



WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2026

“TRANSFORMING HOW OCEAN DATA IS SHARED”

1. Every year on 21 June, the global hydrographic community celebrates World Hydrography Day (WHD), an initiative of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) that highlights the importance of hydrography in supporting safe navigation, sustainable ocean management, environmental protection, maritime trade, and the blue economy.
2. Hydrography is the science of measuring and describing the physical features of oceans, seas, coastal waters, lakes, and rivers. Hydrographic data reinforce nautical charts and maritime safety information that are essential for the safety of life at sea, efficient maritime transport, coastal development, marine spatial planning, scientific research, disaster preparedness, and the sustainable use of marine resources.
3. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2026 is **“Transforming how ocean data is shared”** The theme emphasizes the ongoing transition towards the IHO S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model, a new generation framework for digital marine data. S-100 enables the integration and seamless exchange of hydrographic, oceanographic, meteorological, and navigational information, enhancing maritime safety, operational efficiency, and informed decision-making across the maritime sector.

4. As the national hydrographic authority of Mauritius, **the Mauritius Hydrographic Service (MHS)**, operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, plays a vital role in conducting hydrographic surveys, maintaining national bathymetric datasets, supporting nautical chart production and providing hydrographic information for the waters under the jurisdiction of Republic of Mauritius. Through these activities, MHS contributes immensely to the development of the nation's ocean economy.

5. Mauritius also plays a significant leadership role within the **South African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)**, one of the fifteen (15) Regional Hydrographic Commissions established under the framework of the International Hydrographic Organization. Mauritius currently serves as:

5.1 *Vice-Chair of SAIHC;*

5.2 *SAIHC S-100 Coordinator*, supporting regional implementation of the IHO S-100 framework and associated digital products; and

5.3. *SAIHC Representative to the International Hydrographic Review (IHR)*, contributing to the dissemination of hydrographic knowledge, innovation and best practices across the international hydrographic community.

6. These responsibilities reflect the confidence placed in Mauritius by regional partners and demonstrate the country's commitment to advancing hydrography, capacity building and maritime cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean and beyond. In line with the International Hydrographic Organization's commitment to diversity, inclusion and capacity building, the MHS actively supports the global initiative to **Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH)**.

7. Through its hydrographic, marine data and regional cooperation activities, the MHS contributes to the achievement of *SDG 5 (Gender Equality)*, *SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)*, *SDG 13 (Climate Action)*, *SDG 14 (Life Below Water)* and *SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)*, supporting the blue economy.

8. On World Hydrography Day 2026, the MHS and the Ministry of Housing and Lands reaffirms its commitment to supporting the modernization of hydrographic services, promoting the implementation of S-100 standards for safer navigation and the prosperity of present and future generations.

"Transforming how ocean data is shared" is not only a global objective but also a national commitment for Mauritius as we continue to contribute actively to regional and international hydrographic development.

Happy World Hydrography Day