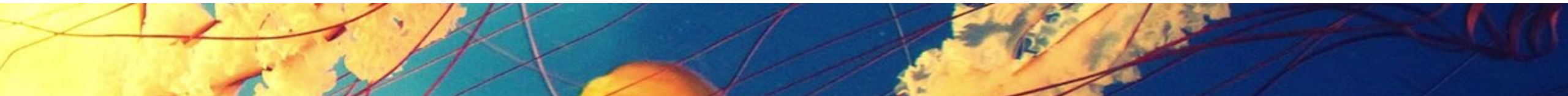
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- Significantly reduced number of naming proposals in 2024, 140, down from 334 in 2023: direct consequence of new limitations and the ongoing freeze for the South China Sea.
- Out of 140 proposals, 108 names were finally accepted at SCUFN 37
- SCUFN formally established ties with the International Astronomical Union for benchmarking best practices.



# Technical Sub-Committee on Ocean Mapping

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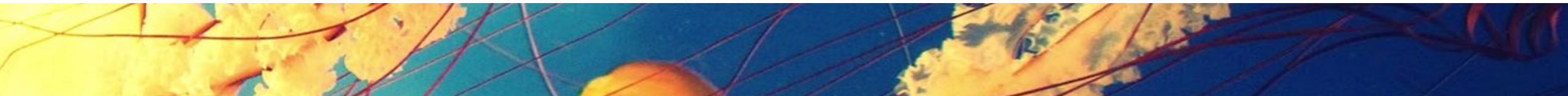
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- Chair: George Spoelstra, GGSgc, Netherlands
- Vice Chair: Federica Foglini, Ismar CNR, Italy



## Activities

- Continued work on Discrete Global Grid
- Development opportunistic mapping tool
- Deep ARGO groundings have been used in the GEBCO 2024 digital grid for first time





# Other GEBCO Sub-Committees

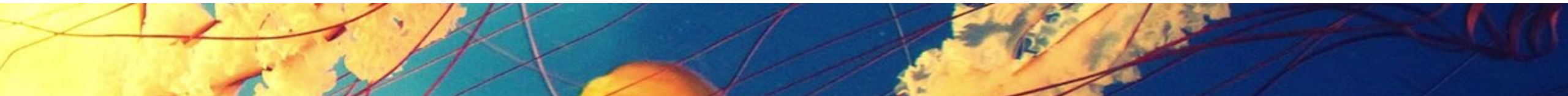
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- SCRUM
- SCOPE
- SCET



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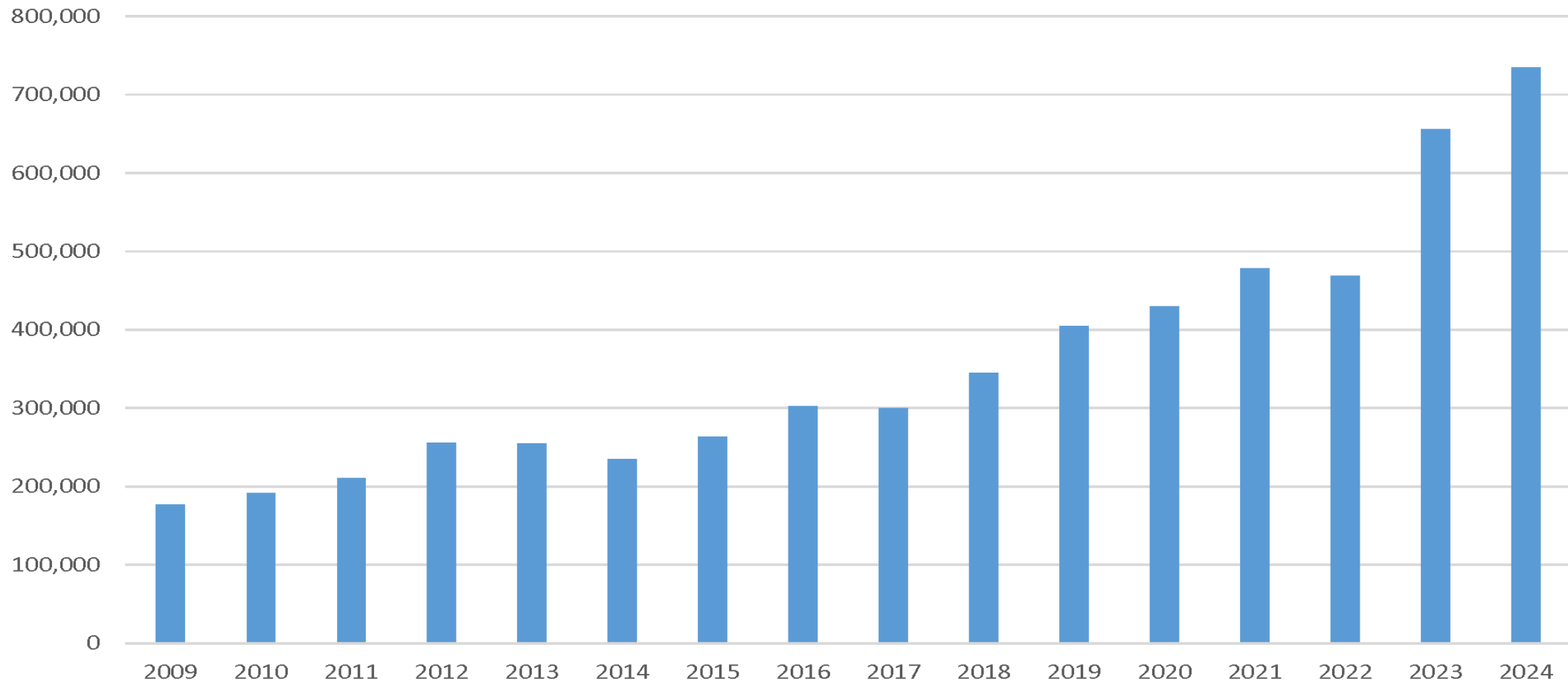


