

**5th Conference of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission
Wollongong, Australia, 15-16 April 2003**

REPORT

1. Opening Remarks

- 1.1 The Hydrographer of Australia, CAPT B.J. Kafer, welcomed all delegates to the 5th Conference of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC). A list of the delegates appears as **Annex 1**.
- 1.2 CAPT Kafer gave a brief outline of the SWPHC highlights and significance of holding this regional forum:
- (i) The 5th Meeting celebrates a decade of the SWPHC, which first met in Sydney in 1993.
 - (ii) The meeting provides guidance on surveying and charting techniques.
 - (iii) It is an important meeting for smaller SW Pacific Member States of the IHO - who are not normally able to attend larger IHO conferences and meetings outside the region – in keeping them abreast of activities outside this area; and providing a forum for them to outline their specific national challenges, objectives and achievements to other Member States.
 - (iv) The event also contributes to achieving the IHO Work Programme, and enables the SW Pacific region to meet its obligations as one of the 13 Regional Hydrographic Commissions of the IHO.
 - (v) It is a venue for networking.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The agenda of the 5th Conference of the SWPHC, which had been distributed to all participants, was adopted (see **Annex 2**).

3. Chairman's Report on SWPHC activities since the 4th Conference

- 3.1 CAPT Kafer provided a brief on the SWPHC activities since the last meeting held in Noumea, New Caledonia in April 2001. The main work involved maintaining contact with the SWPHC members in progressing the actions arising from that meeting, and also addressing issues in the IHO Work Programme 2001-2005 which required input from the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs). The Chairman's Report appears as **Annex 3**.

4. Review of Action Items from the 4th SWPHC Conference

The meeting noted the status of the actions arising from the last SWPHC conference (see item 19 of the minutes – List of Actions, Resolutions and Decisions Resulting from the 4th SWPHC Conference) as follows:

- 4.1 *Item 3 (Australia to contact Fiji re hosting subsequent (6th) meeting)*
Australia had contacted the Chief Hydrographer, Fiji regarding this matter. Mr Phil Hill (Fiji) informed the meeting that the Chief Hydrographer, Fiji had undertaken to host the next meeting, and would take over the Chairmanship of SWPHC with effect from 1 August 2003.
- Action (Fiji) : Fiji to assume the Chair of the SWPHC effective 1 August 2003 and host the next meeting.**
- 4.2 *Item 5 (IHB to remove the word “establish” from the 2nd sentence of section 4 in IHO TR 1.3 and to choose the most appropriate way to submit this recommendation to Member States)*
Action completed. The XVIth IH Conference (Monaco, April 2002) adopted the proposal modifying TR 1.3, which aligns RHC activities with the IHO Work Programme.
- 4.3 *Item 5 (Australia to examine “Status of Hydrographic Surveys” section of S-55 to determine if category definitions are suitable, and recommends to advise IHB and SWPHC Member States of the review’s conclusions)*
Action completed.
- 4.4 *Item 6 (Australia to provide comments to the IHB regarding development and promotion of the Hydrographic Transfer Format (HTF) vis-à-vis S-57)*
Action ongoing. Australia had corresponded with the IHB on this issue in February 2003. The current situation is that HTF may be considered as a basis for a survey transfer format under S-57. Australia will continue to pursue this matter through the IHO TSMAD Working Group.
- Action (Australia) : To pursue the consideration of HTF as the basis of an international standard for transfer of hydrographic survey data. This is to be undertaken through the IHO TSMAD Working Group.**
- 4.5 *Item 7 (Chair to establish contact with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) with a view to including hydrographic components in SPC projects)*
Action ongoing. CAPT Kafer had written to SPC Director-General (Ms Lourdes Pangelenan), stressing the importance of hydrographic information in assisting the management and exploitation of natural marine resources. An invitation to attend the 5th SWPHC Conference was also extended. Dr Tim Adams, the SPC Director of Marine Resources Division replied, indicating interest in participating; however this did not eventuate as he had to attend another meeting which coincided with the SWPHC meeting. CAPT Kafer undertook to continue liaison with the SPC and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) to generate impetus and enthusiasm for hydrographic projects in the SW Pacific region and enable capacity building. Australia also undertook to represent the SWPHC at future relevant meetings of either the SPC or SOPAC to present the requirements/necessity for hydrographic activity.
- Action (Chair) : To continue liaison with SPC and SOPAC to generate impetus and enthusiasm for hydrographic projects in the SW Pacific region to enable capacity building.**
- Action (Australia) : To represent the SWPHC at future relevant regional meetings of either SPC or SOPAC to present requirements/necessity for hydrographic activity.**
- 4.6 *Item 8 (Australia and New Zealand to liaise with IHB and clarify their position re inclusion of their large scale charts in the INT Chart Scheme)*
Australia and NZ reported that their position was the same as that expressed at the last meeting, in other words, they would not be declaring any of their large scale charts to be included in the IHO INT Chart Scheme.

