

**10th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORODINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC10
Goa, India, 4-6 June 2018**

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWPHC)

SWPHC report to IRCC10

- 1 Chair:** Commodore Fiona Freeman (Hydrographer of Australia)
Vice Chair: Captain Humphrey Tawake (Hydrographer of Fiji)
CB Coordinator: Mr Adam Greenland (Hydrographer of New Zealand)

2 Membership

Members	Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Kingdom of Tonga, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu
Associate Members	Cook Islands, Indonesia, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands
Intergovernmental Observer Organizations	IALA, IMO, GEBCO, Pacific Community (SPC)
Observers	Nauru, New Caledonia, Tuvalu
IHO Representatives	Director Abri Kampfer, Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves

3 Meetings

The 15th SWPHC Meeting was held in Nadi, Fiji on 21-22 February 2018. It was attended by 39 participants - representing all 9 Member States of the Commission, 6 Associate Members, 2 Observer States, international/regional organizations, industry and the IHO.

The meeting was preceded by a one-day Technical Workshop on Implementing Hydrographic Governance.

The 16th SWPHC Meeting is planned to be held in Alofi, Niue in February 2019.

(Note: As per the decision made at SWPHC14 arrangements had been made to hold SWPHC15 in Nukulaofa, Tonga on 21-23 February 2018. However this did not eventuate due the significant impact of Severe Tropical Cyclone 'GITA' on the country a week before the meeting. The efficient teamwork and extra effort of the Fiji Hydrographic Office, Land Information New Zealand and Australian Hydrographic Office enabled the meeting venue to be moved to Fiji at a short notice.

4 Current SWPHC Working Groups

SWPHC International Charting Coordination Working Group (SWPHC-ICCWG)
 SWPHC Capacity Building Working Group (SWPHC-CBWG)

5 Status of IRCC9 actions (relevant to the SWPHC)

5.1 Refer to **Annex A**.

6 Capacity Building Activities

6.1 The following activities in the region were approved as part of the 2017 CBWP:

6.1.1 CBWP P-09 (SW Pacific Region Industry Survey Project)

This was a creative bid put forward by the Australasian Hydrographic Society for a collaborative effort involving industry, UKHO and SPC to conduct hydrographic surveys aligned with Phase 2 capacity building activities. Unfortunately this activity was cancelled.

6.1.2 CBWP P-10 (MBES Training in Fiji)

This activity has been postponed to be part of the 2018 CBWP.

6.1.3 CBWP P-25 (Solomon Islands Nautical Cartographer Development)

The planned activity was to train a new recruit to Cat B standards in Module One (Cartography) to provide support to the other Solomon Islands Cartographer and PCA. However the activity was cancelled as Solomon Islands has been unable to recruit a new cartographer so far.

6.2 The following activities in the region were approved as part of the 2018 CBWP:

6.2.1 CBWP A-04 (Technical Implementation Visit – Samoa)

This would be a follow-up of the Technical Assessment & Advice Visit carried out in August 2016. The visit is to ensure that Samoa fulfils its SOLAS V obligations (V/4 & V/9), by providing support to implement the recommendations of the technical visit.

6.2.2 CBWP A-05 (Technical Implementation Visit – Niue)

This would be a follow-up of the Technical Assessment & Advice Visit and the Hydrographic Risk Assessment carried out by LINZ in 2016. The visit is to ensure that Niue fulfils its SOLAS V obligations (V/4 & V/9), by providing support to implement the recommendations of the technical visit.

6.2.3 CBWP P-05 (Technical Workshop on Implementing Hydrographic Governance)

Workshop was held in Nadi, Fiji on 20 February 2018 – linked with SWPHC15. It was led by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), with presenters from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, IHO, IALA and SPC. The workshop was attended by 29 participants from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu, IALA, IHO Secretariat, GEBCO, SPC and IIC Technologies.

The objective of the workshop was to provide the representatives from the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) with assistance in the development and strengthening of hydrographic capacity to meet their international obligations under SOLAS and to support economic growth and protection of the marine environment.

