

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANISATION (IHO)
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWPHC)

11TH Meeting – Brisbane, Australia

15-16 February 2012



PAPUA NEW GUINEA
NATIONAL MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY

National Report

1. General

The National Maritime Safety Authority mandate includes ship safety, pollution response, marine communication, search & rescue, navigational aids and of course hydrography. All hydrographic program activities and plans are implemented in close cooperation with the Australian Hydrographic Service (AHS) under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding which has been in place for many years.

The current functions of the Hydrographic Unit include;

- Chart sales & distribution
- Notice to Mariners

2. Developments

A major development the country has seen is the LNG Project which will see an increase in shipping including 6 LNG Tankers of 172, 000 – 177, 000 m³ size.

3. Nautical Data Committee

Survey and charting priorities for PNG are identified through this committee which is headed by the NMSA and is made up of ship owners/agents and government agencies. The committee conducts annual meetings in collaboration with the Australian Hydrographic Service.

4. Cooperation

Due to current lack of resources and hydrographic capabilities in country, PNG NMSA is committed to establishing good cooperation through MoUs and Data Sharing arrangements with private sector or exploration companies for the supply/exchange of information that may be useful to updating/improving chart coverage by the AHS.

Two charts are now in production from such arrangements;

Kopi Chart

Oil Search Ltd engaged contractor to carry out survey in Fly River for purpose of navigation safety for their ships and through collaboration with NMSA and AHS this chart is being developed and is soon to be released.

Bismarck Sea chart

Data provided by Nautilus Minerals for purpose of improving coverage over small area in the Bismarck Sea.

5. Projects

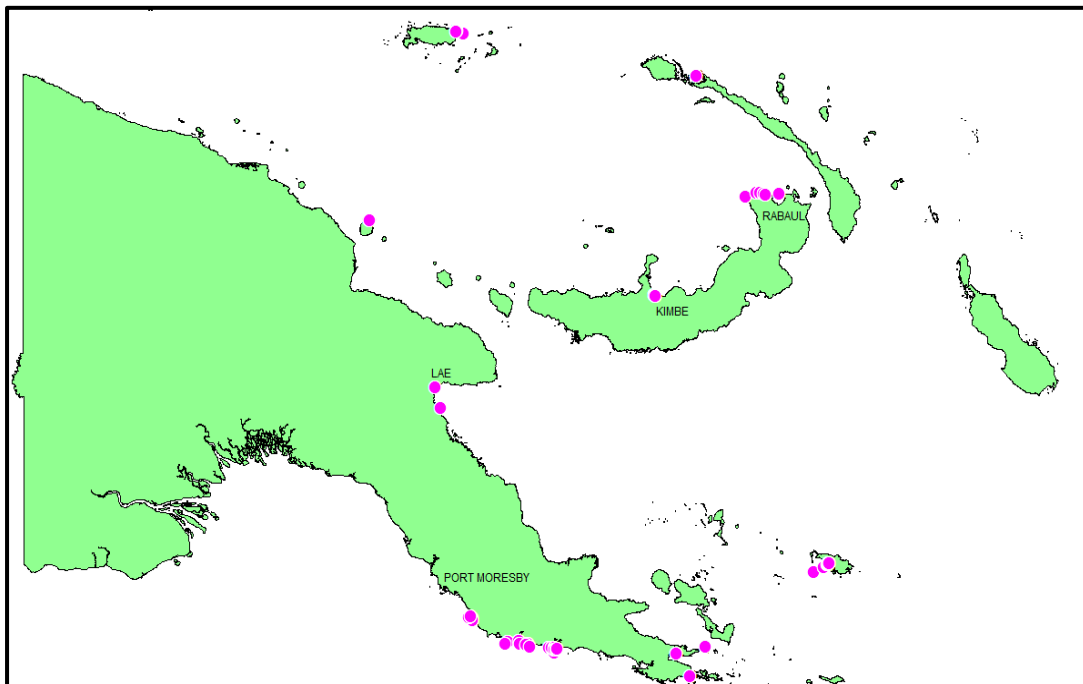
The NMSA has initiated two projects in 2011 to improve navigational safety for small scale shipping within its coastal waters.

Tide Guages

Tender for 3 Tide Stations including a tidal center at NMSA Port Moresby was done in November 2011. The Bids from potential contractors are currently under evaluation.

