Proposal by Australia to the S-23 Working Group – Singapore 7 July 2010

Preamble:

It is clear that there are some sea and ocean areas where national interests are so strong that it will be impossible to reach consensus on a single name.

The publication S-23 should be an international reference document that shows the generally agreed names and limits of the sea and ocean areas in common use. Where there are significant national reservations and another name is in use then the alternate name and/or limits are also shown. This will serve the specific purpose of the publication to provide information to support navigation safety.

This proposal provides a method of including alternate positions relating to the name or limit of sea and ocean areas and will thus enable a new edition of S-23 to be published.

Proposal – Australia -7 July 2010:

1.   That the following text be added to the front cover of Draft Edition 4 of S-23:

"The publication S-23 should be considered an international reference document that shows the generally agreed names and limits of the sea and ocean areas in common use. Where there are significant national reservations and another name is in use then the alternate name and/or limits are also shown."

2.   When and only when consensus cannot be reached on the name or limits of a sea or ocean area then the alternative positions are to be included in S-23 by one of the following methods:

a. the fact that there is a reservation by (an) other member State(s) be included on the main page referring to the sea or ocean area, and details of the reservation, such as a alternative name/limits be clearly detailed in an Annex, or

b. the fact that there is a reservation by (an) other member State(s) be included on the first page referring to the sea or ocean area and a second page for the same sea or ocean area be inserted in S-23 immediately following the first. The second page will show the alternative name(s) or limits of the sea or ocean area where consensus was not reached.

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