6.2.4 CBWP P-11 (MSI Regional Workshop)

The workshop intends to provide MSI training to representatives from SWP Island States. It is proposed to hold the workshop held in Wellington in August 2018.

6.2.5 CBWP P-32 (MBES Training in Fiji)

This training will enhance the knowledge of Fiji Navy Hydrographic Service to operate MBES and process MBES data to meet IHO standards. Fiji is liaising with UKHO for the activity to be carried out in April 2018.

6.3 The following activities have been submitted to CBSC16 for consideration under the 2019 CBWP:

6.3.1 Technical Workshop on Disaster Response Planning and Data Discovery

The aim is to conduct a practical workshop on disaster response planning and data discovery/mining for the SW Pacific nations. This would assist in developing a Plan that aims at preparing the SWPHC to respond to disasters in accordance with the IHO Resolution 1/2005.

6.3.2 Technical Assessment & Advice Visit – Palau

It is necessary to ensure that Palau fulfils its SOLAS (Chapter 5 regulations 4 & 9) commitments by 2019. This Technical Visit will provide an opportunity to build Palau's awareness and understanding of their hydrographic responsibilities.

7. Achievements and lessons learned

There has been considerable progress in hydrographic activities in the region since the SWPHC14 Meeting held in December 2016.

Australia's activities in the region included conducting surveys in Papua New Guinea, becoming the Primary Charting Authority (PCA) for Solomon Islands, and provision of hydrographic training (Category B course) to Fiji and New Zealand.

Fiji had made significant progress since the last meeting with the support from the Republic of Korea and other States in the region. New surveys were conducted and charts published. Plans are in place for expanding the hydrographic service to include support of data management and oceanographic operations.

New Zealand continued making progress in the Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI), completing a hydrographic risk assessment for Samoa (Sept 2017) and a traffic analysis for Tokelau (Oct 2017), both published on the IHO website along with a risk assessment for Niue (Jul 2016). In-country MSI training was provided in Samoa (Oct 2017) and a Bilateral Arrangement signed with Samoa (May 2018). Satellite Derived Bathymetry (SDB) has been produced for Tonga, Niue, Tokelau and nine of the Cook Islands (Nov 2017-May 2018). Airborne Laser Bathymetry (ALB) is planned in Tonga (July 2018) and Niue (June 2018), followed by MBES in Tonga using an Unmanned Surface Vessel (Oct-Nov 2018). Using data held by SPC for the Cook Islands and Samoa, nine ENC's and six paper charts have been produced.

The SDB, ALB and MBES data will be used to update existing charts and produce new charts, replacing charts in fathoms on undetermined datums. Further survey work is planned for Samoa (2019), based on the risk assessment results.

Papua New Guinea surveys were conducted in ports and coastal areas for updating relevant charts as part of the ADB Maritime and Waterways Safety Project.

United Kingdom published 104 ENC's in the region as well as updates to several nautical publications. Survey of critical areas in the approaches to Nuku'alofa, Tonga were conducted as part of its Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme for providing surveys, charting and capacity building in the region.

United States of America reported progress and plans for survey and charting in the region. Recently six ENC's were produced covering the waters surrounding the Palau Islands.

Vanuatu became an IHO Member in 2017 and signed the SWPHC Statutes to become a full Member of the Commission. A National Hydrographic Committee has been established, Cabinet approval obtained for survey of 10 priority areas, and it is planned to build a new Hydrographic Survey Unit within the Lands and Survey Department.

Kiribati has appointed a National Coordinator for MSI and plans are underway to establish Hydrographic Services.

Niue plans to establish a National Hydrographic Authority and a National Coordination Committee.

Samoa has established a National Hydrographic Committee; appointed a National Coordinator for MSI; and is planning to establish a National Hydrographic Authority.

Solomon Islands is in the process of becoming an IHO Member. Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa and Tuvalu informed the SWPHC15 Meeting on their intention to join the IHO.