Australia stated that that the fundamental issues pertained to:

- Geography - its large scale chart scheme does not abut upon other Member States' schemes in the region;
- Matter of safety of navigation and exposure to liability.
- Most of the large-scale charts in the INT Scheme would cover the Great Barrier Reef area – an extremely sensitive area for which the Australian government is significantly exposed in the event of a maritime incident. As such Australia does not see maritime safety being enhanced by enabling other Member States to recompile data that has been incorporated in AUS charts – which from the Australian government position is the best available data presented in best manner.
- Australia is willing to allow other IHO Member States to reproduce 'in toto' its large scale charts, but under conditions it was able to control (that is, under a bilateral arrangement whereby bathymetry as depicted on an AUS chart may be taken and shown with a change in language; however any form of recompilation of the base bathymetry and the navigational information would not be permitted).

Australia added that the bilateral arrangements it currently has in place meet its needs and service its requirements adequately.

4.7 *Item 8 (Australia to co-ordinate the development of the INT Chart Scheme for Region L)*
Discussed under item 8 of this meeting's agenda.

4.8 *Item 8 (All Member States to provide the coordinator for Region L (Australia) with any updates and suggested changes to their medium and small scale INT charts)*
Discussed under item 8 of this meeting's agenda.

4.9 *Item 11 (Australia to provide the IHB with comments on hydrographic issues in the Asian Development Bank funding of the PNG Maritime Safety Infrastructure)*
Action completed. Australia provided the information to the IHB in November 2002.

4.10 *Item 12 (Member States and non-members to contact CPRNW for specific advice on MSI (Maritime Safety Information). NAVAREA Coordinators, through their national HOs, to propose the best ways of improving dissemination of radio navigational warnings within their NAVAREAs to CPRNW)*
Mr Pink (UK) advised that this issue will be discussed at the next CPRNW meeting in May 2003, and an update provided.

4.11 *Item 13 (Chair to obtain addresses of cruise shipping associations/organisations and contact them with a view to getting information on main shipping routes, future plans, and wishes for navigational data documents and facilities (ie ECDIS) within the region)*
CAPT Kafer reported that he had written to shipping companies/agencies, tourism agencies, etc in Australia, and also requested SWPHC Member States to assist in gathering this information. A number of responses were received; the focus being around Australia, including a list of companies provided by New Zealand. Australia will progress the matter by continuing to correspond with the shipping lines. Meanwhile Fiji, PNG and Tonga would provide information regarding concerns (quality of data on charts, inadequate surveys, etc) in areas which are being utilized by shipping lines, cruise ships, etc. All this information would then be forwarded to IHB, SPC and SOPAC to generate aid for surveying programmes to shipping activities.

Action (Australia): To continue correspondence with shipping lines regarding areas of inadequate surveys in SW Pacific.

Action (All Member States except NZ): To provide information to Australia regarding concerns in areas which are being utilised by shipping lines etc.

Action (Australia): To forward this information to SPC, IHB and SOPAC to generate aid for surveying programmes to support shipping activities.

4.12 *Item 14 (All Member States to provide IHB with their Internet digital chart catalogue address, and where HOs' produced digital data can be obtained. IHB to include this information on the IHO website)*

Action completed. IHB reported that it was progressing the inclusion of the information on the IHO website.

4.13 *Item 15 (All Member States to inform IHB of projects related to hydrography within their area, that would benefit from funding)*

Australia reported that it does not consider there are any existing projects that would benefit substantially from additional funding. PNG requested IHB provide it with a copy of Commodore Cooper's report on the benefits of hydrography in PNG. UK undertook to investigate potential areas where IHB support would assist development of survey and charting activities.

Action (IHB): To provide PNG with copy of CDRE Cooper's report on benefits of hydrography in PNG, to enable the PNG Hydrographer to raise this internally.

