

**THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE CBSC (CBSC13)
27-29, May 2015 - Mexico City, Mexico**

**Summary Report of the
South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)**

1. **Chair:** CDRE Brett Brace (Hydrographer of Australia)
Vice Chair: Mr Nicholas Pion (Hydrographer, Papua New Guinea)
CB Coordinator: Mr Adam Greenland (Hydrographer of New Zealand)

2. **Membership**

Members	Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Kingdom of Tonga, United Kingdom, United States of America
Associate Members	Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu
Intergovernmental Observer Organization	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Observers	New Caledonia
IHB Representatives	President Robert Ward, Asst. Director Alberto Costa Neves
Notes	1. At the 13 th SWPHC Meeting Samoa became an Associate Member by signing the Commission Statutes 2. Vanuatu has applied for IHO membership. (IHO CL 32/2015 dated 14 April 2015)

3. **Current SWPHC Working Groups**

SWPHC International Charting Coordination Working Group (SWPHC-ICCWG)
SWPHC Capacity Building Working Group (SWPHC-CBWG)

4. **Meetings**

The 13th SWPHC Meeting held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on 25-27 February 2015 was attended by more than 40 participants - representing all 8 Member States of the Commission, 6 Associate Members, Observer States, international/regional organizations, industry and the IHB. Subject to confirmation, the next meeting will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia in late 2016.

The 2nd SWPHC-CBWG Meeting held in Wollongong, Australia, on 27-29 August 2014 was attended by Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and SPC. The meeting reviewed the 'Current & Future' matrix re status of SWP Pacific Island Countries and Territories wrt IHO CB Strategy, and also developed the outline for the 2-day 'Technical Workshop on Hydrography Governance' that was held in conjunction with SWPHC13 in the Cook Islands in February 2015.

5. **Activities completed since CBSC12**

5.1 **IHO CB Activities**

The following IHO-funded CB activities were carried out in the region since the last CBSC Meeting:

- 5.1.1 MSI Regional Workshop (Wellington, NZ, 25-27 August 2014 (2014 CBWP – P-03)
Fifteen participants from 12 countries in the region, with trainers provided by Australia, New Zealand and WWNWS Chair. The workshop involved practical instruction and guidance to personnel involved with MSI and drafting of Navigational Warnings.
- 5.1.2 Solomon Islands National Hydrographic Capability Development (2014 CBWP – P12)
One cartographic staff of Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Administration was attached to the Australian Hydrographic Office in Wollongong, Australia from 11-22 August 2014. He undertook follow-up training and work experience in Nautical Charting.
- 5.1.3 Technical Workshop on Hydrography & Hydrographic Governance (2015 CBWP – P-02)
The workshop, coordinated by Australia (AHS) and New Zealand (LINZ), and hosted by the Cook Islands Ministry of Infrastructure, was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on 23-24 February 2015. New Zealand (LINZ), United Kingdom (UKHO) and SPC provided the content and presenters for the workshop. A total of 33 participants attended - representing Member States, Associate Members and Observer States within the Commission, the SPC, industry and the IHB. The workshop raised awareness of issues relating to hydrographic administration within the region and the requirement to meet international obligations. The workshop was a great success and demonstrated the benefit of the SWPHC strategy of linking a technical workshop with the Commission meeting.

5.2 Non-IHO CB Activities

- 5.2.1 Regional Training Course in Basic Hydrography & Hydrographic Governance
This IMO-funded course was delivered by Australia (AHS) and New Zealand (LINZ) at SPC facilities in Suva, Fiji on 16-27 June 2014. A total of 14 participants from 10 SWP nations attended the course.
- 5.2.2 Capacity Building in Hydrography for Ocean and Coastal Development
The following activities were carried out as part of the AusAID funded project 'Capacity Building in Hydrography for Ocean and Coastal Development (SPC member countries)'
- (i) Procurement of Side-scan Sonar System for SPC – May 2014
 - (ii) 3-week attachment of SPC Surveyor to the AHO – Nov 2014
 - (iii) Attendance of two SPC staff members at SWPHC13 Meeting – Feb 2015
 - (iv) 3-week Hydrographic Survey in Solomon Islands – March 2015
 - (v) 3-week Hydrographic Survey in Kiribati – May/June 2015

(*AusAID – Australian Agency for International Development)

- 5.2.3 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Group Training Course on Hydrographic Survey
Three candidates from the SWP region, i.e. from Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, attended the JICA Course on Hydrography for Charting and Disaster Management (internationally accredited Category B) in Japan from 3 July to 17 December 2014.

It would be helpful to the SWPHC CB programme if we had prior notice of the JICA course dates and prospective candidates for our region.

- 5.2.4 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) New Zealand Aid Programme – South West Pacific Regional Hydrography Programme (SWPRHP)

The New Zealand Government, MFAT NZ Aid and LINZ (NZ Hydrographic Authority) are working in partnership with Pacific Island countries to undertake risk assessments to improve nautical charting to improve maritime safety and meet the needs of

contemporary shipping. This development activity is now closed and the outputs below completed.

- Vanuatu Hydrography Risk Assessment – published (IHO & LINZ website)
- Tonga Hydrography Risk Assessment – awaiting approval to publish results
- Cook Islands Hydrography Risk Assessment – awaiting approval to publish results
- ENC's published for Cook Is, Tonga, Samoa, Tokelau & Niue – published (IC-ENC)

6. IHO 2015 CBWP Activities remaining to be completed

- 6.1 A-01 – Vanuatu Technical Implementation Visit
Planned for late September / early October 2015. (UKHO lead)
- 6.2 A-02 – Kiribati Technical Implementation Visit
Planned for late September / early October 2015. (UKHO lead)
- 6.3 A-07 – Technical Assessment & Advice – Samoa
Propose that this be carried forward as part of 2016 CBWP. (LINZ lead)
- 6.4 P-06 – Tides & Water Levels Technical Workshop
Planned for September-October 2015. (AHS lead)

7. MFAT New Zealand Aid Programme - Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI)

- 7.1 At the SWPHC13 meeting the New Zealand government announced a five-year NZ\$ 5M Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI) development activity which will focus on navigation-related aspects of maritime safety. It will involve hydrographic risk assessments, data discovery, capacity building and chart remediation programmes primarily for the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Tokelau, where New Zealand is the Primary Charting Authority (PCA). This activity is due to commence in June 2015.

8. IHO – NIPPON Foundation Chart Project

- 8.1 Of the 7 candidates selected for the 7th Chart Project Course (7 September – 18 December 2015) (CL35/2015 refers), the SWPHC was successful with a candidate from Fiji.

9. Conclusions

SWPHC is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals.

10. Actions Required from CBSC13

CBSC members are invited to:

- note this report
- note the high level of engagement and capacity building activity being undertaken in the SWPHC region
- endorse the need for CBSC to engage with JICA for planning of future CB activities with RHCs
- note the success of the SWPHC strategy to undertake a technical workshop in conjunction with the Commission meeting.