Indonesia, an IHO MS from the neighbouring East Asia Hydrographic Commission, has become an Associate Member of SWPHC to facilitate the harmonization of ENC's and to coordinate hydrographic surveys, capacity building activities, data sharing and exchange expertise.

The strategy of preceding SWPHC meetings with a CB workshop has proved very beneficial, with the February 2018 workshop and meeting attended by approx. 40 persons, many of which were from PICTs. All participants were extremely active and contributed to collective and own knowledge of hydrography.

8. Conclusion

SWPHC, in collaboration with other international, regional and bi-lateral partners, is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals.

9. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. Note the report.
- b. Note the value and effectiveness of preceding SWPHC meetings with CB related workshops.
- c. Note SWPHC's commitment in carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals
- d. Take any action considered appropriate.

**SWPHC Report to IRCC10
Annex A**

Status of IRCC9 actions (relevant to the SWPHC)

No	Action (Agenda Item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
2	to engage with Member States in their regions to identify potential instructors to accompany MSI trainings in order to become MSI trainers and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Addressed at SWPHC15 (21-22 Feb 018)
3	to consider using Trainer for Trainers (TFT) and e-learning methods to support the development of CB Phase 1 for developing coastal States and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Addressed at SWPHC15
4	to encourage the attendance of Member States and Observers at WNNWS-SC meetings, to highlight the use of the Joint Manual on MSI to ensure correct terminology and formats are used in MSI messages, to encourage closer engagement of the National MSI Coordinators of Member States with the relevant NAVAREA Coordinator(s) and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Addressed at SWPHC15
5	to encourage closer coordination between NAVAREA Coordinators and Regional CB Coordinators in planning and student selection for the CB MSI training courses	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Addressed at SWPHC15
10	to invite Member States to investigate the possibilities of fund raising and engagement in CB via national organizations and report back to the IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Ongoing NZ Aid Programme approved additional \$2.2m NZD for PRNI
14	to encourage the Member States in the region to consider making all ENC data available through the RENCs (7)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing
15	to encourage the work of the IHO community to increase existence of ENC schemes at regional level (7)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing
18	to encourage Member States in the region to nominate RHC MSDI Ambassadors to promote MSDI and to help Member States to prepare the national reports with respect to the status of MSDI (7)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Addressed at SWPHC15
21	to encourage IHO Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB (7)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing
22	to request IHO Member States to consider reviewing data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction to enable CSB activities to be undertaken (7)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Addressed at SWPHC15
23	to encourage IHO Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities (7)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing
29	to encourage Member States to organize contribution of bathymetric data in shallower coastal areas to GEBCO in order to support the production of higher resolution gridded data products and report back to IRCC (7)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Addressed at SWPHC15. Coastal States to consider participating as active members of the GEBCO Seabed 2030 project.

32 & 33	to encourage Member States to consider using satellite derived bathymetry and risk assessment methodologies in particular in uncharted or poorly charted areas as a way of developing survey priority areas as part of attracting donor funding and report back to IRCC (8)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Addressed at SWPHC15 NZ PRNI doing this in Tonga, Cook Is & Niue.
34	to encourage Member States to participate in the workshop on satellite derived bathymetry sponsored by Canada in Ottawa in Sep 2018	RHC Chairs	Sep 2018	Addressed at SWPHC15
35	to invite Member States to provide technical resources to the DQWG and report back to IRCC (9)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Addressed at SWPHC15
36	to note the list of events organized by other intergovernmental and stakeholders indicated in doc. IRCC9-09B, consider how the IHO might be represented in those events that are considered relevant and liaise with the IHO Secretariat for the appropriate and report back to IRCC (9)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Addressed at SWPHC15
39	to promote the UN-GGIM in their regions (10)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	At SWPHC15 Members were informed to promote the UN-GGIM in their countries and identify the national representatives in the UN-GGIM and coordinate the maritime activities. LINZ is planning to attend the annual and regional UN-GGIM meeting.
44	to invite Member States to review entries related to their region in IHO C-55 and P-5 (Yearbook) at least annually (11)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Addressed at SWPHC15