Action (UK): To undertake further investigation of potential areas where IHB support would assist development of survey and charting activities.

4.14 *Item 16 (Australia to represent the SWPHC at May 2001 SPWG Meeting)*

Action completed. Australia volunteered to continue to represent the SWPHC on the IHO Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG), which was agreed unanimously by all Member States.

Decision (All Member States): Australia to continue representing the SWPHC on the IHO SPWG.

4.15 *Item 16 (Australia to derive from the IHO Work Programme a draft of general TORs for RHCs, to be presented to the next SPWG meeting, as a model for all RHCs)*
Completed.

4.16 *Item 16 (IHB to liaise with IOC and approach the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (AGSO) on the subject of chairing the proposed IBCSWP (International Bathymetric Chart of the South Western Pacific) project)*

IHB reported that the proposed IBCSWP project did not eventuate, as unanimous agreement was not reached on splitting of the Western Pacific into two regions.

4.17 *Item 16 (IHB to provide SWPHC members with references of organisations previously approached by IOC, on the IBCSWP project)*

This item was no longer relevant as the IBCSWP project did not eventuate.

4.18 *Item 18 (Chair to circulate the Statutes version "25 April 2001" to those Members not present, inviting them to sign)*

CAPT Kafer reported that the Statutes had been circulated to the three Members not present at the last meeting (Fiji, Papua New Guinea and United States), inviting them to sign. Fiji and Papua New Guinea (present at the meeting) agreed to sign the Statutes, and the Chairman would forward the statues to United States for signature. Invitations would also be extended to other nations in

the SW Pacific region (non-IHO Members) to become Associate Members and be involved in the activities of the SWPHC. However there was some concern over the process of signatures on the Statutes, i.e. its 'staggered' nature instead of being signed by all Member States at one meeting. All Member States agreed for Australia to obtain advice from the Australian Government Solicitor on a suitable process.

Action (Australia): To obtain legal advice from the Australian Government Solicitor on a suitable process for including signatures on the Statutes.

Action (Fiji and PNG): To sign the statutes.

Action (Chair): To forward Statutes to United States for signature.

Action (Chair): To extend invitation to non-IHO Members in the region to become Associate Members of the SWPHC.

(Written legal advice was received before the conclusion of the meeting. Copies were provided to the Member States (see Annex 4). Member States agreed that the procedure suggested therein be adopted. Accordingly Fiji and Papua New Guinea signed on a copy of the existing Statutes (which had signatures of original signatories – Australia, France, New Zealand, Tonga, United Kingdom). After obtaining the remaining signature (United States) this copy would be lodged with the IHB.

5 Review of the SWPHC Statutes

- 5.1 CAPT Kafer reported that Australia had undertaken a study of the statutes of the SWPHC and established that these are harmonised with the model indicated in the modified IHO Resolution T1.3 "Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions" (Decision No. 3 of the XVIth IH Conference). All Member States agreed that the statutes have been harmonised with the Technical Resolution T1.3.

6 Exchange of information through National Reports

6.1 Australia (Annex 5)

- 6.1.1 Australia reported on the activities of the Australian Hydrographic Service covering the period of two years since the last SWPHC meeting – outlining the hydrographic surveys undertaken, aspects relating to nautical charting, electronic service delivery, Digital Hydrographic Data Base, interim chart production capability, training at the RAN Hydrographic School, etc.

6.2 Fiji (Annex 6)

- 6.2.1 Fiji's report outlined the hydrographic surveying and national charting activities, and the training aspects. The meeting noted that restructuring of the Fiji Maritime Department had drastically affected hydrographic survey activities. For the past three years the survey ship 'TOVUTO' had not been able to conduct hydrographic work – as it is now part of the Government Shipping Service fleet of vessels and is used for VIP transport and running passenger and cargo voyages within the island group.
- 6.2.2 A recent Fiji Defence Department White Paper had recommended the transfer of the Fiji Hydrographic Service (FHS) back to the Fiji Navy. The meeting agreed that the SWPHC Chair write to the Ministry of Land Transport and Civil Aviation, Fiji, suggesting that, in the interest of hydrography in Fiji, the recommendations of the White paper be implemented. It would highlight

the fact that from the technical and operational perspective it appears that the FHS is not making progress in its current environment; there being potential for it to increase in size and capacity in a Defence environment. Fiji undertook to provide a copy of the White paper to the Chair for use as reference for the correspondence. The Chair would extend copies of the correspondence to the IHB, Australian Defence Department, and AusAID. In addition Fiji would also provide a brief background paper on the action taken in-country (by FHS, etc) to lobby for the transfer back to Defence.

