



THE UNITED KINGDOM
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

ADMIRALTY WAY · TAUNTON · SOMERSET · TA1 2DN · TELEPHONE +44 (0)1823 337900 · FAX +44 (0)1823 284077
www.ukho.gov.uk

**From: Rear Admiral Nick Lambert
The UK National Hydrographer**

Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President of the Directing Committee
International Hydrographic Bureau
4 quai Antoine 1^{er}
B P 445
MC 98011 MONACO CEDEX
Principauté de Monaco

15 October 2010

Dear Alexandros,

**Comments on the draft minutes of the 2nd S-23 WG meeting and
follow up proposals by Australia, France, Japan and Republic of Korea**

Draft minutes of the 2nd S-23 WG meeting

UK has no comments to make on the draft minutes of the 2nd S-23 WG meeting.

Follow up proposal by Australia

UK welcomes the pragmatic approach by Australia to find a way forward and has no objection to the inclusion of reservations. We suggest that a clear set of controls is needed to ensure that the document does not become unwieldy and remains definitive where possible. On balance, annexes would be the preferred approach to keep it uncluttered and manageable.

Follow up proposal by France

UK has no comments as the French proposal was withdrawn on 27th August 2010.

Follow up proposal by Japan

UK welcomes the initiative by Japan to progress the publication and observes that a similar approach could be adopted on the basis of division by chapter rather than the need to agree a new set of administrative sections.

However, it is unclear how this addresses the existence of reservations and what happens if parts of the extant version are disputed.

Follow up proposal by Republic of Korea

UK very much respects RoK's view and proposal which, if we understand it correctly, is an application of the principles of the Australian and French proposals.

Our concern with this approach would be how it would be presented, as the depiction of alternatives or reservations on the same page might be confusing.

In summary, UK welcomes these initiatives to progress the publication of S-23 and recognises that they are mechanisms to accommodate the differences of opinion expressed at the S-23WG. Noting of course that the purpose of the S-23 publication is to provide a guide to charting the limits of oceans and seas as opposed to a source of official geographical names.

Yours sincerely



