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IHB File No. S3/7020

23 February 2011

**S-23 WG Letter No. 01/2011**

**Actions Arising from the 2<sup>nd</sup> S-23 WG Meeting**

**To:** Participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> S-23 WG Meeting

**Reference:** a) S-23 WG Letter 05/2010 dated 23 November - *Final Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the S-23 WG - Status of Actions Arising from the Meeting*  
b) S-23 WG Letter 06/2010 dated 20 December - *Way Forward to Progress S-23*

Dear participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> S-23 WG meeting,

1. Reference a) reported on the status, at that time, of all actions arising from the 2<sup>nd</sup> S-23 WG Meeting (Singapore, 5-7 July). Additional information was subsequently provided by China and the status of several actions could be updated accordingly. The current status of all actions is shown on the password-protected S-23 WG section of the IHO website ([www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) --> Committees & WGs --> S-23 WG --> Past Meetings --> Following-on S-23 WG 2 : Actions and Status). As a consequence of the new information provided by China, proposals are being made on a number of actions, as follows:

2. South China Sea (Action 1). China, with its letter of 24 January 2011, has indicated that: "*If the arrangement of chapters is really difficult, we can consider changing the title of the chapter to 'South China Sea and Eastern Archipelagic Seas'*". Therefore, the title of S-23 Chapter 6 can be changed from "South China and Eastern Archipelagic Seas" to "South China Sea and Eastern Archipelagic Seas", as mentioned by China, if there is no objection.

3. Beibu Gulf versus Gulf of Tonkin (Action 3). **China** was "to provide the Chair with the official agreement with Vietnam about *Beibu Gulf* and information on actual technical usage of this name, for circulation to meeting participants". China has provided correspondence between the Permanent Mission of China to the UN and the UN Secretariat (Doc. [UN LA TR/12102005/I-41860](http://www.un.org/Docs/UN_LA_TR/12102005/I-41860)), where reference is made to the 25 December 2005 China-Vietnam agreement on the "*Delimitation of Territorial Seas, Exclusive Economic Zones and Continental Shelves of the Two Countries in Beibu Gulf / Bac Bo Gulf*".

Referring to the above document, China has further provided the following comment (in an e-mail to the Secretary): "*Both names 'Beibu Gulf' and 'Bac Bo Gulf' are based on English translation, which have the same meaning, i.e. 'the Gulf in the Northern Part of South China Sea'. At least, it shows that the name of 'Gulf of Tonkin' was abandoned out and out; it also shows that the name 'Beibu Gulf' was respected and acknowledged by Vietnam.*"

Based on the comments provided by China, you are requested to indicate whether you agree to use only the name 'Beibu Gulf' as proposed by China.

4. Taiwan versus Taiwan Dao (Action 4). Based on the responses received, it can be concluded that there is not enough support to make the proposed change.

5. Bo Hai as a separate body from the Yellow Sea (Action 5). Based on the information provided in China's letter of 24 January 2011, it is proposed to accept that Bo Hai be considered a separate body from Yellow Sea.

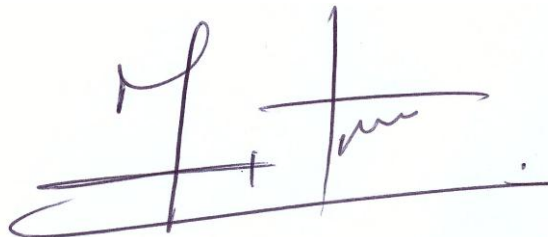
6. Demarcation line between Bo Hai and the Yellow Sea (Action 6). Based on the information provided in China's letter of 24 January 2011, it is proposed to adopt the limit proposed by China, i.e. "*from Laotieshan Xijiao, the southwestern extremity of Liaodong Bandao, southward to Dazhushan Dao, thence to Penglai Tou, the northern extremity of Shandong Bandao*".

7. Information is still needed on Action 2 (Natuna Sea) from China, and Action 7 (southeastern limit of the Yellow Sea) from China and/or Rep. of Korea, in order to progress these issues.

8. Action 8 (Naming of sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago) was the subject of reference b). A report on this issue will be provided separately, considering all comments received.

9. You are kindly requested to consider the above proposals and provide your comments to the Secretary ([mhuet@ihb.mc](mailto:mhuet@ihb.mc)) by **31 March 2011**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line, with a flourish underneath.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS,  
IHB President and Chairman of the S-23 WG

Copy to: All members of S-23 WG, not participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> S-23 WG Meeting