Action (Fiji): To provide Chair with copy of the White Paper and supporting background brief regarding the transfer of the FHS back to Defence.

Action (Chair): To correspond (through Australian Defence Department) with appropriate departments in Fiji seeking consideration of the transfer of the FHS to Fiji Defence Department (copies to be extended to IHB and AusAID).

6.3 France (Annex 7)

6.3.1 The meeting noted the construction of two new Hydrographic-Oceanographic survey ships. 'BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRÉ', a 3000-ton vessel and 80 m long, was launched recently. It has two crews, providing 300 days of operation per annum. 'POURQUOI PAS', a 5000-ton vessel, will be launched in 2004 and have 150 days of operations per annum. There is a possibility that these ships will carry out survey work in the SW Pacific area at some stage.

6.4 New Zealand (Annex 8)

6.4.1 New Zealand reported on a wide-range of activities – the Hydrographic and Bathymetric Information Strategy, the Hydrographic Survey Capability Review, Hydrographic Surveying and Charting (paper and digital), Tidal Information, Nautical Publications, Hydrographic Metadata project, etc.

6.4.2 A major grounding ('JODY F MILLENIUM') occurred just outside the entrance to Port of Gisborne on 6 February 2002. It resulted from extreme swell and surge conditions within the harbour. The Maritime Safety Authority of New Zealand has published a report on the grounding on its website (www.msa.govt.nz/publications/accidents/JFMFinalReport.pdf). The Report's recommendations have ramifications for port hydrographers - issues such as the reporting of dredged depths of channels, dynamic under keel clearance, instrumentation (tides, wind, etc). A major recommendation is the need for operating standards for ports which will include hydrographic surveys to be undertaken by qualified personnel.

6.5 Papua New Guinea (Annex 9)

6.5.1 Papua New Guinea (PNG) outlined the hydrographic surveys and chart production programmes undertaken by the Australian Hydrographic Service in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Dept. of Defence and the PNG Dept. of Transport and Civil Aviation.

6.5.2 The Asian Development Bank (ADB) project to rehabilitate the PNG Maritime Safety Infrastructure had an approved funding of US\$ 19.8 million from ADB, US\$ 800,000 from AusAID (for training component), and a PNG Government contribution of US\$ 5.5 million per annum for 5 years. At this stage no information was readily available regarding the hydrographic component of the ADB project; whether it would be done in-house or on contract basis. Discussions on this matter are expected to take place with the Project consultants in July 2003. It could have a potential impact on the work carried out under the charting MOU with Australia.

- 6.5.3 The meeting noted that other smaller Member States in the SWPHC might benefit from the Project – particularly in gaining some knowledge of the process of obtaining such funding. PNG undertook to provide Member States with a copy of the ADB report on the Project.

Action (PNG): To provide Member States with copy of the ADB project report.

6.6 Tonga (Annex 10)

- 6.6.1 Tonga reported on the hydrographic survey tasks undertaken, review to upgrade the survey system, and training aspects.

6.7 United Kingdom (Annex 11)

- 6.7.1 United Kingdom provided a brief on the wide-ranging activities of the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO). Two new survey vessels of 3500 tonnes each (ECHO commissioned in March 2003; 'ENTERPRISE' scheduled for early 2004) were being added to the Navy survey fleet.
- 6.7.2 The UKHO has Bilateral Arrangements with hydrographic offices of 43 nations. The bilateral arrangements formalise the exchange of products, data, materials and services and the sharing of expertise in the field of hydrography and related disciplines.

7 Reports from other regional agencies and observers

7.1 Australian Maritime Safety Authority (Annex 12)

- 7.1.1 The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)'s report highlighted some of its current activities that would be of interest to the SWPHC members, including:
- (i) Declaration of the Torres Strait as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) – submission to the IMO seeking extension of the existing Great Barrier Reef PSSA to include Torres Strait, which will support the introduction of two associated protective measures – a new two-way shipping route and compulsory pilotage.
 - (ii) Construction of three new aids to navigation to open an alternative deep draught route in the Great North East Channel, and submission to the IMO for a two-way route.
 - (iii) Forthcoming establishment of LADS Passage and Fairway Channel to provide a high degree of navigational safety to all ships using the new route.
 - (iv) Focussed inspection campaign targeting several specific areas of vessel operations, including the carriage and maintenance of charts and publications.

