

**16<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC16  
Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador, 10-12 June 2024**

**SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**SWPHC report to IRCC16**

**1. Chair**

**Chair:** Hilary Thompson, (Australia) from June 2023  
Adam Greenland, (New Zealand) until June 2023

**Vice-Chair:** Lt CMDR Ben Cavuilati (Fiji) from February 2024  
CMDR Jervis Robinson (Fiji) from October 2022

**2. Membership**

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

Associate member(s): Cook Islands, Indonesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands

Observers: New Caledonia

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

**3. Meetings:**

Following SWPHC meetings have taken place:

- SWPHC 21 was held between 28 February and 1 March 2024 as a hybrid meeting hosted by Fiji Hydrographic Services in Nadi Fiji. Approximately 80 delegates participated in the meeting, including all 11 Member states, and all 6 Associate members. Observers Republic of Marshall Islands attended as did representatives from Observer Organisations; IMO, IALA and SPC. Federated States of Micronesia also attended the meeting on invitation.
- Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) requested admission to the SWPHC as an Associate Member. RMI has signed SWPHC Statutes and a SWPHC Circular Letter welcoming Republic Of Marshall Islands as an Associate Member of SWPHC was released on 21 May 2024.
- The meeting was preceded by a two day workshop on Hydrographic Disaster Response.
- Next meeting: The SWPHC22 will take place in February 2025 in Palau. SWPHC 22 being held on 26,27 and 28 February 2025, followed by a Capacity Building workshop on 3 and 4 March 2025.
- Republic of Kiribati became the 100<sup>th</sup> member state of the IHO on 7 May 2024, with milestone announced in IHO CL 24/2024 released on 21 May 2024.

**4. Current [RHC] Working Groups:**

- a) International Chart Coordinating WG (ICCWG)
- b) Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure WG (MSDIWG)
- c) Work Plan and 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 3.1, Action 1	IRCC asked subordinate bodies to review the respective ROP and TOR based on Decision 9b of the Assembly on gender-inclusive language.	Complete all SWPHC ROP and TOR have been reviewed.

Note: Action list is available from:

[https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/IRCC/IRCC15/IRCC15-12\\_Draft\\_List\\_of\\_Actions\\_Decisions\\_Recomendations\\_v2.pdf](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/IRCC/IRCC15/IRCC15-12_Draft_List_of_Actions_Decisions_Recomendations_v2.pdf)

**b) Status of Recommendations to RHCs:**

No.	Recommendation	Status
Item 4, Rec 2	RHCs to start producing S-101 and other s-100 products by focusing on a specific part of the region	On going Australia and New Zealand S-100 WG established and roadmap developed
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	On going SWPHC MSDIWG <a href="#">data sharing proposition</a>
Item 7, Rec 3	RHC to ask the MS and potential contributors to consider the extended activities in the implementation of the S-100 Roadmap for HCA Region	On going
Item 7, Rec 4	RHCs and Subordinate Bodies to consider to open the debate on future engagement in climate change related activities in reference to strategic goal 3.	SWPHC recognised as a Development Partner for the Pacific One Maritime Framework
Item 7, Rec 5	RHC to encourage relevant Member States to report to the IMO Secretariat and Chair of the ECG Coordinating Panel on the progress and status of implementation of newly recognized mobile satellite services by MSI providers.	NAVAREA X (AU) and NAVAREA XIV (NZ) confirm reporting status through IMO GISIS
Item 7, Rec 6	RHCs to ensure representation of their region in the CBSC and encourage other IHO Member States to join in the work of the CBSC	2025 CB Submission for SWPHC and SWPHC Capacity Building Coordinator represented at CBSC 22
Item 7, Rec 7	RHCs to prioritise their participation in the WENDWG through the RHC Chart Coordinator or S-100 Coordinator	Complete – <a href="#">SWPHC ICCWG Terms of Reference</a> updated to include SWPHC S-100 Coordinator role as SWPHC WEND Representative
Item 7, Rec 8	RHCs, if not done already, establish the S-100 Coordinator Role or assign S-100 Coordinator duties as appropriate.	Complete – Ms Verena Bossellman-Borsos (LINZ)

