

So you want to start a CSB program?

As outlined above, the goal of this document is to create a centralized source of information regarding the technical and systemic tools which CSB practitioners have trialed and utilized. Crowd Sourced Bathymetry programs can come in all shapes and sizes from 8 loggers handed out to dive boats in Australia collecting data for the GBR, to a major NGO empowering members of it's organization to record data, to a University-housed mapping center focusing on the boating community in its back yard. Across all of these examples, similar toolsets and trends have revealed themselves time and time again though admittedly at different scales. We have endeavoured to create a document that summarizes our experiences to help new CSB practitioners to find an informed jumping-off point. Of course, there will be customizations that may need to be made for each new program based on stakeholder priorities, engagement capacity, and more. We hope that you will find the many options presented here to be helpful in customizing your own CSB program.

The steps you'll need to get started will be outlined below, but a common first step might be to become registered as a Trusted Node. The role of a trusted node is primarily to act as a secure source of data to the DCDB. This requires that someone be responsible for managing data flow from vessel into the DCDB, in line with the guidelines set up in the B-12 guiding document from the IHO. To become a trusted node, contact with the DCDB/NCEI is required. A list of existing trusted nodes exists [here](#). Each trusted node has its own target audience; for example, the [International SeaKeepers Society](#) is primarily engaged with privately owned yachts and leisure boats, whereas the [University of South Florida Center for Ocean Mapping and Innovative Technologies](#) (COMIT) primarily engages all types of vessels within the Tampa Bay region. Finding the right trusted node to fit your vessel helps to streamline this process. To enroll your own organization as a trusted node, review the guidance on the CSB tab of the [IHO DCDB website](#), and contact the DCDB via email: bathydata@iho.int.

DCDB contact for inquiries about becoming a Trusted Node: bathydata@iho.int

This document is designed as a guide for hydrographic organizations, non-governmental organizations, nonprofits, companies, and any other parties aiming to establish their own CSB program, or one that contributes to existing global mapping efforts. The contents of this manual are intended to provide guidance on various aspects of CSB program development and management - from stakeholder meetings and participant recruitment to logger installation and data processing tools.

The final section contains a series of [Templates](#) provided by existing CSB programs to serve as a resource for new parties interested in joining this international initiative.

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