# Number of visits to GEBCO's web site per year



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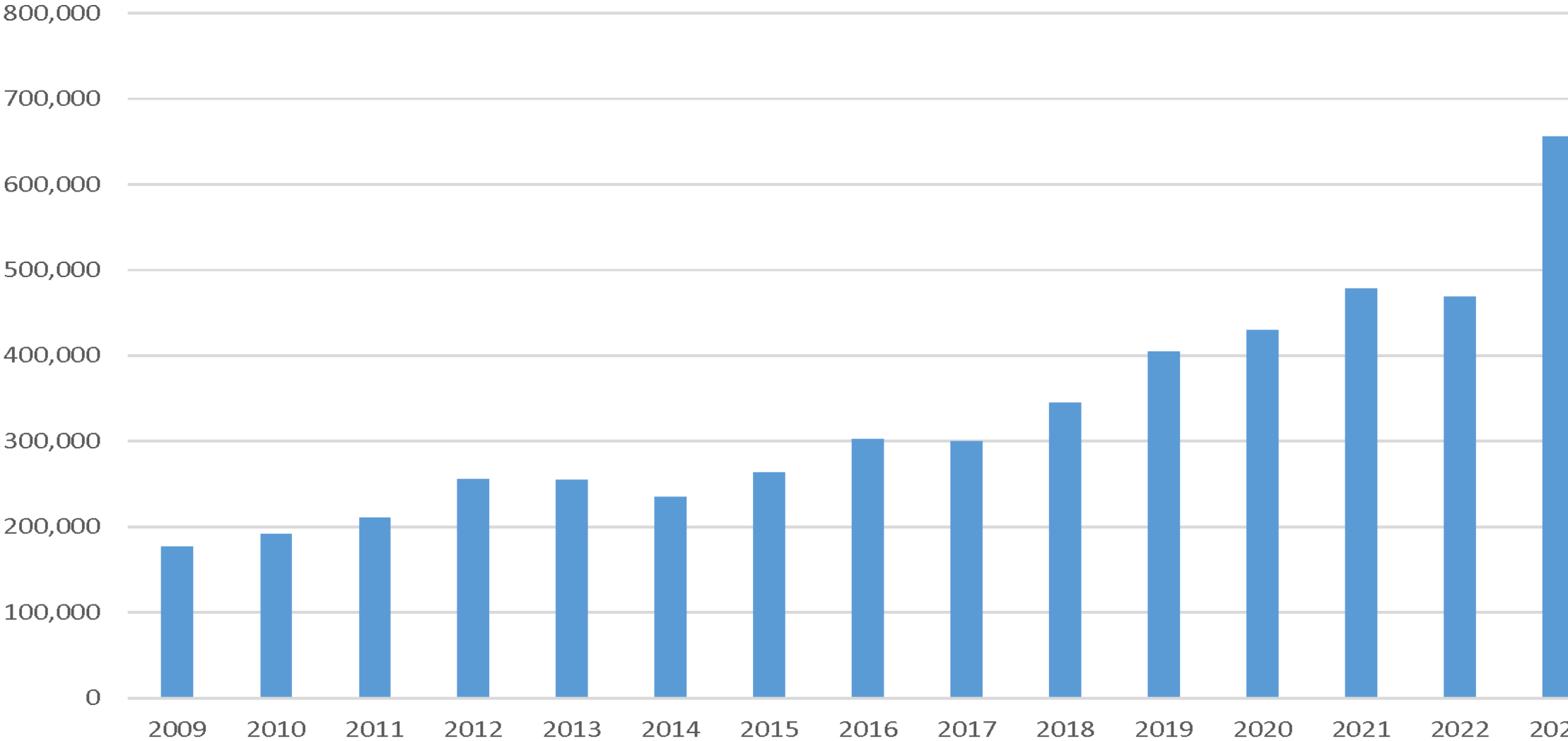






