

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

**Crowd Sourcing Survey Techniques
Explanatory Note**

Crowd Sourcing is the use of “ships of opportunity” that carry echo sounders to collect depth and positional data; over time the depth information can be built up confirming the reliability of the data. This data could then be used to improve navigational charts.

This initiative is the modern interpretation of using passage soundings which, historically can be found on many current charts and is the basis of the GEBCO dataset. There are ongoing discussions between hydrographic specialists who expect all hydrographic data to meet S-44 standards and those wishing to update charts with old or non-existent data.

The UKHO is currently involved in a Crowd Sourced Bathymetry (CSB) trial. It is a joint venture between UKHO, International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), CARIS and SURVICE. The aim of which is to bring data gathering and crowd sourcing together, using vessels of opportunity to log depth and position data, which is then uploaded to the web for processing. The ultimate goal is to deliver better navigational situational awareness to remote areas of the world that have not been systematically surveyed.

Member states are invited to consider the use and collection of crowd sourced data within the SWPHC region.