7.2 International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)

- 7.2.1 Rear Admiral Barbor reported that the IHB Directing Committee had begun implementing the Work Programme (related to the IHO Strategic Plan) and outlined the main activities being carried out.

7.3 Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

- 7.3.1 SPC provided its Annual Report for 2001 and copies were distributed to Member States present at the meeting.
- 7.3.2 The e-mail received from Dr Tim Adams (Director, Marine Resources Division) had suggested that shallow-water (0-30 metres) mapping in lagoons was SPC's primary need presently, in order to fuel the intensive reef fishery survey work that is being undertaken.

8. Review status of the INT Chart Scheme for Region L

8.1 Updating of information shown in M-11 publication

- 8.1.1 Copies of the extract of M-11 (Catalogue of INT Charts) corresponding to INT Charting Region L, as prepared by the IHB in 2001, were distributed to Member States. The meeting agreed that all Member States provide the Co-ordinator (Australia) with any updates and suggested changes to their respective charts listed therein by 30 June 2003.

Action (All Member States): To provide Australia with updated national entries for M-11.

8.2 Proposed Changes in Charting in Australian Area

- 8.2.1 Australia proposed the following changes in its charting area (see Annex 13):

INT 620

Chart Aus 4620, published Nov 1996, scale 1:1 500 000, titled 'Percy Isles to Booby Island, including Gulf of Papua' is to be added to the series and numbered INT 620. It has the following limits:

Lat 07 deg 00 min 01 sec S to 22 deg 36 min 05 sec S
Long 141 deg 30 min 00 sec E to 151 deg 00 min 36 sec E

INT 621

Chart Aus 4621 (INT 621), published Oct 2002, scale 1:1 500 000, titled 'Mackay to Solomon Islands' has the following new limits:

Lat 07 deg 04 min 00 sec S to 22 deg 40 min 00 sec S
Long 148 deg 00 min 00 sec E to 157 deg 30 min 00 sec E

Note : With the agreement of the UKHO, producers of adjoining chart INT 634 to the east, this chart was extended eastwards to improve the overlap with chart INT 634.

INT 720

The AHO proposes that because chart Aus 4620 (INT 620) has been allocated to the series, chart Aus 4720 (INT 720) (yet to be published), have its planned limits moved to the west to achieve coverage of the Gulf of Carpentaria on one chart. The proposed new limits are:

Lat 05 deg 00 min 00 sec S to 19 deg 00 min 00 sec S
Long 134 deg 00 min 00 sec E to 143 deg 30 min 00 sec E

INT 721

With the above planned chart Aus 4720 (INT 720) having its limits moved west, Chart Aus 4721 (INT 721) (yet to be published), would also have its planned limits moved to the west. The proposed new limits are:

Lat 07 deg 00 min 00 sec S to 16 deg 30 min 00 sec S
Long 123 deg 00 min 00 sec E to 137 deg 00 min 00 sec E

The meeting decided that Member States will provide comments on the above proposals, and subject to favourable comments, Australia will forward the proposals to the IHB.

Action (All Member States): To provide comments re proposed changes to the Australian INT chart scheme.

Action (Australia): Subject to favourable comment, forward proposal for changes to its INT chart scheme to the IHB.

8.3 Proposal to amend the limits of INT 622

- 8.3.1 Papua New Guinea (PNG) requested Australia assess the feasibility of amending the limits of INT 622 to include the Indonesian/PNG border and the PNG Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This would necessitate shifting the limits westwards, northwards and eastwards.

Action (Australia): To assess the feasibility of amending the limits of INT 622 and advise the PNG Hydrographer accordingly.

