

**11th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC11
Genoa, Italy, 3-5 June 2019**

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWPHC)

SWPHC report to IRCC11

- 1 Chair:** Commodore Fiona Freeman (Hydrographer of Australia)
Vice Chair: Captain Humphrey Tawake (Hydrographer of Fiji) up to Feb 2019
 Mr Robson Tari (Head of Aids to Navigation, Vanuatu) from Feb 2019
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, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands
Intergovernmental Observer Organizations	IALA, IMO, GEBCO, Pacific Community (SPC)
Observers	Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Tokelau, Tuvalu
IHO Representatives	Director Abri Kampfer, Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves

3 Meetings

The 16th SWPHC Meeting was held at the Scenic Matavai Resort in Niue on 13-15 February 2019. It was attended by a total of 55 participants - representing all 9 Member States of the Commission, all 8 Associate Members, 3 Observer States, international/regional organizations, industry and the IHO Secretariat. The meeting was preceded by a two-day Technical Workshop on Disaster Response Planning and Data Discovery.

The 17th SWPHC Meeting is planned to be held in Wollongong, Australia in February 2020.

4 Current SWPHC Working Groups

SWPHC International Charting Coordination Working Group (SWPHC-ICCWG)
 Membership - Australia (Chair), France, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America.

5 Status of IRCC10 actions (relevant to the SWPHC)

The action points of IRCC10 were discussed and reiterated during the SWPHC16 Meeting.

No	Action (Agenda Item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
3	to submit draft IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended (Annex C) to the RHC Members for comments and report back to IRCC (6.2)	RHC Chairs	October 2018	COMPLETE Addressed at SWPHC16 (Niue, 13-15 Feb 2019).
5	to provide comments to the revised draft IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended (6.2)	IRCC Members	January 2019	COMPLETE Response sent to IRCC Chair. (12 April 2019)

6 Capacity Building Activities

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

6.1.1 MSI Training Course

The training course was held in Wellington, New Zealand on 6-8 August 2018. The course provided MSI training to representatives from 13 SWPHC Coastal States. The workshop was hosted by LINZ and Maritime NZ (NAVAREA XIV Coordinator) with additional instructors from AMSA (NAVAREA X Coordinator) and Fiji Maritime Safety Authority (MSAF). The inclusion of Mr Sunil KUMAR – MSAF, is a direct response to the IHOs goal to build capacity by appointing MSI trainers from the region.

A Charting Authority familiarization workshop, facilitated by LINZ, was held on Thursday 9th August following completion of the MSI course.

6.1.2 MBES Training in Fiji

This activity, approved in the 2017 CBWP (CBWP P-10), was carried out by UKHO in Suva, Fiji on 10-15 February 2019. It involved a bathymetric survey and training using the R2Sonic Equipment.

6.1.3 Technical Workshop on Disaster Response Planning and Data Discovery

This activity was carried out as part of the 2019 CBWP (CBWP P-05). The workshop was held in Niue on 11-12 February 2019 – linked with SWPHC16 Meeting. It was led by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), with 14 presenters from Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America, IHO and SPC. There were a total of 50 participants from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu, IHO and SPC.

The aim of the session on Disaster Response Planning was to make the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) aware of the role of the IHO and the SWPHC in the aftermath of a disaster and to understand the procedures needed to identify appropriate action and support. In addition it provided guidance to the PICTs to establish national procedures and guidelines.

The session on Data Discovery aimed at providing an overview of discovery tools, search capabilities, use of metadata and data, mechanisms to share data (release agreements, bilateral arrangements) and the establishment of geospatial portals.

6.1.4 Technical Implementation Visit – Samoa

This activity, approved in the 2018 CBWP, has been postponed to be part of the 2019 CBWP (CBWP A-01).

It is 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.

6.1.5 Technical Implementation Visit – Niue

This activity, approved in the 2018 CBWP, has been postponed to be part of the 2019 CBWP (CBWP A-02). It is planned to carry out this visit in June 2019.

It is 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.

6.1.6 Technical Assessment & Advice Visit – Palau and Marshall Islands

It is necessary to ensure that Palau and Marshall Is fulfill their SOLAS (Chapter 5 regulations 4 & 9) commitments. This technical visit will provide an opportunity to build Palau and Marshall Is awareness and understanding of their hydrographic responsibilities.

