



**PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
NATIONAL MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY**

*National Report*

**SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Rarotonga, Cook Islands**

23-27 February 2015

## SUMMARY

### 1. National Maritime Safety Authority

Following the retirement of Mr Chris Rupen in early 2014, the NMSA is now headed by a new General Manager/CEO, Mr. Paul Unas. Mr Unas has been with the Dept. of Transport and recently with PNG Ports as Chief of Maritime Compliance before taking up the position of CEO/GM for NMSA.

### 2. Surveys

2.1 Hydrographic surveys by developers, some of which is passed on to NMSA and to AHO for charting purposes.

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Lae Wharf                     | Tidal Basin                     |
| • Alotau                        | Wharf Extension                 |
| • Fairfax Harbour, Port Moresby | Wharf (Int'l) Expansion Motukea |
| • Fairfax Harbour, Port Moresby | New Wharf (AES) development     |

2.2 Maritime Safety Committee Meeting

- The MSC discusses development issues in PNG especially related to hydrography. Meetings are held annually.
- This committee consists of other government agencies and stakeholders of NMSA. Currently a total of up to 15 agencies make up the committee which includes the Dept. of Transport, PNGDF, Fisheries, Ports, Tourism PNG, Coastal Ship Owners Association, shipping agencies, service providers and the AHO.
- The committee met in September 2014, and the AHO was represented by John McGannon, Deputy Director Hydrographic Plans & Standards.

### 3. AUS Paper Chart Distribution

NMSA is a paper chart distributing agent for AUS charts in PNG. It has been distributing paper charts since 2006. Over the last 5 years there has been an increase in demand for paper charts. The increase has been from about 550 charts in the year 2010 to an annual average of 1375 charts in the last 3 years (2012-2014).

### 4. Notice to Mariners

A review of the Notice to Mariner service commenced in 2014 and has been completed. Revision is underway to improve NTM service in accordance with IHO guidelines but especially in the following:

- *improve information management*
- *improve internal systems and processes*
- *increase network and medium for distribution of NTMs*
- *raise community awareness on importance of NTMs*
- *proposal to incorporate AHO notices relating to PNG area*

### 5. List of Lights

Work on compilation of list of lights to be consistent with S-12 commenced in 2013. The list of lights currently managed by NMSA is a total 280 AtoNs. The work is planned to complete by end of 2015. The light list will go into updating all light information held by the NMSA, AHO and including the relevant list for PNG area on the Admiralty Light List, NP 83, which also is in need of updating.

## **6. Capacity Building**

- 6.1 IMO/IHO Regional Training on Basic Hydrography and Hydrographic Governance, Fiji, June 2014. 1 Officer – Patricia Logha
- 6.2 JICA Hydrography for Charting and Disaster Management Course (*CATB Hydrographic Surveying*), Japan, June – December 2014. 1 Officer – Nicholas Pion
- 6.3 Maritime Safety Information Course, New Zealand – August 2014. 1 Officer – Terence Tasia (SAR Coordinator)
- 6.4 The PNG government and Asian Development Bank have signed an agreement for a Maritime Waterways and Safety Project to commence in 2015. The implementing agency is NMSA and project management will be undertaken by Cardno Emerging Markets of Australia. Technical Advisors for project management will commence in end of February.

## **7. New approved baseline**

- 7.1 The new baselines for Papua New Guinea were submitted to the government as part of the new proposed Maritime Zones Bill in 2014. The work of delimiting the new set of maritime boundaries is to be consistent with the provisions of UNCLOS. This baseline review commenced in 2008 was completed in 2012 with the assistance of SOPAC/SPC.
- 7.2 The government through its National Executive Council, in January 2015, approved the enactment of the proposed Maritime Zones Bill inclusive of the consequential list of amendments;
- 7.3 The NEC has approved to the new archipelagic baselines and coordinates.

## **8. Challenges**

- 8.1 The main challenge is limited workforce and resources to be able to fulfil responsibilities as required. To address this, NMSA looks forward to collaborating with agencies such as the PNGDF, National Fisheries Authority and SPC.
- 8.2 PNG is also facing an increase in development along its coast and offshore areas. Many other government agencies and private developers are engaging hydrographic surveys for various purposes. Some of these developments are not being made known to NMSA, therefore in many instance, data that may be relevant to updating charts and nautical publications is not being made available to the hydrographic unit.

## **9. Conclusions**

With the challenges being faced by the organisation, PNG however recognizes the importance of being part of the SWPHC and is slowly developing its internal capacity to fulfil its obligations noting that a revised agreement between PNG and Australia is soon to be in force repealing the MOU of 1978.

The NMSA has also recognized that the risk assessment methodology applied successfully in Vanuatu by LINZ is applicable to other pacific island countries as presented at the SWPHC12. NMSA is very much interested in this and wish to take up a similar approach for PNG waters.