Small Navaid/Day markers

NMSA recently put a tender for construction of day markers around the country. A contractor has been engaged and is currently carrying out site assessments and construction should commence early 2012. A total of 64 day markers will be established to assist promote small boat safety.



6. Publications Update

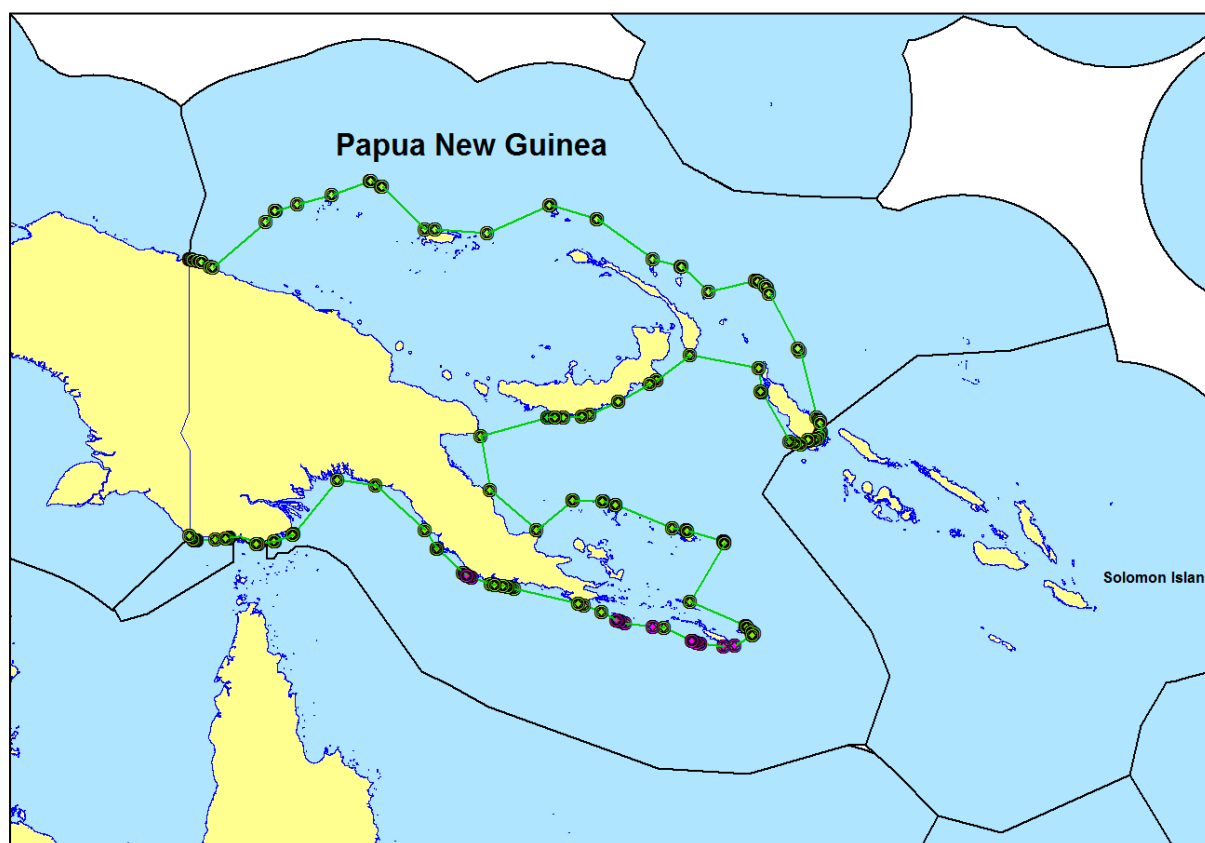
Assisting AHO in the review of NP15 ch 12.118 – Port Moresby and ch 13.34 – Daru and expected to complete by early March.

7. Maritime Boundaries

A review of PNG maritime boundaries in collaboration with SOPAC resulted in recommendation for a complete verification of PNG Archipelagic Baseline. The review was initiated with the objective of delineating maritime boundaries in accordance with UNCLOS.

With SOPAC assistance, the verification commenced with a desktop verification followed by GPS Field Verification Survey. Data processing is underway and a new proposed archipelagic baseline will soon be submitted to government for gazettal under the National Seas Act.

