

15th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC15
Tokyo, Japan, 12-14 June 2023

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

SWPHC report to IRCC15

1. Chair

Chair: Adam Greenland (New Zealand) from June 2020

Vice-Chair: Lt Cdr Jervis Robinson (Fiji) from October 2022

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

Observer Organizations: IALA, IMO, GEBCO, Pacific Community (SPC)

3. Meetings:

Following SWPHC meetings have taken place:

SWPHC20 was held in-person between 22-24 February 2023, in Wellington, New Zealand. Approximately 70 delegates attended the meeting, including ten Member States and five Associate Members. The meeting was preceded with a 2-day IHO funded Capacity Building (CB) workshop on Hydrographic Governance.

Next meeting: SWPHC21 will take place in February 2024, Fiji. Date and location to be confirmed.

4. Current [RHC] 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

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

No.	Action	Status
Item 4, Action 1	IRCC invited RHCs and Subordinate bodies to provide comments and inputs	Noting A3 PRO 2.1, Decision 13, we assume this Action is complete

	on the governance document on Dual Fuel Concept for S-100 ECDIS, intersessionally. (Permanent)	
Item 9, Action 17	Adam Greenland (lead), Evert Flier, Jens Peter Hartmann, Jennifer Jenks, Pearlyn Pang, France and UK to organize an IRCC workshop on how to engage with international and regional agencies, development partners and coastal states to support knowledge and understanding of hydrography and the value associated with open data policies in respect of marine geospatial information	<p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A working group held three meetings in August and September 2022. • SWPHC MSDIWG data sharing proposition. • Given A3 PRO 3.5, Decision 20, we consider there is an overlap with this action as there will be a need to show the value of hydrography and open data policies to build a sustainable ancillary funding mechanism for the IHO. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ SWPHC will be represented on the Project Team under IRCC

b) Status of Recommendations to RHCs:

No.	Recommendation	Status
Item 4, Rec 1	RHC are encouraged to increase the collaboration with the Data Quality WG and to try to find candidates for the vacancy of the Chair and Secretary positions	Ongoing
Item 6, Rec 2	RHC to discuss how HO's can assume a geo-coordinating role to help ensure provision of data on a regional level	Ongoing. SWPHC MSDIWG data sharing proposition .
Item 6, Rec 3	Invite SWPHC to investigate possibilities to organize a workshop on environmental emissions from shipping (COP26 outcome) and on Cyber Security to MS and to liaise with the HSSC to provide contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-Day SWPHC20 VTC Pre-meeting Agenda Item 2: Maritime cybersecurity presentation by UK. • Workshop on environmental emissions from shipping (COP26 outcome) TBC
Item 7, Rec 4	RHC to start or proceed with the debate on how the climate change related activities can be further investigated and what can be the role of the IHO	Ongoing
Item 7, Rec 5	RHC to Encourage relevant Member States to report to the IMO Secretariat and the Chair of the EGC Coordinating Panel on the progress and status of implementation of newly recognized mobile satellite services by MSI providers	1-Day SWPHC20 VTC Pre-meeting Agenda Item 10: NAVAREAs X (AU) and XIV (NZ) confirm reporting status through IMO GSIS.
Item 7, Rec 6	RHCs to establish an S-100 Coordinator role	SWPHC20 Action 37: SWPHC to consider the role of regional charting coordinator to include S-1xx Products as RHC WEND Coordinator
Item 7, Rec 7	RHCs to apply Action WENDWG12/33 (WEND-100 Product Matrix will be made available on the WENDWG Repository)	Ongoing Standing agenda item added.

	webpage when finalized)	
Item 7, Rec 8	RHC to encourage Member States and submitting institutions to engage with the IHO Secretariat early in the process of them preparing submissions for programme recognition	Ongoing
Item 7, Rec 9	RHC encourage Member States and submitting institutions to consult the Guidelines, the FAQs and the White Paper (IHR-Nov-2017 – Article: Maintaining the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers) early in the process of preparing submissions for programme recognition	Ongoing
Item 7, Rec 10	RHC to encourage all Member States to respond to IHO CL 21/2020 and, if possible, offer a positive response, even if qualified, to enable provision of CSB data into the public domain collected from ships within waters subject to their national jurisdiction	SWPHC20 Action 9: 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 7, Rec 11	RHC Chairs to bring the IRCC CL 1/2020 to the attention of all coastal states within their respective RHC, encouraging them to offer a positive response, even if qualified, to enable provision of CSB data into the public domain collected from ships within waters subject to their national jurisdiction	SWPHC20 Action 10: Non-members (IHO) to review their policy on data release and consider submitting a positive response to IRCC CL 01/2020 (IHO CSB Data for Public Domain)
Item 7, Rec 12	RHC to encourage Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB	Ongoing - SWPHC MSDIWG data sharing proposition .
Item 7, Rec 13	RHC to encourage Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels to collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities	SWPHC20 Action 20: Members are encouraged to participate in regional CSB activities
Item 7, Rec 14	Encourage RHCs to actively contribute with new data to GEBCO	SWPHC20 Action 8: Members to provide bathymetric data to the Seabed2030 Project using the Contributing data form
Item 7, Rec 15	Encourage RHCs to discuss how nations can share existing data.	SWPHC20 Action 40: Members are encouraged to understand their nations view of geospatial data and establish a data policy as needed. SWPHC MSDIWG data sharing proposition .
Item 7, Rec 16	RHCs to encourage Member State and stakeholder bathymetric data contributions to the DCDB, regardless of	Ongoing - SWPHC MSDIWG data sharing proposition .

	origin	
Item 8.2, Rec 17	RHC to reply to the WEND WG template SPI 1.3.1	Completed. SWPHC response to WEND100-IGIF Product Matrix provided to WENDWG January 2023.

