

19th MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC19
Online meeting, 9-10 June 2021

Paper for the Consideration by CBSC19

SWPHC Report

Submitted by:	SWPHC CB Coordinator
Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at SWPHC.
Related Documents:	SWPHC CB Plan 2021-2023
Related Projects:	

1. Introduction / Background

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are geographically remote and fragmented; they face a major development challenge in achieving safe, reliable, and efficient connectivity within the region and with the rest of the world. The maritime sector plays a key role in supporting economic growth and development in PICTs by facilitating trade and commerce and by improving people's ability to travel for health, education, employment, and to interact with other communities.

2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

The table in Annex A provides an assessment of Capacity Building for the Pacific Islands and Territories in the region, in accordance with the CB Procedure 11.

3. Activities completed since CBSC18

P-06 MSI Regional Workshop and P-07 Technical Workshop on Hydrographic Governance were both approved for IHO funding at CBSC18 but will not be executed prior to CBSC19; remote possibility for execution in 2021.

MSI – August 2020; NAVAREAs IX, X and XIV Coordinators and CB Coordinator met virtually to discuss methods, opportunities and challenges of delivering remote MSI CB. Consensus landed on the value and benefit of group in-person training and recommendation made to focus on minimal virtual engagement during COVID-19 restrictions and deliver an in-person MSI Workshop as soon as feasible.

Indonesia – August 2020; LCDR Yohanes Saputro graduated from the U.S. Navy International Hydrographic Management and Engineering Program (IHMEP CAT B).

Palau – August 2020; Distribution of SEABED 2030 data loggers to Palau to initiate a crowd source bathymetry project with the Bureau of Transportation.

Regional non-IHO funded activities:

- Pacific Community (SPC) Safety of Navigation Project has conducted remote training for AtoN maintenance, SIRA risk assessments and technical assistance to Tonga, Solomon Islands and Kiribati.
- Toitū Te Whenua LINZ Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI) has not been able to conduct any CB activities due to border closures and travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Activities planned for 2021

P-06 and P-07 most likely deferred to 2022 due to COVID-19.

Indonesia – February 2021; LCDR Yuniardi Sumekta commenced the U.S. Navy International Hydrographic Management and Engineering Program (IHMEP CAT B).

Regional non-IHO funded activities:

- SPC's Safety of Navigation Project will be provide further assistance to target countries in supporting autonomous undertaking of AtoN maintenance. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, SPC has undertaken a particularly tailored approach towards each country, which will continue.

NOAA (USA) - October 2021; NOAA will host a virtual seminar on a global Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System (STOFS) tool.

5. Challenges faced in the region

- Travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19
- Large geographical extent of SWPHC region; expensive travel and limited opportunities to meet.
- Capacity of the Capacity Builders; More is being asked of the RHC Office holders, which impacts delivery of their own HO and RHC based activities.
- Limited leadership involvement outside the Region's PCAs; how to encourage/incentivize PICTs to engage with broader RHC issues

6. Achievements and lessons learned

Virtual events, while sufficient to carry on routine RHC business, are not effective in communicating complex capacity building efforts, many of which rely on the forging and growth of lasting personal and professional relationships. The SWPHC strategy of preceding its annual meeting with a CB workshop has proved very beneficial. However, with a declining CB budget, the future implementation of this method may be in jeopardy, which will most likely result in a significant loss of CB opportunity and PICT RHC participation.

7. Conclusions:

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.

8. Actions required of CBSC:

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. note the report
- b. note SWPHC's commitment in carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals
- c. take any action consider appropriate.

Matthew Borbash
SWPHC RHC CB Coordinator