



South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)

Report presented on behalf of the Commission by Mr Adam Greenland, Chair

Meetings of the SWPHC between A2 and A3

The SWPHC has met annually since the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly in November 2020, as follows:

SWPHC18	Online	17-19 February 2021
SWPHC19	Online	23-25 February 2022
SWPHC20	Wellington, New Zealand	22-24 February 2023

The online Commission meetings were well attended by all Member States. SWPHC18 and SWPHC19 meetings were held online as a result of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SWPHC20 was a hybrid meeting, held in-person (70 delegates) and on-line. It was preceded by a 2-day IHO funded Capacity Building (CB) workshop on Hydrographic Governance.

All meetings had full regional participation from Full Members, Associate Members, Observers and Industry. An 'Industry Session' forms part of the meeting agenda and valuable input to CB initiatives was provided by Expert Contributors.

Highlights of regional collaboration and follow up achievements

- [SWPHC paper and presentation of IHO Strategic Plan and SWPHC Work Plan](#) to the Pacific Regional Maritime Transport Officials Meeting, November 2022. The paper requested the meeting to engage and collaborate with IHO, IMO, IALA and regional partners to deliver as one the delivery of future Safety of Navigation services in the Pacific region. This paper will be presented at the 5th Pacific Regional Energy & Transport Ministers Meeting in May 2023.
- [Safety of Navigation: Delivering as one](#). SWPHC20 action for IHO, IMO and IALA to work together with the SWPHC and the Pacific Community (SPC) to address the capacity building needs of all Coastal States in the region.
- IRCC14-06.1I [SWPHC substantive paper](#) recommending the development and implementation of a strategy to engage with international and regional agencies, development partners and coastal states to support knowledge and understanding of hydrography and the value associated with open data policies in respect of marine geospatial information.

Highlights of regional collaboration and follow up achievements

- A [SWPHC Empowering Women in Hydrography Pacific Network](#) was established in September 2022 to build relationships and support career growth through mentoring, opportunity, and awareness. Fifty-five women have joined the network to-date from around the region as well as from the UK and US; and work in national hydrographic offices, maritime safety authorities, navies, Government science organisations, industry and academia.
- Successful delivery of SWPHC20 in a hybrid format. However, a challenge for Member States from the region is greater inclusion, representation and participation at IHO meetings, in particular the IHO Assembly (Ref: SWPHC Report A3_2023_G_06.14, page 4).
- The **Hydrographic Leaders Programme (HLP)**, launched in February 2022, was a priority activity of the SWPHC Work Plan. This initiative was a direct response to the **SWPHC Goal 1 *Increase SWP influence at IHO and other international/intergovernmental bodies.*** The HLP comprised online workshops; mentoring; and culminated with the cohort supporting the delivery of a CB workshop on Hydrographic Governance and leading a session on the [challenges facing island nations](#) at SWPHC20 in February 2023

Hydrographic Leaders Programme

- Launched February 2022
- Developed and funded by the United Kingdom
- Sixteen participants from 12 countries
- SWPHC Goal 1 Increase SWP influence at IHO and other international/intergovernmental bodies
- Aim: to build a leadership pipeline for representation of hydrographic activity in the region
- Build and encourage a network of leaders in the region who will contribute to:
 - Regional alignment with the IHO Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026
 - UN's Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management
 - Joint Canada-IHO Project Empowering Women in Hydrography.
- Online workshops and mentoring
- Supported the delivering of a CB workshop on Hydrographic Governance and led a session on the challenges facing island nations at SWPHC20

Activities contributing to the strategic goals and targets of the IHO

- SWPHC [gap analysis](#) and [Work Plan](#) in response to the IHO Strategic Plan
- IHO Strategic Plan Goal 1:
 - 2 workshops to exchange experiences with implementing S-100
 - [Safety of Navigation: Delivering as one](#). IHO, IMO and IALA to work together with the SWPHC and the Pacific Community (SPC) to address the capacity building needs of all Coastal States in the region.
- IHO Strategic Plan Goal 2:
 - SWPHC20 session on the UN-GGIM IGIF focusing on [building partnerships and understanding the World Bank](#); and [implementation case studies](#) from the Philippines and Kiribati.
 - SWPHC MSDIWG [data sharing proposition](#) published
- IHO Strategic Plan Goal 3:
 - [SWPHC Seabed 2030 Webinar series](#)



Assembly is invited to

- a) **take note** of the full report A3_2023_G_06.14
- b) **consider** the reported highlights of regional activities and the activities contributed to the strategic Goals and targets in their further deliberations
- c) **consider** the implementation of appropriate mechanisms to ensure greater inclusion, representation and participation of SWPHC Member States at IHO meetings, in particular the IHO Assembly.
- d) **take** any other action considered appropriate.