



## South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)

### SWPHC Report to IRCC7

Mexico City, Mexico, 01-03 June 2015

1. **Chair:** CDRE Brett Brace, Hydrographer of Australia
- Vice Chair:** Mr Nicholas Pion, Hydrographer of Papua New Guinea
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At the 13<sup>th</sup> SWPHC Meeting Samoa became an Associate Member by signing the Commission Statutes</li> <li>2. Vanuatu has applied for IHO membership. (IHO CL 32/2015 dated 14 April 2015)</li> </ol>

### 3. Meetings

13<sup>th</sup> SWPHC Meeting held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands on 25-27 February 2015 was attended by more than 40 participants. Meeting was preceded by a 2-day Workshop on Hydrographic Governance.

Subject to confirmation, the next meeting will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia in late 2016.

### 4. Current SWPHC Working Groups

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

### 5. Status of IRCC Actions (relevant to SWPHC)

Action No	Action Item	Resp.	Action Taken/Status
IRCC6/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHC Chairs	At SWPHC13 the Chair and IHO President emphasized importance and benefits of IHO membership, and encouraged MS to approve pending applications.
IRCC6/02	Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention	RHC Chairs	Addressed at SWPHC13 and noted as an action item for remaining 2 MS in region.
IRCC6/03	Consider the participation of stakeholders at the RHC conferences	RHC Chairs	Stakeholders invited to SWPHC13. IALA and industry attended and made useful contribution to discussions.
IRCC6/05	Provide the IRCC Chair with progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2014 Work Programme (10)	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	<u>Completed.</u> 1.) MSI Regional Workshop (Wellington, NZ, 25-27 August 2014 (2014 CBWP – P-03) 2.) Solomon Islands National Hydrographic Capability Development (2014 CBWP – P12)

Action No	Action Item	Resp.	Action Taken/Status
IRCC6/08	Invite GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs to attend corresponding RHCs meetings, aiming at strengthening collaboration with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level (6)	RHCs / GEBCO	GEBCO was invited to SWPHC13 Meeting, but was unable to attend.
IRCC6/09	Encourage MSs and representatives of industry and academia to promote and to work together to ensure that the best possible use is made of Satellite Derived Bathymetry (11)	RHC Chairs	At SWPHC13 Meeting UKHO provided an update of its SDB trials in the Caribbean
IRCC6/15	Provide material to the IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies including CBSC, GEBCO	RHC Chairs and subsidiary bodies	Outcomes of CB events are reported to IHB. MS requested to provide relevant material to IHB.
IRCC6/25	Share experience gained in developing the risk assessment tool, including activities related to engaging decision makers and donor agencies	SWPHC	To be presented at IRCC7. Review of the hydrography risk assessment methodology completed. Ver. 2 being prepared for publication.
IRCC6/28	Encourage National Hydrographers to invest in English language training in order to increase the chances of their candidates being selected to Cat A and Cat B training courses delivered in English	RHC Chairs	At SWPHC13 the IHB President communicated this requirement to all attendees.
IRCC6/40	Facilitate resolution of inconsistencies between paper charts and ENCs and between ENCs from different producers	RHC Chairs	Addressed in region through SWPHC- ICCWG
IRCC6/41	Consider opportunities to interact with stakeholders in 2014 and encourage participation in the relevant events	RHC	All stakeholders invited to SWPHC meetings/CB activities and given ample opportunities to interact with the SWPHC membership.
IRCC6/46	Encourage MSs in their respective regions to use the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priorities	RHC Chairs	Under its MFAT Aid Programme - Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI) New Zealand will be conducting hydrographic risk assessments for Niue, Samoa, and Tokelau. LINZ is conducting risk assessments for NZ and the Ross Sea Region of Antarctica.

## 6. Capacity Building Activities (under IHO CBWP)

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

### 6.1.1 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.

### 6.1.2 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.

### 6.1.3 Technical Workshop on Hydrography & Hydrographic Governance (2015 CBWP – P-02)

The 2-Day 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.

