

**12th South West Pacific Hydrographic
Commission Meeting
12th – 14th November 2013
Port Vila, Vanuatu**

**MACHC Resolution on “The Blue Economy”
Explanatory Note**

This purpose of this explanatory note is to allow informed discussions at the 12th SWPHC meeting.

Below you will find the text from the Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission resolution on the “Blue Economy”. The text was agreed at the 12th MACHC meeting in Antigua, Guatemala in 2012.

MACHC Resolution on “The Blue Economy”

Considering that the Blue Economy¹ is the sum of all economic activity associated with the oceans, seas, harbours, ports, and coastal zones,

Recognising that hydrography is the fundamental enabler in the development of the Blue Economy and marine economic infrastructures,

Recognising that the seas and oceans occupy 72% of the World's surface area and over 90% of the world's trade travels by sea,

Recognising that every human activity conducted in, on or under the sea depends on hydrographic information if that activity is to be carried out safely, efficiently and cost effectively,

Recognising that the seas and oceans represent a vast resource for food, energy, water, bio-medicines, and infrastructure,

Recognising that hydrography is vital in supporting safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment and as required by Regulation 9 of Chapter V of The Convention of Safety of Life at Sea:

The Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission, representing 23 States **Resolves** that:

All coastal States should work individually, collectively and collaboratively to significantly increase hydrographic capability and capacity in both the public and private sectors as a matter of economic priority as well as a safety and environmental protection priority, to maximise the economic and social benefits to each State.

1 As defined by The Maritime Alliance www.the-maritimealliance.org, based on The National Report: State of the US, Ocean and Coastal Economies, 2009