

14th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC14
Denpasar - Bali, Indonesia, 6-8 June 2022

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

SWPHC report to IRCC14

1. Chair

Chair: Adam Greenland (New Zealand) from June 2020

Vice-Chair: LCdr Gerard D Rokoua (Fiji) from June 2020

2. Membership

Members: Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, UK, USA, Vanuatu

Associate member(s): Cook Islands, Indonesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau

Observers: Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia

Expert Contributors: EOMAP, Fugro, IALA, IIC Technologies, Pacific Community (SPC), Seabed 2030, SevenCs

3. Meetings:

Following SWPHC meetings have taken place:

SWPHC19 was held as a VTC between 23-25 February 2022. Approximately 70 delegates attended the on-line meeting, including 43 from Member States and two Associate Members.

Next meeting: SWPHC20 will take place in February 2023 (date to be confirmed), Wellington, New Zealand.

4. Current SWPHC Working Groups:

- a) International Chart Coordinating WG (ICCWG)
- b) Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure WG (MSDIWG)
- c) Work Plan & Priorities WG (WP&PWG)

5. Status of IRCC actions and recommendations to RHCs

Reference documents: [IRCC13-11 List of Actions, Decisions and Recommendations](#)
[SWPHC19 List of Actions & Decisions](#)
[SWPHC CL 02/2022 Annex B - Workplan 2022-23](#)

a) Status of actions (relevant for the SWPHC):

No.	Action	Status
Item 8, Action 6	RHCs and WGs to include the measurement of the SPI attributed by IRCC in their annual Work Plans (Permanent)	Work in progress, SPI Sub-group established. Ref: IRCC CL01/2021, Annex A.

b) Status of Recommendations to RHCs:

No.	Recommendation	Status
Item 5, Rec 3	RHC and MS to advise the IHO Secretariat of any update/change to their position in relation with the CSB questionnaire (IHO CL 21/2020)	SWPHC19 Action 8: IHO Members to review their policy on data release and consider submitting a positive response to CL 21/2020 (IHO CSB Data for Public Domain)
Item 5, Rec 4	RHC to identify regional coordinators to act as a point of contact for CSB/Seabed 2030 and to raise the profile of data gather and provision within their respective Region	SWPHC19 Action 33: Host an intersessional, regional Seabed 2030 webinar SWPHC Action 34: Members are encouraged to participate in regional CSB activities
Item 5, Rec 5	RHC to encourage MS to participate in the Empowering Women in Hydrography project	SWPHC19 Action 13: Members are encouraged to participate in the Empowering Women in Hydrography project
Item 5, Rec 6	RHC to encourage MS to submit Articles and Notes for publication in the IHR	SWPHC19 Action 4: Consider submitting papers for publication in the International Hydrographic Review. Submissions to Elizabeth de Bol (elizabeth.debol@defence.gov.au) IHR Regional Representative by July / January
Item 6.1, Rec 7	RHCs to consider extend the role of Charting Regional Coordinators for the implementation of the S-100 Implementation Roadmap	SWPHC19 Action 15: SWPHC to consider extending the role of the Charting Regional Coordinator for the implementation of the S-100 Implementation Roadmap
Item 6.1, Rec 8	RHCs to try to plan at least one face-to-face meeting between the 2nd and the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly	SWPHC19 Action 38: NZ to confirm hosting of SWPHC20 (face-to-face) in NZ in February 2023
Item 6.1, Rec 9	RHCs to coordinate the efforts on the implementation of S-100 and promote the cooperation and exchange of experiences	October 2021: SWPHC S-100 workshop to share experiences in implementing the S-100 Universal Data Model to meet Goal 1 of the IHO Strategic Plan. SWPHC19 Action 16: SWPHC to coordinate the efforts on the implementation of S-100, promote the cooperation and exchange of experiences, and identify CB requirements.
Item 6.1, Rec 10	RHCs to apply Resolution 1/2005 in case of disasters occurred to support the affected States in their regions	SWPHC19 Action 10: Coastal States to identify points of contact and means of communications for the SWPHC Disaster Response Framework. SWPHC19 Action 11: SWPHC WG to review the SWPHC Disaster Response Framework, to produce a 'redline' version and distribute to Members
Item 7, Rec 14	RHCs to encourage all Member States to actively contribute with new data to GEBCO and to discuss how MS can share existing data	SWPHC19 Action 7: Members to provide bathymetric data to the Seabed2030 Project using the Contributing data form SWPHC19 Action 27: Host an intersessional workshop on the IGIF-H for the SWPHC to raise awareness and lead the adoption of the framework by Coastal States in the region SWPHC19 Action 28: Develop an open data value proposition for the region through collaboration with international/regional actors

6. Agenda Items:

6.1 SWPHC Work Plan 2022-2023: A regional plan to deliver the Goals of the IHO Strategic Plan and the SWPHC (see Annex A)

The full work plan is contained in Annex A. The following items highlight key activities from the work plan that the SWPHC wish to bring to the attention of the IRCC.