9. Regional co-operation in surveying and chart production

- 9.1 CAPT Kafer briefed the meeting on the current status of charting authorities in the SW Pacific region. The tripartite agreement (between Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom), formulated about 30 years ago, divided up parts of the region into areas of primary charting responsibilities. It does not include the French Territories and Dependencies (New Caledonia, French Polynesia, etc), nor does it take into consideration independent work undertaken by Fiji, Tonga or other states in Region L.
- 9.2 Following some discussion, Member States decided that it was therefore important to review this issue to clarify who has primary charting responsibility for particular parts of the SW Pacific. The SWPHC would subsequently forward a statement or declaration to the IHB as a Regional Hydrographic Commission initiative. Such a statement or declaration is intended to assist Member States to obtain government and appropriate regional and international support for surveying and charting activities. The sponsorship/patronage of the IHB in this matter is crucial for seeking funds. Such a statement might also establish an IHO model for other regions.
- 9.3 It was agreed that there is a need for a specific document in order to pursue this as a programme. In the first instance it would be necessary to obtain, at a regional level, a declaration of the ‘status quo’ in terms of who considers that they are chart producers in the SW Pacific and for which areas. Such an exercise will assist in identifying areas of deficiency as well as avoid duplication of effort. Australia volunteered to co-ordinate action on this issue as follows:

- initially, communicate with regional Member States and seek their perception of the current status of charting in the region (indicating limits on charts, etc);
- on receipt of this information carry out a desk top study to determine where gaps are, and indicate to other nations (including non-member States), areas where no one appears to have taken responsibility for particular areas;
- submit a report to the IHB for information.

Action (All Member States): Australia to liaise with all Member States and obtain guidance on their current charting limits.

Action (Australia): To assess the deficiencies and gaps in charting in the region.

Action (Australia): Prepare a report on charting deficiencies in Region L and forward it to the IHB.

10. IHO Special Publication N° 55 (Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting World-Wide)

- 10.1 With reference to IHO Circular Letter 23 /2003, CAPT Mike Barritt (for IHB) outlined the background to the IHB Directing Committee's decision to afford the review and reissue of S-55 a very high priority. He highlighted the following:
- (i) Regulation 9 in Chapter V of SOLAS which places stringent requirements on governments for national hydrographic obligations.
 - (ii) IHO publication M-2 which describes how hydrographic services can affect national maritime policies.
 - (iii) The United Nations requirement that the IHO provides an annual report on the status of surveying and charting worldwide.
 - (iv) The need for strategic data for national and international policy-makers, resource controllers, etc - identifying areas where there are deficiencies in Hydrographic Surveying, Nautical Charting and Maritime Safety Information for purposes of capacity building.
- 10.2 CAPT Barritt described the proposed content and data collection requirements. The revised document would most probably be a layered database to enable continuous update in future.
- 10.3 In the next stage another IHO Circular Letter would be issued containing a questionnaire. CAPT Barritt provided Member States with a draft of the questionnaire and explained the proposed format and information being sought.
- 10.4 The active contribution and co-operation of all Members States was sought to aid the development work on S-55. Regional Hydrographic Commissions have a key role to play, and the IHB has requested that an update of the S-55 database be made a standing agenda item for RHC meetings. The meeting agreed that all Member States respond to IHO CL 23/2003 by the deadline of 15 May 2003.

Action (All Member States): To respond to IHO CL 23/2003 by the deadline of 15 May 2003.

11. Regional co-operation in maritime boundaries delimitation

- 11.1 Papua New Guinea reported that it was in the process of defining its maritime boundaries. It would involve about one and a half years of field-work, followed by negotiations with Indonesia, the Solomon Islands and Micronesia. The funding for the work amounted to US\$ 4-5 million.

12. International Bathymetric Chart of the Central Eastern Atlantic (IBCEA)

- 12.1 France provided a brief on the International Bathymetric Chart of the Eastern Atlantic (IBCEA) initiative carried out under the auspices of the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC). The main goal of this IOC programme is to provide precise bathymetric maps, equivalent to terrestrial topographic maps, to be used for scientific research, modelling, natural resources evaluation and prospecting, environment protection studies, education, imagery, etc.

- 12.2 The IBCEA comprises 12 sheets on a scale of 1: 1 000 000. France is responsible for 6 sheets (No. 6 - West Sahara, Nos. 8 to 12 – Guinée to Angola) which have all been published in recent years. Great Britain has responsibility for 2 sheets, and Portugal 4 sheets.
- 12.3 Other IBC programmes in which France is involved include:
- IBC of the Western Indian Ocean(IBCWIO) - 3 sheets by France
 - IBC of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico (IBCCA) - 2 sheets by France
 - IBC of the Mediterranean (IBCM) – 2nd Edition planned for bathymetry (10 sheets)

13. Training and Technical Assistance

- 13.1 The Chairman reported that most Member States had provided some information on training/technical assistance activities in their national reports. However it was being raised as a separate agenda item in case they wished to raise issues of concern regarding technical assistance, difficulties in obtaining support for training programmes, etc.
- 13.2 Fiji reported that due to the civilian status of the Fijian Hydrographic Service (FHS), it was no longer being offered places on the hydrographic courses offered by the naval training schools in Australia and New Zealand. CAPT Kafer took note of this issue and agreed to add this when making the submission re consideration for transfer of the FHS to Fiji Defence Department (see para 6.2.2).