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 and highlights activities completed since its instigation. The following items highlight key activities from the workplan 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.

Goal	Target	SPI	#	Activities	
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	
	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	
	Increased participation in SWPHC and IHO activities in a leadership role (including the SWPHC working			3	Ensure representation across IHO WGs (see current commitment diagram)
				4	SWPHC Hydrographic Leaders Program (Cohort 1)

- Item #1 Encourage IHO Membership and engagement within the Region. SWPHC allocated two seats on IHO Council (CL 43/2022, 7 November 2022). Fiji and New Zealand are designated as the SWPHC Representatives to the Council.
- Item #3 SWPHC Hydrographic Leaders Program (Cohort 1). The Hydrographic Leaders Programme (HLP) was launched in February 2022 and concluded at SWPHC20. Sixteen participants from 12 countries took part in the initiative.

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

- Item #10 Workshop on Cybersecurity to RHCs. 1-Day SWPHC VTC Pre-meeting presentation on Marine cybersecurity.
- Item #14 Member States to share S-100 experience and future plans within the region. [SWPHC S-100 Workshop #2 – Updates and value proposition](#); and SWPHC20 Agenda Item 21.3, National Impacts of S-100.
- Item #21 Collaborate with regional bodies and coastal states to develop and promote a "data value proposition" and share within the region. SWPHC MSDIWG published a [data sharing proposition](#).

6.1.3 Cooperation with Intergovernmental organisations:

- Item #27 Engage with new IMO regional representative
- Item #30 Invite IHO Secretary General to consider a regional engagement plan and potential visit

6.2 Investigation of UN-GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF-H)

SWPHC20 meeting (February 2023) included sessions on the UN-GGIM IGIF focusing on building partnerships and understanding the World Bank; and implementation case studies from the Philippines and Kiribati.

- a. [Open Data – the value proposition](#)
- b. [Building Partnerships: Understanding the World Bank](#)
- c. [Implementation case studies](#)

6.3 Regional collaboration on Safety of Navigation, delivering as one

SWPHC20 included a session on [Safety of Navigation: Delivery as one](#) with contributions from IHO, IMO and IALA. This led to an action for IHO, IMO and IALA to work together with the SWPHC and the Pacific Community (SPC) to address the capacity building needs of the Member States in the SWP region.

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

- Seven Expert Contributors attended SWPHC20 and made presentation on topics such as capacity building, industry update on LiDAR, SDB and contribution to Seabed 2030, rising demand for large scale, high density ENC and aspirations for coverage and quality of ENC in the region.
- The following SWPHC20 actions were agreed to engage with regional stakeholders.

Action	Agenda	Description	Responsible	By
16	5	SPC to invite SWPHC Chair and IHO Sec-General/Director to the next meeting of the Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting.	SPC	May 2023
17	5	IHO and SWPHC to engage with new IMO regional representative.	Chair IHO Secretariat	SWPHC21
18	5	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	SWPHC21
26	15	IMO, IALA and IHO to work together with SWPHC and SPC to address the capacity building needs of the Member states in the SWP region.	IMO, IHO, IALA, SWPHC, SPC	SWPHC21
27	15	SPC to share revised draft to the Regional Pacific Strategy – Safety of Navigation Project - for review and input	SPC, Chair	July 2023
28	15	Prepare paper for the 5 th Pacific Regional Energy & Transport Ministers Meeting (9-12 May 2023) (5 th PRETMM)	AU, NZ	April 2023

- The SWPHC Work Plan 2022-2023 contains activities related to stakeholder engagement as described in item 6.1.3 above. See also activities Items #26 & #28 of the SWPHC Work Plan 2022-23:
 - Item #26 Engage with Pacific Community (SPC)
 - Item #28 Engage with international and regional Donors and Development Partners
- [SWPHC paper and presentation of IHO Strategic Plan and SWPHC Work Plan](#) to the Pacific Regional Maritime Transport Officials Meeting, November 2022. The paper requested the meeting to engage and collaborate with IHO, IMO, IALA and regional partners to deliver as one the delivery of future Safety of Navigation services in the Pacific region.

