

IHO Regional Visit Suva, Fiji, 22-23 February

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024	
Tasks 3.2.1.14	SWPHC – South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

Prior to the South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) IHO Director Dr. John Nyberg and SWPHC Chair Ms. Hilary Thompson visited Suva, Fiji in order to meet with several high level IHO stakeholders, including the Fiji Hydrographic Office.

On 22 February, Dr. Nyberg visited the Geospatial Information Management Division of the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources where he met with the Division Director, Meziyanne Hicks. The meeting focused on progressing the UN-IGIF-Hydro and the importance of including standards in Fiji's geospatial management plans. Ensuring that land and sea domains share compatible standards and that data is available across government agencies was discussed. Dr. Nyberg agreed to work with the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources should they wish to seek more information in their implementation of IHO standards.



*Geospatial Information Management Division,
Fiji Lands and Mineral Resources*



*International Union for the Conservation
of Nature*

Dr. Nyberg then met with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) where he, the Regional Director, Leituala Kiniselani Toelupe Tago, and the IUCN Data Management Team discussed current IUCN data management practices and the potential implementation of IHO Standard S-122 Marine Protected Areas.

On 23 February, Dr Nyberg and Ms. Hilary Thompson were welcomed to the Fiji Hydrographic Service by LCDR Apenisa Cavuilati, Director (acting) of the Fiji Hydrographic Service. LCDR Cavuilati presented a detailed presentation on the capabilities, challenges, and future of the Fiji HO. The presentation was

followed by a discussion between Ms. Thompson and LCDR Cavuilati concerning the following week's SWPHC meeting and collaboration between the Australian and Fiji Hydrographic Offices.



Fiji Hydrographic Service

Following the Fiji Hydrographic Office meeting, Ms. Thompson and Dr. Nyberg met with Jens Kruger, Deputy Director of Ocean and Maritime Programme at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to advance progress on updating the IHO/SPC Memorandum of Understanding. The afternoon meeting started with a tour of the SPC Laboratory, including an explanation of SPC hydrographic capabilities, including their multibeam sonar and its project history. The tour continued with brief introductions around the SPC office to present SPC's wide range of projects and capabilities including marine modelling, marine spatial planning, IMO engagement, work with the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and more. To close the meeting, the group agreed to work on refining the MOU with the aim to have the update signed and completed by November 2024 in conjunction with GEBCO Ocean Week in Nadi, Fiji.



Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Outcomes

- Agreed on a path forward for an updated IHO/SPC Memorandum of Understanding.
- Gained a better understanding of SPC capabilities and presented current IHO priorities.
- Advanced preparation for the SWPHC meeting.
- Presented the benefits of standards (Marine Protected Areas S-122) to IUCN and established a working relationship to ensure future coordination.
- Presented the benefits of IHO standards to Fiji Lands and Minerals. Agreed to work together regarding future implementation of standards.