

**THE 18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWPHC18)  
VTC meeting, 17 - 19 February**

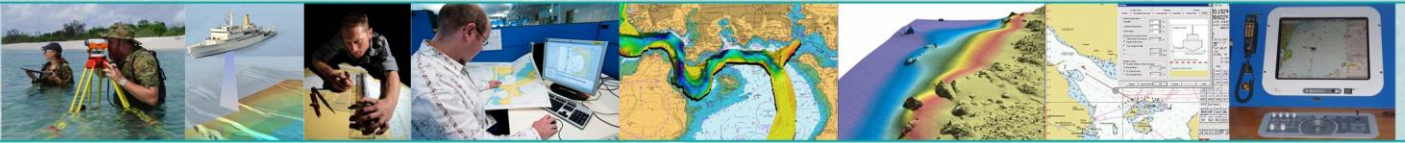
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 3.2.1.14	Prepare for and report meetings of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)

The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC), initially planned to be held in Tonga, was held in a VTC format from 17 to 19 February 2021. Representatives from Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States and Vanuatu attended the meeting. Cook Islands, Indonesia, Kiribati and Palau were represented as Associate Members. Six observer organizations and eight industry members were also present. Director Abri Kampfer and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas represented the IHO Secretariat.



*Participants in the 18<sup>th</sup> SWPHC Meeting*

The meeting was opened by the SWPHC Chair Mr Adam Greenland (New Zealand) and the participants were formally greeted with a Te reo Māori karakia & mihi (formal greeting). Mrs Jan Pierce, Deputy Chief Executive of LINZ, addressed the participants, mentioning the



importance of the regional meeting and encouraging participation in the agenda items. IHO Director Abri Kampfer provided his opening remarks, mentioning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and that the possibility to continue with work and not losing momentum is due to technology. He wished all a very successful meeting and expressed his expectation about the scheduled discussions.

The meeting proceeded with the approval of the agenda and matters arising from the previous SWPHC17 Meeting with the respective list of actions and comments on the SWPHC Statutes.

Director Kampfer provided an overview of the SWPHC membership, enhancing the fact that in the region there are several non-member States. He reported on the main outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IHO Assembly, the 4<sup>th</sup> IHO Council and on the Subsidiary Organs (IRCC and HSSC). He enhanced the approbation of the IHO Work Program the Budget and the new IHO Strategic Plan. Director Kampfer also mentioned the objectives for the theme of the World Hydrography Day and the IHO peak-of-the-peak event to be held in Monaco on 21 June 2021.

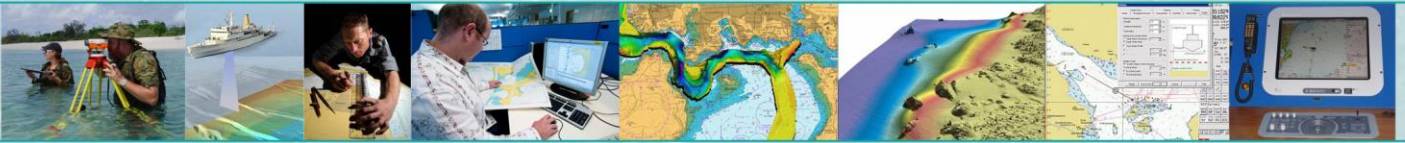
The Meeting proceeded with an update on the outcomes from the IRCC12 and HSSC12 meetings, mainly focused on the actions and recommendations relevant to the SWPHC. The Chair asked for support on the new IHO projects, Empowering Women in Hydrography and the IHO E-learning Center. Member States were also encouraged to participate in the new Hydrographic Surveys Working Group (HSWG).

The WENDWG Chair presented the highlights of the WENDWG10 Meeting and the next version of the WEND-100 principles. The MSDIWG Vice-Chair presented the most important topics of the MSDIWG11 meeting, highlighting the recent creation of a dedicated regional SWPHC MSDIWG that had the first meeting in February. Members were encouraged to be involved and contribute. The SWPHC MSDIWG Chair provided an update on the WG activities, expressing the intention to seek opportunities to reach out other regional organizations. LINZ also reported on the NZ Marine Geospatial Information WG (NZMGIWG), established in 2019.

The main outcomes of the National Reports were summarized with the respective achievements and challenges, being a common aspect the major impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Members activities.

The Meeting received presentations on the activities of the IALA, and the SPC (Pacific Community) and also a report from IMO. The IALA representative provided the presentation "Building AToN Capacity in the SWP for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development" and mentioned that technical webinars have been delivered during the pandemic and are available on the IALA website. The IALA World-Wide Academy also offers courses on SIRA Risk Assessment; AtoN Procurement and IWRAP Risk Assessment. The SPC provided a presentation about its Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division.

The Meeting continued with the reports from the SWPHC Working Groups. Starting with the Update from the International Charting Coordination Working Group (ICCWG) and then a presentation on the project "JANUS" aimed to implement S-100 in New Zealand. On the same agenda item France updated the meeting on the status of S-100 implementation,



reporting on the testing of some S-57 to S-101 converters and the delegation of the S-101 to S-57 conversion to PRIMAR.

