

**12th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC12
VTC Meeting, 6-7 October 2020**

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWPHC)

SWPHC report to IRCC12

- 1 Chair:** Commodore Fiona Freeman (Hydrographer of Australia) up to 30 June 2020
Mr Adam Greenland (Hydrographer of New Zealand) from 01 July 2020
- Vice Chair:** Mr Robson Tari (Head of Aids to Navigation, Vanuatu) up to 13 Feb 2020
Mr Tony Hanuagi (Principal Hydrographic Officer, Solomon Islands) from 14 Feb 2020
- CB Coordinator:** Mr Adam Greenland (Hydrographer of New Zealand) up to 13 Feb 2020
Commander Matt Borbash (Deputy Hydrographer of Navy, USA) from 14 Feb 2020

2 Membership

Members	Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu
Associate Members	Cook Islands, Indonesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau,
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 (up to 31 Jul 2020) Assistant Director Leonel Pereira Manteigas (from 1 Aug 2020)

3 Meetings

The 17th SWPHC Meeting was held at the Novotel Hotel in Wollongong, Australia on 12-14 February 2020. It was attended by a total of 55 participants - representing 10 Member States of the Commission, 5 Associate Members, international/regional organizations, industry and the IHO Secretariat. The meeting was preceded by a two-day Technical Workshop on MSI for Managers and Disaster Response Framework for SWPHC.

The 18th SWPHC Meeting is planned to be held in Tonga in February 2021.

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.

SWPHC Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)

Membership - Australia, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, United Kingdom (Chair), United States of America.

5 Status of IRCC11 actions (relevant to the SWPHC)

No	Action (Agenda Item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
1	to confirm/update the representatives to the IHR Editorial Board	RHC Chairs	August 2019	COMPLETE Informed IHR Editor that Mike Prince (AHO) is the SWPHC representative
8	to request MSI National Coordinators to review the contents of the relevant Annexes of the GMDSS Master Plan and of section C (MSI) of IHO Publication C-55 – Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide – to ensure consistency for their national entries (7b)	RHC Chairs	30 July 2019	COMPLETE Included as part of National reports to SWPHC meetings
12	to consider the tasks listed as duties for the Regional Seabed Coordinator/Mechanism (doc. IRCC11-07I3) and to include Seabed 2030 in RHC work plans and reports to IRCC (7i)	RHC Chairs	IRCC12	COMPLETE Discussed at SWPHC17 Meeting
13	to provide reports to A-2 to the IHO Secretariat in accordance with the Action C-2/53 (8a)	RHC Chairs	15 November 2019	COMPLETE SWPHC Report submitted to IHO Secretariat
16	to invite Members to make comments and suggestions to the Secretary of the S-100 services roadmap drafting group (Council Chair, RAdm Smith, shep.smith@noaa.gov) (8f)	RHC Chairs	24 June 2019	Informed members at SWPHC17 Meeting

6 Activities

The following activities have been carried out in the region since the IRCC11:

6.1 IHO Capacity Building Work Programme (CBWP)

6.1.1 Technical Implementation Visit to Niue

The technical visit was conducted by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and National MSI Coordinator, Maritime Safety Authority Fiji (MSAF) from 17th to 21st June 2019. The MSAF member was included as part of the delivery team to gain experience of IHO Capacity Building activities as part of the SWPHC CB strategy to build regional CB resource.

6.1.2 Technical Assessment & Advice Visit – Palau & Marshall Is

This activity was carried out by NGA (USA) and IHO on 12-16 August 2019 (Palau) and 19-23 August 2019 (Marshall Islands). A draft report was prepared and progress to date includes :

- The recommendations shared with Palau and Marshall Islands
- A MoA is being finalized to allow navy data on public products, and establish the roles and responsibilities of the PCA relationship to fulfil the IMO Audit requirements
- Plans to establish a Crowd Source Bathymetry Pilot with Palau.

6.1.3 Training for Trainers on MSI

In January 2020, the National MSI Coordinator MSAF completed a ‘Train the Trainer’ distance learning course. The training was put into practice with his participation in delivering the MSI For Managers workshop in Wollongong, Australia, 10-11 February 2020.

6.1.4 Technical Workshop on MSI for Managers & Disaster Response Framework for SWPHC

The workshop was held in Wollongong, Australia on 10-11 February 2020 in conjunction

with SWPHC17. It was led by Land Information New Zealand, NAVAREA X and XIV Coordinators and IHO. The workshop was attended by 33 participants from the SWPHC Members and Associate Members, IALA, IHO Secretariat and SPC. The objectives of the workshop were:

- Assist managers to understand the need and requirements for the provision of MSI
- Further develop a Disaster Response Framework that prepares the SWPHC to respond to disasters in accordance with the IHO Resolution 1/2005.