The gazettal will formalize it for purposes of generating official maps as requirement under UNCLOS.



8. Vessel Traffic

NMSA currently has AIS/LRIT systems in place to monitor ship traffic within its waters. This includes 5 land based AIS stations, LRIT and satellite AIS through its arrangement with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

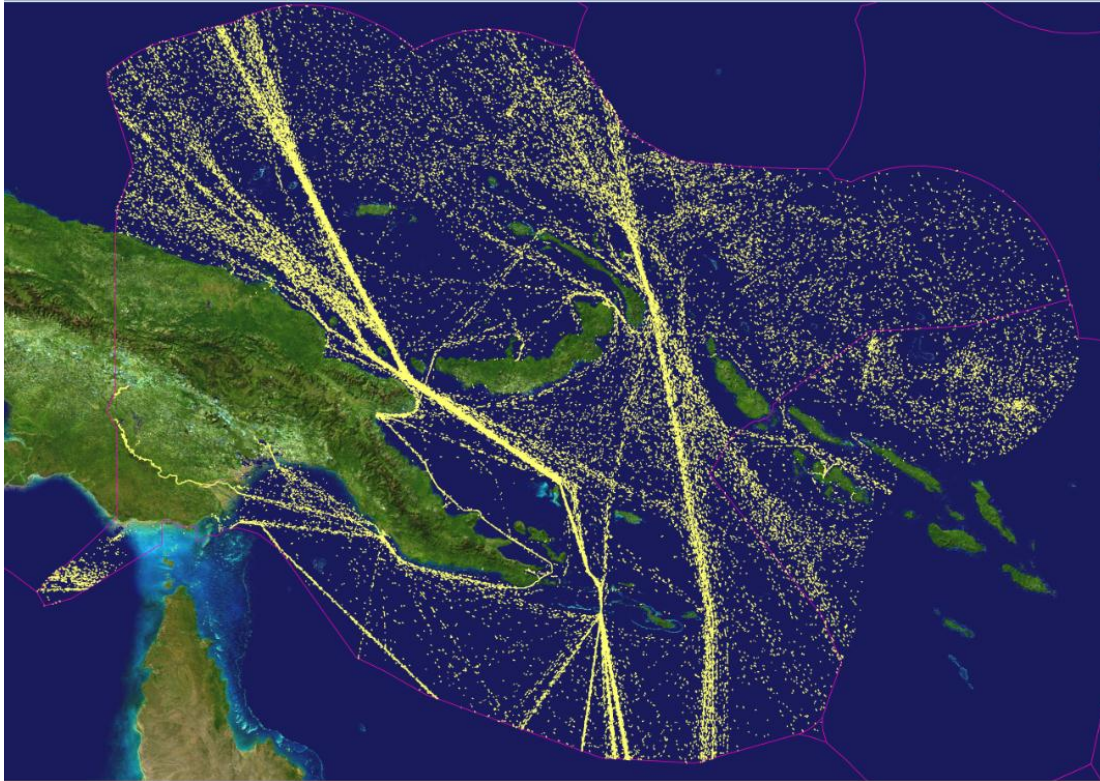


Figure 1 – major shipping lanes in the vicinity of PNG as represented by ship positions reported via SatAIS. The main north-south transit lanes between Australia and north asia which pass through PNG waters and the main shipping lanes in and out of PNG Ports.

9. Capacity Building

Training for officers is on-going, with emphasis on hydrographic cartography capability. One Officer is currently attending course in Module II of ENC Production in Taunton UK.

NMSA is currently in talks with the Asian Development Bank to fund the hydrographic cartographic capability of the hydrographic unit. ADB has agreed in principle to fund this together with improving navigational aids and SAR capabilities in 2012.

10. Conclusion

The last 5 years since the inception of the NMSA has been attributed to recruitment, establishing regulatory framework and capacity building of technical staff. The Hydrographic Unit is quite small with a staffing level of five personnel. Capacity Building is a priority as it is difficult to find nautical cartographers and hydrographic specialists especially in small pacific island states.

We look forward to working in close collaboration with Australian Hydrographic Service, SWPHC and the IHB to continue to build up capability and promote the importance of hydrography at the national level.