

Sharing your bathymetry data through Seabed 2030

Why is it important and how to do it?

Seabed 2030 is a pioneering programme of the Global Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO – a joint IHO and UNESCO initiative) that is funded by the Nippon Foundation. As an Ocean Decade endorsed programme, the aim of Seabed 2030 is to deliver a complete seabed map by 2030 available to the public. At the end of 2024, more than 26% of the seabed was mapped to an adequate resolution, compared to only 6% when the initiative started in 2017.

In addition to compiling existing datasets from a broad range of sources, the Seabed 2030 team also seeks to unlock existing data not currently shared, as well as identifying data gaps to inform future survey campaigns.

Private sector companies are an essential partner in expanding the pool of ocean data generators and users to fill existing data gaps.

Why is bathymetry data important?

- Inform marine spatial planning and use of resources.
- Monitor and preserve vulnerable marine habitats and ecosystems.
- Better understand natural hazards for disaster preparedness and response, including tsunami warning systems.
- Support science-based approaches to improve ocean health and resilience and drive a thriving, sustainable ocean economy.
- Support industry operations through improved ocean modelling, digital twins and forecasting that leads to fewer unexpected delays.

What are the benefits to you and your company?

Companies have much to gain from contributing data and resources to Seabed 2030 and actively supporting ocean stewardship:

- Help boost the science needed to restore and protect the ocean's health, through improved ocean modelling and forecasting.
- Achieve greater visibility and enhanced reputation as a leader in the blue economy, supporting sustainable development and UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.
- Be an employer of choice and become more attractive for potential investment and financing.
- Boost tangible ESG contributions to accelerate achievement of company targets.
- Access leaders in ocean science, grow new partnerships and participate in high-level networking events with peers and other industry thought leaders.
- Navigate potential new business opportunities with access to R&D work performed under the Ocean Decade.
- Benefit from the important loop-back of ocean insights, models and forecasts improved due to data sharing, which in turn can help optimise operations.

How to contribute to Seabed 2030

1. Go to <https://seabed2030.org/get-involved/>.
2. Click on 'Contribute data' and fill in the form.
3. In the form, provide a URL to an accessible network or instructions on how to access the data.
4. Your data will then be downloaded, processed or curated (if needed) by Seabed 2030 affiliated staff and will be made available through the GEBCO platform.

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION-GEBCO

SEABED
2030

Further information:

UNESCO-IOC's Ocean Decade recently published a '*Bathymetry Data Sharing Guideline*'; with support from GEBCO and Seabed 2030. The guideline highlights the opportunities and mutual benefits for industrial companies working in the marine environment to unlock and make their existing and future surveys' bathymetry data publicly available to GEBCO / Seabed 2030.

It provides practical guidelines and best practices on how to share their data, and addresses important topics such as required authorisations for data sharing from clients and states for data collected in territorial or EEZ waters. The guideline also addresses possible concerns and provides solutions for potential commercial sensitivity and security issues.

The guideline can be downloaded here: <https://oceanexpert.org/document/35187>.