## **7. Cooperation with Other Organisations**

### **7.1 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.

### **7.2 Capacity Building in Hydrography for Ocean and Coastal Development (SPC member countries)**

The Australian Hydrographic Service (AHS) is coordinating the AusAID funded project 'Capacity Building in Hydrography for Ocean and Coastal Development (SPC member countries)'. The project runs over 3 years (July 2012 - June 2015). The following activities were, or are soon to be, carried out as part of this project:

- (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 Workshop and Meeting – Feb 2015
- (iv) 3-week Hydrographic Survey in Solomon Islands – March 2015
- (v) 3-week Hydrographic Survey in Kiribati – May/June 2015

### **7.3 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.

## **8. MFAT New Zealand Aid Programme - Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI)**

8.1 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.

## **9. IHO – NIPPON Foundation Chart Project**

9.1 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.

## **10. Tropical Cyclone PAM and Post-Disaster Needs**

10.1 Extensive damage was done by Tropical Cyclone PAM in March 2015, which included [damage to](#) wharfs and jetties, aids to navigation and marine vessels, in particular the smaller fleet. In accordance with IHO Resolution 1/2005, as amended, on IHO Response to Disasters, the SWPHC offered various resources and support to Vanuatu and other affected nations. The bulk of the initial response and assessment was provided by military forces, such as those provided by the Australian Defence Force (ADF), and by regional organisations, such as SPC. While there was an initial activity to attempt to coordinate the various hydrographic response activities, it was clear that apart from the urgent charting activities of the PCA (UKHO), the broader support of the SWPHC, in this case, was not specifically required as the focus was on saving lives and on returning community life to as normal a state as possible.

10.2 The UKHO urgent charting activities, made a very valuable contribution by way of the following:

- New editions of two Vanuatu ENC cells, GB501638 Northern Vanuatu - Espiritu Santo - Luganville and GB501494 Port Vila, were produced and made available to download free of charge and unencrypted from the IC-ENC website (<http://www.ic-enc.org/>), together with links to a range of free viewers. These ENCs will be superseded in due course as part of the normal update programme, and will be available through the usual channels.
- Two Special Purpose charts were produced, 1638S and 1494S, and are available to download free of charge as PDFs from the Admiralty website (<http://www.admiralty.co.uk/Pages/Vanuatu-relief-effort-charts.aspx>). These Charts are not full standard paper charts and have been produced rapidly in direct response to the humanitarian crisis. As such not all of the normal validation procedures have been followed so users should act accordingly. Full updated paper charts will be published in due course as part of the normal update cycle.

10.3 Now that support to Vanuatu is focussed on the ‘recovery’ phase, there are a range of activities to which SWPHC resources can be targeted. UKHO is committed to continuing to work with SPC and Vanuatu to provide survey advice and support. SPC is proposing to run an in-country workshop with Vanuatu stakeholders and a practical exercise for Phase 1 capacity building – i.e. collection and circulation of nautical information, necessary to maintain existing charts. Other support activities may eventuate as the Vanuatu government further assesses needs and priorities.

## **11. National Hydrographic Regulations**

11.1 During SWPHC13, a number of attendees indicated their respective governments had introduced, or were about to introduce, legislation or other form of regulation in respect of hydrography. Awareness of this growing list of national hydrographic regulations would be of great benefit to states that wish to introduce such, or similar, regulations. Noting IHO publication C-16 (National Hydrographic Regulations) was last published in 2007, it is time for a new edition of C-16. To ensure the broadest listing of regulations, input should be sought through RHCs from IHO Members and non-Members.

## **12. Conclusions**

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

## **13. Actions Required from IRCC7**

13.1 IRCC members are invited to:

- note this report
- note the high level of engagement and capacity building activity being undertaken in the SWPHC region
- note SWPHC’s significant collaborative and cooperative association with IMO, IALA, SPC and development agencies in moving forward with combined initiatives to raise awareness and to deliver on the ground.
- note New Zealand’s commitment to further conduct hydrographic risk assessments and chart remediation programmes for a number of SW Pacific nations.
- note Vanuatu’s recent application for IHO membership.
- agree the need to update C-16 and for the IRCC Chair to seek input from RHC Chairs, with a subsequent new edition to be published by IHB.

B.K. BRACE  
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SWPHC Chair