

South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)

15th Meeting – Honiara, Solomon Islands

(9-10 November 2010)

AGENDA ITEM 5

IHB Report

Introduction

1. The following notes report on current activities and issues being addressed by the IHB.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention and Approval of New Member States of the IHO

2. Progress on Member States' approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention is slow but steady. By October 2010, 28 of the required 48 approvals have been received by the Government of Monaco acting as the depository nation for the IHO.

3. Sierra Leone has received the required 49 approvals to join the IHO. The Government of Monaco is now awaiting receipt of an instrument of accession from Sierra Leone to signify its formal membership of the Organization. Montenegro and Haiti have applied for membership of the IHO. By October 2010, Montenegro had received 51 of the 52 votes required; Haiti had received 42 of the 52 votes required.

4. The following table indicates the voting status of the members of the SWPHC:

	Approved the Amendments to the IHO convention	Approved membership of MONTENEGRO to the IHO	Approved membership of HAITI to the IHO
Australia	YES	YES	YES
Fiji			
France	YES	YES	YES
New Zealand		YES	YES
Papua New Guinea	YES		YES
Tonga			
UK	YES	YES	YES
USA	YES	YES	YES

Global Availability of ENC's

5. The IHO made its annual report on the availability of ENC's to the 56th meeting of the IMO Subcommittee on Safety of Navigation (NAV56) in July. The report was based on the definition of "adequate ENC coverage"

acknowledged by IMO in previous meetings. In effect, the definition acknowledged by IMO means that wherever there is a paper chart covering an international voyage, there should be a corresponding ENC by 2010.

6. The 2010 report was based on information that of the 154 States with a coastline, less than six will fail to meet or nearly meet the 2010 target. However, in many cases, this is due to the efforts of a very small number of IHO Member States that have created ENCs for other States – such as UK, France, Netherlands, Portugal, Australia, and New Zealand. The IHB pointed out to delegates that some areas where paper chart coverage is limited, will have similarly limited ENC coverage for some time yet.

7. The IHO report pointed out that the identification of “international voyages” used in the report was based on total tonnage statistics for ports. Therefore, there may be some areas of the world frequented by relatively few, albeit large vessels, such as cruise ships, where ENC coverage may still be missing. This is particularly relevant in the island States of the south West Pacific. The report invited relevant authorities to bring any such shortfalls to the attention of the relevant coastal State and to the IHB so that the matter can be addressed.

8. The IHO report for 2011 will be particularly significant, since its report will cover the period after the IHO’s 2010 target has passed – by which time 100% “adequate coverage” is being anticipated by the IMO.

e-Navigation

9. Increasing interest is being shown by non-IHO bodies to use S-100 – the IHO geospatial data framework and its supporting S-100 Geospatial Information Registry as one of the fundamental building blocks for the data requirements of e-Navigation. The IHB are representing the IHO at all IMO meetings and working groups related to e-Navigation, as well as the e-Navigation committee of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA).

Arctic RHC

10. An inaugural meeting of an Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission was held in Ottawa, Canada from 4-6 October 2010. Statutes establishing the ARHC were signed by all five littoral States at the meeting. The Directing Committee is representing the IHO in IALA, where a similar regional group is being established to coordinate aids to navigation services in the high Arctic.

IHO Publication C-55 - *Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide*

11. Director Ward has been making preliminary enquiries regarding the development of IHO publication C-55 to make it more useful in identifying areas or regions where hydrography and charting is significantly deficient. It may be possible to use source survey metadata, or in its absence data extracted from source or reliability diagrams on charts, as the fundamental database for analysis. GIS analysis tools might then be developed that take account of age of surveys, current traffic, tonnages and draught, bottom type or other parameters to identify specifically which areas require surveying or improved charting. Academics from the University of New Hampshire and the University of Plymouth have expressed interest.

Impact of the Strategic Planning and Reporting Process

12. The Directing Committee was invited by the 4th IHC to report on the possible resource and organizational impact of the strategic planning and reporting process proposed by the ISPWG and adopted by the Conference. Norway volunteered to assist the Directing Committee in conducting an analysis and developing an implementation strategy. Input from the RHCs via the IRCC plays an important role under the strategic planning and reporting process proposed by the ISPWG. However, how this will be achieved has yet to be determined by the IRCC.

International Hydrographic Review

13. Publication of the International Hydrographic Review (IHR) as a web-based publication is now well established. As a result of the retirement of Mr Adam Kerr as editor, the directing committee has appointed Mr Ian Halls from Australia to take over commencing 1 January 2011. In accordance with IHO Resolution 6/2009 the Editorial board for the IHR comprises a representative from each Regional Hydrographic Commission. Vice Admiral Bessero is currently designated as the Editorial Board representative for the SWPHC.

IHB Staff

13. Mme Renée Caudoux retired in February after 23 years service and has been replaced by Mme Isabelle Belmonte. The role of Mme Belmonte is slightly different to Mme Caudoux. Her job has a stronger emphasis on desktop publishing, the management of the maintenance of IHO publications, and the use of the IHO website as the principal publishing medium. Her job title is Website and Publications Editor (WPE).

15. Mme Christine Meynadier, the Accounts and Administration Assistant, left the IHB in May to relocate to Paris after 11 years service at the IHB. She has been replaced by Mme Ghislaine Fauchois as the Accounts and Administration Officer.

16. The untimely death of the IHB Office Manager M. Rachid Semlali has created a vacancy. The Directing Committee has reviewed the role and functions of the position and has selected a replacement who will join the IHB in January 2011. The revised position will have a greater emphasis on computer and information systems support, rather than general office administration. The position will be called *Information Technology Assistant* (ITA).

17. Captain Federico Bermejo, Professional Assistant, will retire in May 2011. IHO Circular Letter 55/2010 sought nominations for the vacant position. Applications closed on 29 October 2010. The selection process will be carried out by the Directing Committee in accordance with the relevant rules of the IHO.

Action Requested of SWPHC

18. SWPHC members are invited to **Note** this report and take any actions as considered appropriate.