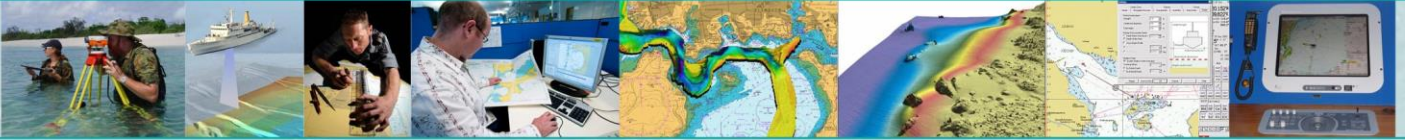
The three NAVAREA Coordinators presented their reports from areas X, XI and XIV. The SWPHC were encouraged to nominate national points of contact to NAVAREA XI and it was also proposed to create a standardized template for MSI Reports.

The meeting proceeded with the first gap analysis for the implementation of SPIs of the IHO Strategic plan 2021-2026 in accordance with the decision 39 of the 4<sup>th</sup> IHO Council. The Chair requested a report from each State. France provided a summary of the Goal 1 Gap Analysis based on responses from seven Coastal States, enhancing that the key word is 'efficiency', meaning the endeavour to produce enhanced products and services for safety-of-navigation. This include new modes, such as autonomous navigation and also addresses the concern for green shipping. US provided the summary of Goal 2 Gap Analysis, outlining the themes identified in the current state, gaps and actions. The summary of Goal 3 was provided by UK, outlining the themes identified in the current state, gaps and actions, mentioning that each response received had a different approach to filling the gaps and that most were specific to national challenges. The meeting agreed that the SPIs will require some more work and that it should be important to have the feedback from other regions to present the conclusions to IRCC13 in order to complete the tests of the SPI's and allow the IHO Council to decide which ones will be kept for the following 5 years. It was further decided to establish a working group to develop a SWPHC 3-6 year draft work plan and priorities to achieve the Goals and Targets of the IHO Strategic Plan.

The SWPHC Capacity Building Coordinator presented the highlights from the CBSC18 Meeting, reviewed the status of the Members in relation with the different CB Phases and relations with Primary Chart Authorities. The 3-year CB Plan was discussed and concluded that, similar to 2020, it is likely that some activities planned for 2021 will be deferred to 2022 due to the pandemic.

The Seabed 2030 project Director updated the Meeting on the status of the project and recent activities, mentioning Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB) field trials in Palau and introducing the Ocean Frontier Mapping Initiative. A presentation by the Seabed2030 South and West Pacific Regional Center (SaWPac) provided an overview of the GEBCO Gridded Bathymetry Data, concluding that for SWPHC less than 10% of the region's seafloor has a physical measurement. The Director of IHO DCDB & Chair CSBWG presented an overview of the IHO DCDB encouraging the Members to contribute with data and also provided an update on CSB activities and initiatives.

The meeting agreed that the SWPHC should share, through the IRCC13, with the 5<sup>th</sup> IHO Council, the relevance of IHO Strategic Plan SPIs for Goals 2 & 3 for RHCs and the need to explore appropriate S-100 CB activities. An update on SWPHC Disaster Response Framework (DRF) was provided and Member States were requested to identify points of contact and means of communications. It was decided to continue the development of the DRF by correspondence and to establish a working group for its revision.



Regarding the World Hydrography Day 2021 '**One hundred years of international cooperation in hydrography**' it was suggested that each Coastal State create a short video about international cooperation and all videos will be then collated into a SWPHC clip to share on the WHD 2021.

NGA provided a presentation on "Leveraging Automatic Identification Systems to map global maritime vessel traffic". NGA are producing a global monthly raster grid of vessel traffic to provide a broad understanding of the vessel traffic with the aim to contribute to the vessel environment and allow the building of a safer maritime transportation system.

NOAA presented the Global Extratropical Storm Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System (Global ESTOFS). The model has a resolution of at least 1.5km and up to 80m, globally and provides 7-day water level forecasts, four times a day. Of interest is the Pacific Enhancement Project which will provide water level forecast guidance and surface currents for navigation having as goal to support under keel clearance and route planning.

In the time dedicated to the Industry, the meeting received six presentations from: EOMAP; IIC Technologies; P&O Cruises Australia; Teledyne CARIS; Fugro; Seven Cs; and SafeQuadrant.

Mr Adam Greenland was elected to continue as Chair of the SWPHC and Mr Stuart Caie (NZ) as SWPHC CSB/ Seabed 2030 Coordinator. For the position of Vice Chair, Fiji nominated Tonga and it was decided that if Tonga are unable to stand, Fiji will stand as Vice-Chair.

In relation with the next SWPHC19 meeting in February of 2022, if there are conditions to do a face-to-face meeting, Vanuatu will consider hosting and will confirm before June 2021.