Action (Chair): To include the training aspect when making the submission re consideration for transfer of the FHS to Fiji Defence Department (see para 6.2.2)

14. Regional arrangements for promulgating maritime safety information

- 14.1 Mr Chris Pink, representing the Chairman of the Commission for the Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings (CPRNW), reported that element 3.5 of the IHO Strategic Plan deals with the subject of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) within the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).
- 14.2 Mr Pink gave a very informative presentation covering the WorldWide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS), the CPRNW, the MSI, the GMDSS, SafetyNET and NAVTEX.
- 14.3 On 1 February 1999, the GMDSS was fully implemented and became legally binding for all SOLAS shipping and administrations that are signatories to that convention. Prior to GMDSS, MSI was promulgated via telegraphy and telephony. With the advent of GMDSS this changed, since one of the lynchpins of the GMDSS was the removal of the dedicated Radio Officer. MSI now needed to be presented to the Officer of the Watch in a simple written format. This could be best achieved by narrow band Direct Printing and the system devised to do this was NAVTEX. NAVTEX consists of a dedicated MF receiver which receives MSI from ashore and displays it on a paper printout. The information displayed covers Navigational Warnings, gale/Storm Warnings, Weather Forecasts, status of Navigational Systems such as GPS and many others. As this operates in the MF band it is range-limited, and guaranteed coverage only extends out to 250 nautical miles.
- 14.4 Since ships operate more than 250 nautical miles from shore; provision for these vessels was made on the INMARSAT satellite system in the form of Enhanced Group Calling (EGC) or SafetyNET as it is better known. This system covers all the waters of the world to 70 degrees

North and South. The system requires ships to be fitted with an INMARSAT-C terminal, where the information can be displayed either on a VDU or on a paper printout.

- 14.5 Ships' radio equipment fits are decided by the shore radio facilities, which are provided in the area where vessels operate. All SOLAS vessels of over 300 GRT are required to carry a NAVTEX receiver but they do not have to carry an INMARSAT-C receiver. If they operate outside the range of a shore radio station with MF Digital Selective Calling (DSC) i.e. more than about 300 miles (DSC improves on normal MF ranges) then they are required to carry an INMARSAT-C receiver for MSI as well as for Distress Alerting. Ships, which operate further North or South of 70 degrees, are required to use HF (DSC). The area outside of MF (DSC) coverage is known as A3, the area within MF (DSC) cover is A2. If an administration does not provide MF (DSC) facilities for Distress Alerting then the whole area is deemed to be A3, and vessels must be fitted with INMARSAT-C.
- 14.6 MSI is broken down into three categories: Local, Coastal and NAVAREA. Local Warnings deal with hazards that are close inshore and do not have to comply with International legislation. Coastal Warnings cover the area from the Pilot Station/Fairway Buoy out to 250 nautical miles and NAVAREA Warnings the area beyond that out to the boundary of the NAVAREA. These warnings must comply with international legislation as laid down in the WWNWS and its sister publication the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO manual on Maritime Safety Information.
- 14.7 The provision of MSI worldwide is co-ordinated and managed by the IHO through its CPRNW. It is also responsible to the IMO as well, reporting through IMO's COMSAR Conferences.
- 14.8 Australia undertook to liaise with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), co-ordinator for the regional NAVAREA, to determine what process is in place regarding the level of (navigational warnings) information received in the SW Pacific. It will then investigate whether it is necessary to carry out a study tour in the region.

Action (Australia): To liaise with AMSA and examine what process is in place regarding the level of (navigational warnings) information received in the SW Pacific, and investigate whether it is necessary to carry out a study tour in the region.

