

**9th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORODINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC9
Paramaribo, Suriname, 12-14 June 2017**

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWPHC)

SWPHC report to IRCC9

- 1 Chair:** Commodore Brett Brace (Hydrographer of Australia)
Vice Chair: Mr Nicholas Pion (Hydrographer, Papua New Guinea) - Jun 2012 to Dec 2016
 Lieutenant Commander Gerard Rokoua (Hydrographer, Fiji) – from Dec 2016
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 Organizations	IALA, IMO, GEBCO, Pacific Community (SPC)
Observers	New Caledonia, Tuvalu
IHB Representatives	President Robert Ward, Asst. Director Alberto Costa Neves

3 Meetings

The 14th SWPHC Meeting was held in Noumea, New Caledonia from 30th November to 2nd December 2016. It was attended by 46 participants - representing all 8 Member States of the Commission, 6 Associate Members, 2 Observer States, international/regional organizations, industry and the IHB. The meeting was preceded by a 2-day technical workshop on formulating and implementing strategic development plans for hydrography.

The 15th SWPHC Meeting is planned to be held in Kiribati in February/March 2018.

4 Current SWPHC Working Groups

SWPHC International Charting Coordination Working Group (SWPHC-ICCWG)

SWPHC Capacity Building Working Group (SWPHC-CBWG)

5 Status of IRCC actions (relevant to the SWPHC)

No	Action (Agenda Item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
4	present updates to the IHO WP for those that have not done so (5)	RHC Chairs	1 Jul 2016	Done (submitted to IHO Assembly)
6	encourage the attendances of member States and Observers at WWNWS-SC meetings (7b)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Addressed at SWPHC14
7	raise awareness of the impact of e-navigation on the provision of MSI in the respective regions and to highlight the use of the Joint Manual on MSI to ensure correct terminology and formats are used in MSI messages (7b)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Addressed at SWPHC14

8	encourage closer engagement of the National MSI Coordinators of Member States with the relevant NAVAREA Coordinator (7b)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Addressed at SWPHC14
9	encourage closer coordination between NAVAREA and Capacity Building Coordinators in planning and student selection for the CB MSI training courses (7b)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Addressed at SWPHC14
13	work to reduce overlaps by applying the WEND Principles in defining approve ENC schemes (7d)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing
21	invite Member States to provide following information in the National Reports to RHC meetings: the status of MSDI; plans for involvement in MSDI; and challenges facing the HO (7e)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing
30	invite Member States to provide scanned version of any of the missing sheets, that that they may have in their archives, to the IHB for inclusion in the online digital archive (7i)	RHC Chairs	31 Aug 2016	Addressed at SWPHC14
31	in coordination with Member States, to be attentive to opportunities to raise awareness on the role of hydrography and the importance of improving mankind's knowledge of the seas and oceans in support of the sustainable development goals, disaster risk reduction and the integrity of the oceans (8)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing
32	invite Member States to send updated information to the Secretariat with respect to the IHO Publications C-55 and P-5 on an annual basis (10)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Addressed at SWPHC14
37	send to the IHB a copy of their regulations regarding the designation of Member States to occupy the seats on the IHO Council allocated to their Commission (12)	RHC Chairs	23 Jan 2017	Done

6 Capacity Building Activities

6.1 The following 2016 CBWP activities were carried out in the region since the last IRCC Meeting:

6.1.1 CBWP A-01 (Technical Assessment & Advice – Samoa)

Carried out 8-12 August 2016 (LINZ led). Report submitted to IHO Secretariat in May 2017.

6.1.2 CBWP A-03 (Technical Assessment & Advice – Tuvalu)

Carried out 2-13 November 2016 (UKHO led). Report submitted to IHO Secretariat in February 2017.

6.1.3 CBWP P-08 (Technical Workshop for PICTs in Formulating and Implementing Strategic Development Plans for Hydrography)

Workshop held in Noumea, New Caledonia on 28-29 November 2016 – linked with SWPHC14. Led by LINZ, with presenters from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and IALA. Attended by 31 participants from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu, IALA, IHO Secretariat, GEBCO and SPC.

6.1.4 CBWP P-14 (MSI Regional Workshop)

Workshop held in Wellington, New Zealand on 22-24 August 2016 (LINZ led). Attended by 17 participants from Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

6.2 The following activities in the region are part of the 2017 CBWP:

6.2.1 CBWP P-09 (SW Pacific Region Industry Survey Project)

This will be an innovative, collaborative effort from industry, IHO MS, SPC and appropriate donor programmes to conduct hydrographic surveys aligned with Phase 2 capacity building activities. Dates for the activity to be advised.

6.2.2 CBWP P-10 (MBES Training in Fiji)

This training will enhance the knowledge of Fiji Navy Hydrographic Service to operate MBES and process MBES data to meet IHO standards. Dates for the activity to be advised.

6.2.3 CBWP P-25 (Solomon Islands Nautical Cartographer Development)

The planned activity is to train a new recruit to Cat B standards in Module One (cartography) to provide support to other Solomon Islands Cartographer and PCA. However the Solomon Islands has been unable to recruit a new cartographer so far, and requested that this activity be carried forward to 2018.

7. **Difficulties encountered and lessons learned**

- Capacity of the Capacity Builders.
- More, potentially too much, is being asked of the RHCs and RHC Chairs; which then impacts delivery of their own HO and RHC based activities

8. **Achievements and lessons learned**

All Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) have made progress on hydrographic activities, and in the case of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu it has been significant.

The 3rd Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 24-28 April 2017 endorsed the '*Regional Strategy on Safety of Navigation in the Pacific*'. The Strategy covers five interlinked areas of safety of navigation (i) governance; (ii) navigation and meteorological services and warnings; (iii) hydrographic services; (iv) aids to navigation and vessel traffic services; and (v) search and rescue services. Details can be obtained from following links:

http://prdrse4all.spc.int/sites/default/files/17_energytransport_ministers_meeting_-_agenda_item_t5_-_safety_of_navigation_-_0.pdf

<http://www.spc.int/blog/pacific-ministers-for-energy-and-transport-endorse-communique/>

Vanuatu became an IHO Member in 2017 and Solomon Islands is in the process of becoming a Member.

New Zealand developed a GIS-based risk assessment methodology to determine surveying and charting priorities, and to date has effectively used this for work in the Cook Islands, New Zealand, Niue, Tonga and Vanuatu.

New Zealand's PRNI to improve maritime safety throughout the region – includes hydrography risk assessment for Niue, Samoa and Tokelau, capacity building to assist PICTs reach Phase 1 of IHO CB Strategy, in particular establishment of National MSI Coordinator position.

In 2016 the government of Cook Islands approved the establishment of the national Hydrographic Service.

In early 2017 Vanuatu Parliament approved the establishment of 'Office of the Maritime Regulator' – function to include “controls over hydrographic surveys and dissemination of survey data,

preparation and approval of charts and surveys for maritime purposes and the issue of notices to mariners.

New Zealand has signed a Bilateral Arrangement with Cook Islands, and is progressing one with Tonga.

Australia is working with UKHO and SIMSA to assume PCA role for Solomon Islands in mid- 2017.

SWPHC Statutes amended to reflect selection of State/s that will occupy seat/s on IHO Council allocated to SWPHC.

The strategy of preceding SWPHC meetings with a CB workshop has proved very beneficial, with the 2016 workshop and meeting attended by approx. 50 persons, many of which were from PICTs. All participants were extremely active and contributed to collective and own knowledge of hydrography.

9. Conclusion

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

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. Note the report.
- b. Note the value and effectiveness of preceding SWPHC meetings with CB related workshops.
