



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,
IHB President and Chairman of the S-23 WG
International Hydrographic Bureau
4 quai Antoine 1^{er}
B P 445
MC 98011 MONACO CEDEX
Principauté de Monaco

28 April 2011

Dear Alexandros,

S-23 WG Letter No. 02/2011-
Responses of Members of the S-23 WG to a Proposed Way Forward
Addressing the Issue to Member States

Thank you for your letter dated 21 March 2011 and your continued efforts to make progress with the publication of a 4th edition of the S-23 document.

In response to your request for comments, the UK would welcome clarification on paragraph 5b as it is currently not clear what is to be included; is it the case that only amendments agreed by all WG members will be accepted?

In particular, I would like to reiterate that the UK does not support China's request to show the Chinese name (Beibu) only, at the expense of the Vietnamese name (Bac Bo), and considers it important for the name Gulf of Tonkin to be retained as a valid English conventional name for this feature. There are also a few other features in these sea areas where agreement has not been reached (e.g. the south-eastern limit of the Yellow Sea) which do not appear to be clearly represented by the wording in paragraph 5b.

Finally, the Important Notice is a very useful addition. However, you may wish to consider adding a sentence to stress that the publication should not be quoted as an authority on geographical names, because the Annex could otherwise be misconstrued as an IHO approved list of alternative names.

Yours sincerely