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed

The main challenges (now and yet to be addressed) in the region are:

- Engaging and coordinating with international and regional agencies, development partners and coastal states at a senior enough level, to raise awareness of the benefits of hydrography and adopting and giving effect to open data policies and mutually agreeable practices. (ref: IRCC14-06.1I: SWPHC substantive paper) See [DECISIONS OF THE 3rd SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY – Decision 20](#)
- Supporting hydrographic governance in Pacific Island Countries and Territories with the introduction of S-100 Next Generation Charting Products & Sunsetting of the Traditional Paper Chart.
- Provision of mechanisms to ensure greater inclusion and participation of SWPHC Member States at IHO meetings, in particular the IHO Assembly (SWPHC20 Action 21). (Ref: 3-Day SWPHC20 Meeting, Agenda Item 7, Draft Minutes V1.0.) See [DECISIONS OF THE 3rd SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY – Decision 21](#)

9. Achievements and lessons learned:

- SWPHC allocated two seats on IHO Council (CL 43/2022, 7 November 2022). Fiji and New Zealand are designated as the SWPHC Representatives to the Council. Fiji is the first Pacific Island Country to be designated a seat on Council.
- SWPHC18 (2021) Coastal States provided a high-level gap analysis for each goal of the Strategic Plan to develop the SWPHC Work Plan.
- IRCC14-06.1I [SWPHC substantive paper](#) recommending the development and implementation of a strategy to engage with international and regional agencies, development partners and coastal states to support knowledge and understanding of hydrography and the value associated with open data policies in respect of marine geospatial information.
- [SWPHC paper and presentation of IHO Strategic Plan and SWPHC Work Plan](#) to the Pacific Regional Maritime Transport Officials Meeting, November 2022. The paper

requested the meeting to engage and collaborate with IHO, IMO, IALA and regional partners to deliver as one the delivery of future Safety of Navigation services in the Pacific region.

- The SWPHC Vice-Chair, Lt Cdr Jervis Robinson (FJ), attended the 5th Pacific Regional Energy & Transport Ministers Meeting (5th PRETMM) May 2023. The above SWPHC paper was provided to the Transport Ministers for information and an intervention was presented by the SWPHC Vice-Chair (FJ) on behalf of the IHO. SPC presented their *Regional Strategy on Safety of Navigation 2023-2027* requesting regional agencies and international development partners to coordinate their interventions and efforts through this regional strategy.
 - Information Paper [TI 06: The International Hydrographic Organization \(IHO\) Strategic Plan 2021- 2026 and the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission \(SWPHC\) Workplan](#)
 - Partners Dialogue, IHO Intervention (**Annex B**)
 - SPC [Regional Strategy on Safety of Navigation 2023-2027](#)
- SWPHC19 meeting (February 2022) included a session on the UN-GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) & Open Data – the value proposition.

The intent was to kick-start a regional discussion on the value and benefits of geospatial information, the framework and sharing data. The outcome is to seek actions and commitment from SWPHC members to collaborate with international and regional entities and coastal States to develop a strategy to support the implementation of the IGIF, understand the value of open data and commit to sharing data.

- The Hydrographic Leaders Programme (HLP) was launched in February 2022. It is a direct response to the **SWPHC Goal 1** *Increase SWP influence at IHO and other international/intergovernmental bodies*. Sixteen participants from 12 countries took part in the HLP.
- The first meeting of the SWPHC MSDIWG was held February 2021 and the WG held its 10th meeting in April 2023. The main focus areas of the WG is the development of a [data sharing proposition](#) (presented at SWPHC20); encouraging Coastal States to share data and adopt open data policies; and adopt and implement the UN-GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework-Hydro (IGIF-H).
- A SWPHC Empowering Women in Hydrography Pacific Network was established in September 2022 to build relationships and support career growth through mentoring, opportunity, and awareness. Fifty-five women have joined the network to-date from around the region as well as from the UK and US; and work in national hydrographic offices, maritime safety authorities, navies, Government science organisations, industry and academia.

- SWPHC20 meeting (February 2023) included sessions on the UN-GGIM IGIF focusing on building partnerships and understanding the World Bank; and implementation case studies from the Philippines and Kiribati.
- SWPHC20 also included a session on *Safety of Navigation: Delivery as one* with contributions from IHO, IMO and IALA. This led to an action for IHO, IMO and IALA to work together with the SWPHC and the Pacific Community (SPC) to address the capacity building needs of the Member States in the SWP region.
- Members are active on IHO committees and working groups but face challenges of attending in-person meetings due to distance and prohibitive travel costs.

10. Conclusions:

The SWPHC continues to actively deliver an extensive work plan of engagement and collaboration with other international, regional and bilateral partners to deliver to the IHO Strategic Plan objectives and goals.

Given the SWPHC intervention at the 5th PRETMM and the commitment by IHO, IMO and IALA to *deliver as one* at SWPHC20, there is an increasing need for closer engagement with SPC, IMO and IALA. This will need to be prioritized in the SWPHC Work Plan with appropriate resourcing and funding, yet to be identified.

11. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- Note** this report.
- Consider** if IRCC14 Item 9, Action 17, in whole or in part, is required in light of A3 PRO3.5, Decision 20.
- Consider** any further actions required.
- Note** the SWPHC Work Plan 2022-2023.

Adam Greenland

SWPHC Chair

Annex A: SWPHC Work Plan 2022-2023

Annex B: 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Minister's Meeting, May 2023. Partner's Dialogue, IHO Intervention