6.1.1 SWPHC Goal: Increase SWP influence at IHO and other international/intergovernmental bodies

Activities:

Goal	Target	SPI	#	Activities	Lead	Timeframe
SWPHC Goal 1 Increase SWP influence at IHO and other international/intergovernmental bodies (to understand the contribution that the SWPHC makes)	2 SWP seats at IHO Council		1	Encourage IHO Membership and engagement within the Region	IHO Secretariat; existing IMS	Ongoing
	SWP delegation to IHO Assembly 3 (A3) 2023		2	Develop a proposal for funding from the EWH Project to support emerging SWP Leaders to attend IHO A3	SWPHC	2022
	Increased participation in SWPHC and IHO activities in a leadership role (including the SWPHC working groups)		3	Ensure representation across IHO WGs (see current commitment diagram)	MS; SWPHC Sec	annual review
	The SW Pacific HC benefits from the diversity of the region SW Pacific can represent the region (in its totality) effectively at international levels		4	SWPHC Hydrographic Leaders Program (Cohort 1)	SWPHC Leaders Program Steering Group	Q1-2 2022

6.1.2 To assist RHCs deliver the Goals of the IHO Strategic Plan:

- #5 Workshop on environmental emissions from shipping (COP26 outcome) and expectations for MS (in response to SPI 1.1.2)
- #10 Workshop on Cyber Security to RHCs (in response to SPI 1.2.1)
- #22 Engage with international and regional Donors and Development Partners to adopt open data policies when funding regional activities (in response to Goal 2, Target 2.3)

Note: The SWPHC Chair and the SWPHC Work Plan & Priorities WG prepared a proposal to IRCC14 to Develop a strategy and implementation framework for RHCs to engage with international and regional agencies, development partners and coastal states to support:

- their understanding of hydrography, and
- their adoption and implementation of open data policies

6.1.3 Cooperation with Intergovernmental organisations:

- #27 Engage with new IMO regional representative (in response to SPI 3.1.1)
- #30 Invite IHO Secretary General to consider a regional engagement plan and potential visit (in response to Goal 3)

6.2 SWPHC response to the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption and tsunami

On 15 January 2022 the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano erupted in the Kingdom of Tonga, producing a large plume of ash that covered the majority of Tonga; and triggered a tsunami that inundated the coastal region of nearby Tongatapu and the Ha'apai Group of islands. The underwater landslide caused by the eruption, broke the international and domestic undersea cables, severing connections with the outside world and out-lying Tonga islands.

In accordance with the SWPHC Disaster Response Framework the SWPHC Chair contacted Tonga on 17 January offering assistance and support. In addition, NZ responded to requests for bathymetric data to support AU and NZ humanitarian and disaster relief efforts as teams were deployed to the region.

The Nippon Foundation and New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) announced that they would conduct a joint survey of the area around the Hunga Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai underwater volcano.

- [Manned survey of the underwater volcano and surrounding sea from a crewed vessel](#) (April/May 2022)
- [Unmanned survey of area around caldera using unmanned surface vehicle \(USV\)](#) (April-July 2022)
- Announcement of analysis of data obtained by crewed vessel and USV and research results (July 2022)

7. SWPHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):

- Five Expert Contributors attended SWPHC19 and made presentation on topics such as capacity building, industry update on SDB and contribution to Seabed2030, rising demand for high density ENC and aspirations for coverage and quality of ENC in the region.
- The following SWPHC19 actions were agreed to engage with regional stakeholders.

Action	Agenda	Description	Responsible	By
20	8	SPC to invite SWPHC Chair and IHO Sec-General/Director to the next meeting of the Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting.	SPC	2022
21	8	IHO and SWPHC to engage with new IMO regional representative.	Chair IHO Secretariat	SWPHC20
22	8	SWPHC to engage with SPC to develop a consistent and coordinated approach to safety of navigation in the Pacific, between countries and interested partners and to engage with IMO through Pacific position papers and formal requests for support.	Chair, SPC, Members, Coastal States	SWPHC20