15. IHO Strategic Planning Working Group (IHO SPWG) briefing & 'SPWG-SWPHC' discussion and feedback

- 15.1 Australia (the SWPHC representative on the IHO SPWG) briefed the meeting on the work carried out by SPWG to date and the future directions. Copies of the report of the SPWG Chair Group meeting held in London on 13-14 March 2003 had been circulated to Member States in late March.
- 15.2 Discussions dwelt on the way in which an emerging structure and organisation is being developed for the IHO. The meeting agreed in general with the proposed organisational model, which is quite similar to the IMO structure. However, New Zealand did not agree that there is a demonstrable requirement for an IHO Council, preferring that any decisions otherwise undertaken or endorsed by a Council should be the direct responsibility of the relevant committees; thereby enabling all Member States to exercise a direct vote if they so chose.
- 15.3 It was agreed that there were many details of the proposed organisational structure that still require development or clarification by the SPWG, but in particular it was agreed that:
- (i) The inter-sessional period should be 3 years rather 2 years

- (ii) Representation on the Council should be proportional and aligned to Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs).
 - (iii) A mechanism is required to ensure that proxy arrangements are available for Member States appointed to Council for those occasions when they are unable to attend particular Council meetings (i.e. allow some other member within the RHC to be proxy).
- 15.4 There was general agreement that the current voting arrangements whereby an abstention or lack of a voting submission had the effect of a 'no' vote must change in favour of 'tacit acceptance' procedures that rely on achieving only a designated majority of those votes cast.
- 15.5 There was particular concern that the proposed organisational structure restricts the Secretary General and the Directors to a Secretariat function. The proposed structure does not actively engage or commit the Sec-General or Directors to direct responsibility for the execution of the Work Program, nor does it enable them to exercise leadership and initiative on behalf of the Member States in the execution of the programs or the general achievement of IHO objectives. In a time when Member States can afford less time and resources to IHO matters, particularly in distant RHC such as the SWPHC, election and employment of Directors as fully funded and dedicated IHO chairs of committees is considered a better and more realistic option. Accordingly, the SWPHC agreed that the chairs of Council, Technical Committee and Strategy and Program Committee should be positions elected individually by IHC from candidates from Member States. Eligibility and election rules should be developed accordingly. This arrangement also supports a minimalist change approach.
- 15.6 The meeting agreed that Australia summarises the issues discussed, together with their outcomes/views, and circulate this to Member States for endorsement as the SWPHC position. The comments/views received will then be tabled when Australia represents the SWPHC at the SPWG meeting in Lima in May 2003.

Action (Australia): To summarise the the outcomes of the discussion regarding the proposed IHO organisation, (outlining SWPHC's position) for tabling at the next SWPG meeting in May 2003. This summary will be circulated to Member States for consideration and comment, prior to its tabling.

16. Analysis of the Economic Benefits of the Provision of Hydrographic Services in the APEC Region

- 16.1 Australia provided all participants with copies of the APEC Transport Commission Cost-Benefit Analysis Report which covered the SW Pacific region. CMDR Ward gave a brief presentation of its main outcomes and its impact on the work of the SWPHC.
- 16.2 He briefed the meeting on the draft summary report of 'Analysis of the Economic benefits of the Provision of Hydrographic Services in the APEC Region' - commissioned by the APEC Transportation Working Group, and report produced by the Australian consortium 'APP and Global Works International Project Development' (see Annex 14). The objective was to provide an 'in-principle' analysis of the economic benefit and value of hydrographic services to APEC member economies; and hence provide policy guidance on appropriate levels of investment in hydrographic services to ensure safety and improve efficiency of shipping within the region.

17. Summary of Resolutions, Decisions, Recommendations and Actions

17.1 A list of the resolutions, decisions, recommendations and actions resulting from the 5th meeting of the SWPHC appears as **Annex 15**.

18. Date & Venue of next Conference

18.1 Fiji had previously agreed to host the next SWPHC Conference in Suva, Fiji (see para 4.1). It was agreed that the meeting be held in late 2004 (preferably in October), as the IH Extraordinary Conference will be held in Monaco April 2005.

Action (Fiji): To plan for late 2004 (preferably October) as the time for the 6th SWPHC Conference.

18.2 New Zealand volunteered to hold the Vice-Chair of the SWPHC (effective 1 August 2003).

19. Closing Remarks

19.1 CAPT Kafer thanked all delegates for their participation and useful contribution to discussions over the two days. The meeting had been beneficial, particularly to those Member States which do not have a regular opportunity to get together and discuss the various issues pertaining to hydrography.