This activity is part of the 2019 CBWP (CBWP A-03).

7. Achievements

There has been considerable progress in hydrographic activities in the region over the last 12 months.

Australia's activities in the region included conducting surveys in Papua New Guinea, expanding the AusENC service to include the full portfolio of published ENC covering Australian, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands waters and provision of hydrographic training (Category B course) to Malaysia, New Zealand and Pakistan. The AHO has developed a survey planning risk assessment tool based on the methodology adopted by LINZ.

Fiji continued making remarkable progress, with new surveys conducted and charts published. Significant work was carried out under the ODA Project in collaboration with the Korean Hydrographic and Oceanographic Authority. A new survey vessel was donated by the Peoples Republic of China and sea trials and training are in progress. Fiji has offered to provide training opportunities on board its survey vessel for PICTs personnel. Fiji has also made available the National MSI Coordinator to join NAVAREA XIV Coordinator in delivering MSI training in the region (August 2018 and June 2019). This is a direct response to the IHO's goal to build capacity by appointing MSI trainers from the region.

France carried out various surveys in the SW Pacific in support of maritime surveillance, commercial and cruise activities. Three new INT charts were produced and full coverage of New Caledonia waters was achieved in 2018. It has a rapid response hydrographic team available in the region which is available to provide hydrographic support in case of an emergency (marine disaster).

New Zealand progressed with surveys and charting nationally as well as in the region through the NZ Aid programme 'Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI)'. Full ENC coverage of NZ waters was achieved and 45 ENCs for the PICTs released. As part of PRNI hydrographic surveys comprising SDB, ALB and MBES were carried out in the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau and Tonga. The SDB data has been used to update 22 ENCs and 9 paper charts. Further chart updates will occur during 2019 and 2020.

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 in 2020, based on the risk assessment results.

NAVAREA XIV Coordinator instigated 6 monthly communications with National MSI Coordinators; and individual assessment of MSI from each National Coordinator (90% response). Receipt of MSI from National Coordinators increased due to improved communications and IHO CB funded MSI training.

In Papua New Guinea almost 95% of the hydrographic work in 30 coastal areas (under the ADB Maritime Waterways & Safety Project) has been completed. It involved surveys using ALB and MBES. In August 2018 PNG commenced promulgating coastal warnings via weekly email using templates as per the S-53 format.

United Kingdom carried out considerable work as part of its Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme for providing surveys, charting and capacity building in the region. It included survey of critical areas in approaches to Nuku'alofa (Tonga); geodetic survey and installation of tide gauges (Tuvalu), SDB survey of entire island chain (Tuvalu), and digitisation of national charts into S-57 format data (Fiji). The charts for Tonga have been updated with the new survey data by LINZ.

United States of America continues to maintain 6 ENC cells for covering the waters surrounding the Palau Islands.

Samoa has established a National Hydrographic Committee and signed an MOU on Hydrography with LINZ (New Zealand).

Tonga (Ministry of Infrastructure) has signed a Bilateral Arrangement on Hydrography with LINZ.

The Cook Islands has appointed an MSI officer.

Nauru received a Technical Visit (AtoN) and Safety of Navigation Workshop by SPC.

Marshall Islands attended an IHO funded 3-day MSI workshop (August 2018) for the first time.

Kiribati has appointed a new Hydrographer.

Niue committed to establishing 40% of its EEZ as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) and is developing the Marine Spatial Management Plan (MSMP) and the compliance strategy and legal analysis to give effect to the MSMP and MPA.

Solomon Islands is in the process of becoming an IHO Member. Its PCA (Australia) has produced the Solomon Islands National Tide Tables consisting of tidal information for about 40 ports.

8. Lessons Learnt

The strategy of preceding SWPHC meetings with a CB workshop has proved very beneficial, with the February 2019 workshop and meeting attended by 50 persons, most of which were from PICTs. All participants were extremely active and contributed to collective and own knowledge of hydrography.

Regular communications between NAVAREA and National Coordinators and continued, targeted MSI training is key to improving the flow of MSI.

9. 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.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. **Note** the report.
- b. **Note** the continued value and effectiveness of preceding SWPHC meetings with CB related workshops.