- The SWPHC Work Plan 2022-2023 contains activities related to stakeholder engagement as described in item 6.1.3 above. See also activities #26 & #28 of the SWPHC Work Plan 2022-23:
 - #26 Engage with Pacific Community (SPC)
 - #28 Engage with international and regional Donors and Development Partners
- [UN-GGIM / PGSC / Fiji Meeting: Strengthening National Geospatial Information Management](#) (16th & 17th June 2022). The two-day workshop provides a forum for expert representatives from the Pacific small island developing states to engage and interact with one another, share and exchange information, experiences and practices, and discuss and consider the feasible pathways towards strengthening national geospatial information management across the terrestrial, maritime and cadastral domains. The workshop will promote and facilitate peer-to-peer exchange, interaction and learning for the operationalization of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF). We have been invited to attend and will participate in-person and on-line.
- [Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative \(PRNI\), funded by NZ Aid](#): charts produced by Toitū Te Whenua LINZ (the Primary Charting Authority for the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau and Tonga) now carry each countries two-letter country code and a unique chart number. This chart re-branding programme has received positive feedback from the nations as a recognition of improved ownership of charts covering national waters.

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed

a) Difficulties:

- Travel restrictions imposed by governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has postponed a number of capacity building activities. It is hoped that more in-person meetings will be possible

during 2023 i.e., SWPHC20 and IHO CB funded Hydro Governance workshop.

- ii. Capacity of the Capacity Builders: More is being asked of the RHC Office holders; which then impacts delivery of their own HO and RHC based activities.
- iii. Many Coastal States in the region have issues with internet connectivity and power which often inhibits engagement with activities and meetings.

b) Challenges:

- i. 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.
- ii. Engagement of Coastal States in an on-line environment.
- iii. Establishing hydrographic governance in Coastal States, in particular ensuring clarity for the delivery of hydrographic services by multiple agencies in a nation.
Note: In conjunction with SWPHC20 (Feb 2023) a IHO CB funded workshop on Hydrographic Governance is to be delivered.
- iv. Engagement with and from Regional and Intergovernmental Organisations, and Donors and Development Partners, active in the region e.g., SPC, IMO and WB.

9. Achievements and lessons learnt:

Achievements

- a. September 2021: [Extratropical Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System \(ESTOFS\) Workshop](#)
- b. October 2021: [S-100 Workshop held to share experiences](#)
- c. Approval of the [SWPHC Work Plan for 2022-2023](#) aligned with the IHO Strategic Plan
- d. [Hydrographic Leaders Programme](#) (HLP) launched at SWPHC19, the pilot programme comprises a cohort of 17 participants from 12 nations each matched with a mentor. The programme aims to build a leadership pipeline for representation of hydrographic activity in the region. It will build and encourage a network of leaders for the SWPHC.
- e. **SWPHC19 key sessions to note** (recorded and available):
 - i. [Draft Work Plan 2021-2026](#)
 - ii. [UNGGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework \(IGIF\) & Open Data – the value proposition.](#)
- f. May 2022: SWPHC Seabed 2030/CSB Webinar series commenced

Lessons learnt

- a. Increasing global awareness and acknowledgement of the vulnerability of the region to the impacts of climate change, and the role of UN initiatives, such as the Ocean Decade and the UNGGIM IGIF, to mitigate and assist impacted Coastal States.
- b. The SWPHC HLP has demonstrated:
 - i. There is a demand and enthusiasm to develop future leaders from the region
 - ii. The high levels of support from Member States to support PICs achieve their full potential to represent the region (in its totality) at international levels

10. Conclusions:

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted in-person activities, work continues in the virtual space. This was evident with the successful delivery of the SWPHC19 VTC meeting, and in particular, the sessions on the SWPHC Work Plan and UNGGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) & Open Data – the value proposition.

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** this report
- b. **Note** any actions required
- c. **Note** the SWPHC Work Plan 2022-2023
- d. **Note** the SWPHC Work Plan activity to develop a regional stakeholder engagement plan to deliver to Goal 3, Target 3.1, SPI 3.1.1
 - i. Engage with new IMO regional representative (in response to SPI 3.1.1)
 - ii. Invite IHO Secretary General to consider a regional engagement plan and potential visit (in response to Goal 3)
- e. **Develop** workshops to assist RHCs deliver Goal 1, Target 1.1 & 1.2 of the IHO Strategic Plan:
 - i. Workshop on environmental emissions from shipping (COP26 outcome^{1 2}) and expectations for MS (SPI 1.1.2)
 - ii. Workshop on Cyber Security to RHCs (SPI 1.2.1)
- f. **Provide** feedback to the SWPHC on any of the topics discussed

Mr Adam Greenland

SWPHC Chair

Annex A : SWPHC Work Plan 2022-2023

¹ COP26 outcome for shipping <https://www.lr.org/en/insights/articles/cop26-outcomes-for-shipping/>

² Planes, Trains and Automobiles Are Cutting Emissions. Will Big Ships Do It Too? <https://time.com/6116582/shipping-cop26-emissions/>