International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

# Number of visits to GEBCO's web site per year



# Messaging

Space	Ocean
1. Positive stories	Negative stories
2. Trigger imagination	More mundane
3. Mission based narrative	All encompassing
4. Communicate danger	Avoid danger
5. Collective human achievement	Little universal messaging



# Messaging

Space	Ocean
6. No call to action	Call to action to some
7. Unified community	Fractured community
8. Forward looking / brighter future	Backward looking
9. Space research interests public	Ocean research remains scientific
10. Movies like Star Wars / Space ships	Movies like Pirates of the Caribbean / Sailing vessels



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THANK YOU 

# Governance Review and Strategy Implementation

**Agenda Item: IOC/A-33/4.3**

**Doc: IOC/INF-1543**

IHO Assistant Director Sam Harper  
GEBCO Secretary



# Background

IOC EC-57 Adopted Decision EC-57/4.4/II:

Recalling IOC Decision A-32/Dec.4.1,

Having considered document IOC/EC-57/4.4.Doc(1) containing the Report and Recommendations of the GEBCO Governance Review Project Team (2024) and IOC/INF-1538, which presents the New GEBCO Strategy,

Takes note of the report and its recommendations, as well as of the GEBCO Strategy;

Requests the GEBCO Guiding Committee to consider the recommendations, identify the implications, if any, of their implementation, and report progress to the Governing Bodies of IOC and IHO through the report of the GEBCO Chair, including an Implementation plan.

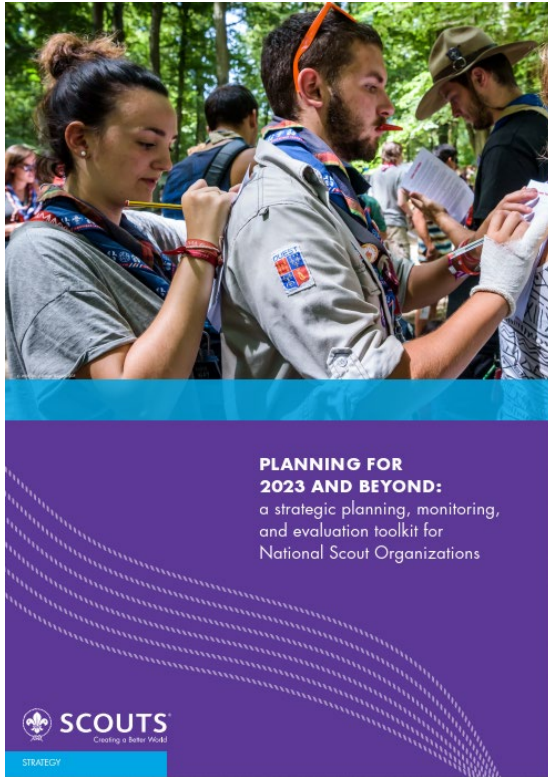
## Transfer of Governance Review Findings into a Risk Register and Issues Log