6.2 MFAT New Zealand Aid Programme - Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI)

LINZ produced six ENC's for Tonga and four ENC's for Niue. All charts now carry their 2-letter country code.

In June 2019 a 1-day MSI training session was conducted with the Niue National MSI Coordinator and supporting team.

In October 2019 approx. 30Tb of data was handed over to the Tonga government following the completion of the SDB, ALB and MBES surveys throughout Tonga.

In November 2019 MBES surveys were completed at ten locations around Samoa. The data will be used to improve nautical charts for Samoa, replacing charts in fathoms and on undetermined datums.

6.3 MFAT New Zealand Aid Programme – Pacific Maritime Safety Programme (PMSP)

The PSMP, delivered by Maritime New Zealand (Maritime NZ), aims to provide a range of targeted maritime safety initiatives to seven PICs (Cook Islands, Niue, Kiribati, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu), and covers a wide range of capability building activities in the maritime domain, including for maritime regulation and compliance, search and rescue, and marine pollution response.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic Maritime NZ have worked closely with MFAT with regards to supply chain resilience in the Pacific Islands. This has included developing options, costs and timeframes associated with supporting Tuvalu with the maintenance of their domestic ships.

PMSP has also successfully delivered a new boat for Tokelau to ferry school children between atolls.

6.4 Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Safety of Navigation project

The Pacific Safety of Navigation project started in 2016 with the support of the International Foundation for Aids to Navigation (IFAN) in 13 targeted PICTs aiming to improve AtoN capacity and systems and the safety of maritime routes in the Pacific. SPC is currently in the second phase of the project (2018-2021).

The activities carried out included:

- SIRA AtoN Risk Assessment conducted in Samoa, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu
- Assisted Palau, Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia to prepare fully of partially IALA compliant AtoN Registers
- Organised and delivered the first IALA Level 1 Manager Course in the Pacific Region to participants from 9 countries (Fiji, Niue, Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)

6.5 UK Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme

In November 2019 a Hydrographic Governance Workshop was held in the UK as part of the United Kingdom's CME Programme. Representatives from Samoa and Tonga participated in the workshop and developed a draft implementation plan for Hydrographic Governance specific to their country.

6.6 SWPHC Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)

The SWPHC MSDIWG was established in February 2020 and currently comprises representatives from the following Member States:

Australia, France, New Zealand, PNG, Tonga, United Kingdom and United States of America.

United Kingdom (Ms Helen Phillips of UKHO) has kindly offered to chair the WG. Work is in progress to prepare the draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the WG.

6.7 SWPHC Disaster Response Framework

The draft SWPHC Disaster Response Framework was developed at the Technical Workshop preceding the SWPHC17 Meeting and subsequently adopted at the meeting. The Chair circulated the Framework to Coastal States in the region, requesting them to identify points of contact and the means of communication, as required by the Framework.

6.8 New IHO Members in the Region

Samoa and Solomon Islands became IHO Member States in 2019.

The SWPHC currently has a total of 11 Members.

7. Achievements

There has been significant activity to advance hydrography, nautical cartography and capability within the SWPHC region since IRCC11.

- IHO Technical Implementation Visit to Niue completed.
- Technical Assessment Visits to Palau and the Marshall Islands completed.
- Two persons from the region (Tonga and Kiribati) completed training courses in hydrographic surveying (IBSC Category A).
- SWPHC Disaster Response Framework adopted at SWPHC17.
- SWPHC Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG) established at SWPHC17.
- NZ has continued to make progress in the Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative programme of work including new MBES surveys in Samoa. To-date 54 ENC's and 24 paper charts have been published in the region.
- Nine Pacific Islands Countries now have IALA Level 1 Managers.
- A number of personnel from the SW Pacific nations participated in the Hydrographic Governance Workshop held in the UK as part of the United Kingdom's CME Programme.
- Samoa and Solomon Islands became IHO Member States in 2019.

8. Challenges faced in the region

- Travel restrictions imposed by governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has postponed a number of capacity building activities.
- Large geographical extent of SWPHC region
 - Cost of travel is high, opportunities for meetings limited.
- Capacity of the Capacity Builders.
 - More, potentially too much, is being asked of the RHC Office holders; which then impacts delivery of their own HO and RHC based activities
- Engagement of coastal states
 - Coastal states are presented with numerous CB and development activities and programmes which can impact their ability to be able to engage meaningfully.
- Awareness, coordination and collaboration between CB/development activities in the

region

- Numerous CB and development activities/programmes are being planned or delivered in the region at any one time.

9. Lessons Learnt

The strategy of preceding SWPHC meetings with a CB workshop has proved very beneficial, with the February 2020 workshop and meeting attended by more than 50 persons. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.
- 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.