GEBCO Issue/Risk Register

						RISK BEFORE			CONTROL		RISK AFTER			
RISK ID NO.			RISK TYPE	RISK DESCRIPTION	CONSEQUENCE DESCRIPTION	RECURRENT	CONSEQUENCE LEVEL	LIKELIHOOD LEVEL	RISK LEVEL	RISK CONTROL		CONSEQUENCE LEVEL	LIKELIHOOD LEVEL	RISK LEVEL
Responsible Body	Gov Review Reference	Number	<b>Choose one or more:</b> Governance Financial Delivery/Operational Strategic Compliance	Give a brief summary of the risk.	What will happen if the risk is not mitigated or eliminated?	Is it ongoing or only one time?	Rate 1 (LOW) to 5 (HIGH)	Rate 1 (LOW) to 5 (HIGH)	(CONSEQUENCE X LIKELIHOOD) Address the highest first.	Will the risk be MITIGATED or ELIMINATED?	Description of how will the risk be mitigated or eliminated?	Rate 1 (LOW) to 5 (HIGH)	Rate 1 (LOW) to 5 (HIGH)	(CONSEQUENCE X LIKELIHOOD) Address the highest first.
	8.1	1	Governance Delivery/Operational Strategic	Lack of clarity in GEBCO (especially reporting lines) organizational structure leading to confusion about roles and responsibilities.	Potential inefficiencies in governance, hindering effective decision-making and operational effectiveness.	ONE TIME	3	4	12	ELIMINATE	The organizational diagram should be reviewed by the GGC with a definitive version agreed and included in the ToRs and RoPs of the GGC.	2	2	4

**It became obvious that it would be impossible to implement the Gov Review findings without taking the Strategy into account.**

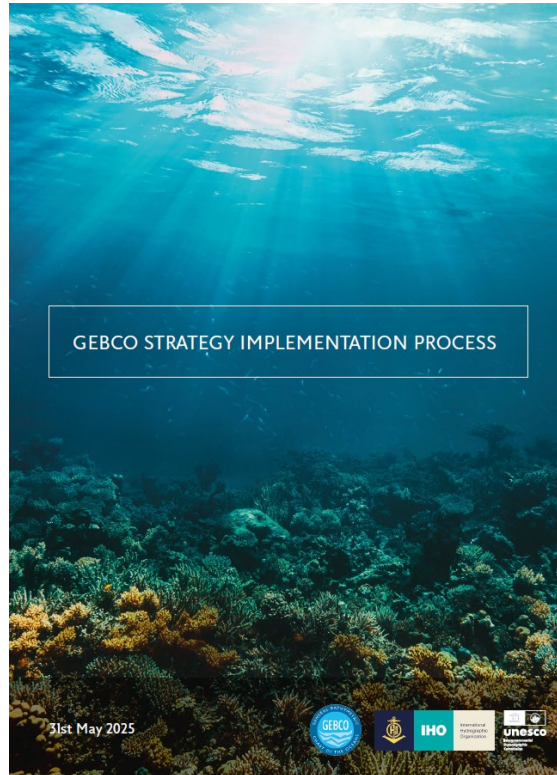
## Identification of a Strategy Implementation Methodology



- STEP 1: Choosing the right time
- STEP 2: Building the team
- STEP 3: Reviewing your existing vision and mission
- STEP 4: Analyzing the current situation (**Governance Review**)
- STEP 5: Developing your strategic plan (**Strategy**)
- STEP 6: Aligning with the new strategic plan
- STEP 7: Creating an operational plan
- STEP 8: Risk management assessment
- STEP 9: Collecting the right information for effective monitoring (KPIs)
- STEP 10: Monitoring and control
- STEP 11: Reporting on your performance



## Development of a formal Strategy Implementation Plan



### Eleven steps to strategic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

- STEP 1: Choosing the right time
- STEP 2: Building the team
- STEP 3: Reviewing the existing vision and mission
- STEP 4: Analysing the current situation

GEBCO 2024-2030  
Strategy

STEP 5: Developing your strategic plan (criteria is summarised in the previous section)

- STEP 6: Aligning with the new strategy
- STEP 7: Creating an operational plan
- STEP 8: Risk management assessment
- STEP 9: Collecting the right information for effective monitoring (KPIs)
- STEP 10: Monitoring and Evaluation
- STEP 11: Reporting on performance

GEBCO Strategy  
Implementation Plan