Item 7, Rec 9	RHC S-100 Coordinators to update their WEND-100 IGIF Matrix submissions every year and share their schedule and roadmap to meeting the 2026 IMO target (S-100 ECDIS) at every WENDWG Meeting.	Completed via annual survey
Item 7, Rec 10	RHC Chart Coordinators/S-100 Coordinators report their planned S-101 chart schemes, usage bands 1-4, by 30 September. Request that submissions use INTToGIS III when commissioned.	On going included in <a href="#">SWPHC ICCWG Terms of Reference</a> SWPHC S-100 Coordinator role
Item 7, Rec 11	RHCs to appoint MSDI ambassadors and inform the MSDI WG with contact details.	Complete
Item 7, Rec 12	RHC to encourage Member States to have more CSBWG participation	IHO CSB Workshop promoted to SWPHC distribution
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.	SWPHC21-21 Presentations to SWPHC 21 on SWPHC CSB, IHO CSBWG – included practical ways CSB could be adopted by SWPHC members, and demonstration of data loggers
Item 7, Rec 14	RHCs to encourage Member States and stakeholder bathymetric data contributions to the DCDB, regardless of origin	SWPHC21-22 Presentation on DCDB to SWPHC 21 advocating for increased data flow to DCDB
Item 7, Rec 15	RHCs to collaborate with the DCDB on developing and highlighting annual regional breakdowns of data holdings as part of SPI reporting	On going
Item 9, Rec 17	To invite RHCs to assign the INT paper chart scheme appropriateness check and possible amendment of the scheme	On going <a href="#">SWPHC ICCWG Terms of Reference</a>
Item 9, Rec 18	To encourage RHCs to invite Member States to consider the provision of paper chart updating procedures depending on the findings of NCWG	On going
Item 9, Rec 19	To encourage RHCs to invite Member States to consider the requirements (including regulations) for non-ECDIS mandated vessels (e.g small commercial, fishing, leisure etc) within national, regional and global discussions on this topic (HSSC15 decision 7 regarding Electronic Chart Systems PT refers)	SWPHC 21 - Sub ECS included in the <a href="#">WENDWG14</a> highlights presentation also an industry perspective was provided by Ray Marine. SWPHC Response to WEND ECS Survey

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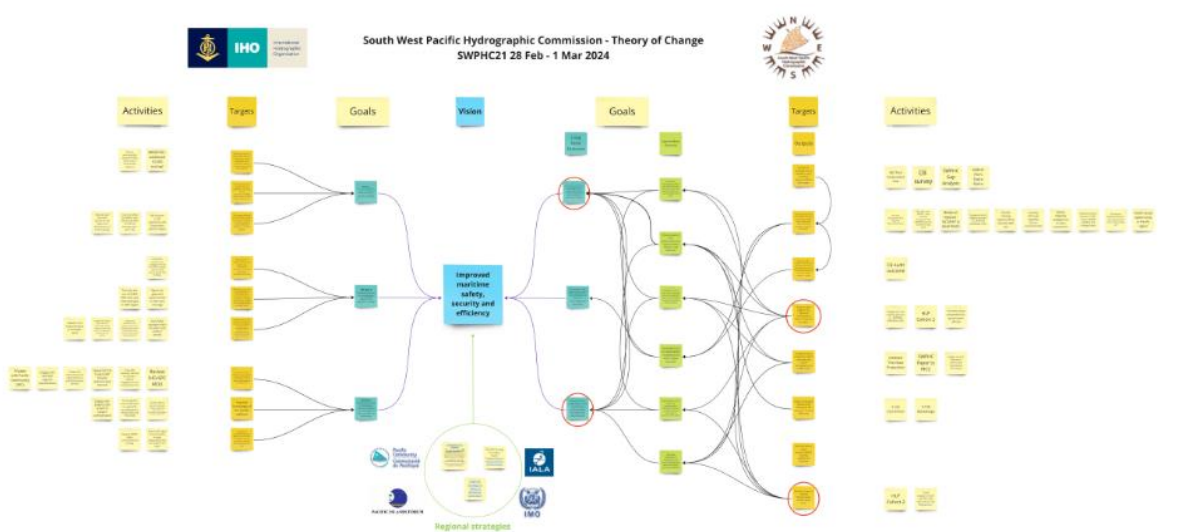
## 6. Agenda Items:

### 6.1 SWPHC WorkPlan 2024 to 2027: A regional plan to deliver the Goals of the IHO Strategic Plan and the SWPHC

- The SWPHC WPWG convened in 2023 to develop a new SWPHC WorkPlan to cover the forward period 2024 to 2027, using the Theory of Change framework. With the support of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, an experienced facilitator, Ms Therese Turner, conducted a

Theory of Change workshop with the SWPHC on 2 November 2023.

- This initial workshop provided the broad framework for the development of the SWPHC Theory of Change narrative (a word picture that provides the context for the workplan) and then the development of an SWPHC Theory of Change Workplan.
- The WorkPlan diagram below (affectionately known as the butterfly) attempts to depict the SWPHC activities as they align to the IHO Strategic Plan (left hand side) and the activities and priorities of the SWPHC (right hand side) and how these two wings work towards a single vision for the SWPHC *to improve maritime safety, security and efficiency*. This depiction also enables the alignment of the vision of the SWPHC to related regional strategies from key partners, SPC, IALA, IMO and the Pacific Islands Forum.



- The SWPHC Theory of Change Workplan was also a key focus at SWPHC21 where attendees were split into groups to discuss priorities from their perspective, with national representatives (heads of delegation) tagging specific activities as a priority for their nation or organisation.
- The Workplan continues to be progressed including mapping against the long term goals and further development of the detailed supporting activities. The finalised plan will be presented to the SWPHC community for acceptance.

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

- Maintained two seats at IHO Council
- Pacific Heads of Maritime
- 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Geospatial Surveying Council Meeting
- Re-invigorated relationship with Secretariat of Pacific Community
- Pacific One Maritime Framework
- Update on UN GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information framework – SWPHC21 included an

update on current UNGGIM IGIF projects in Philippines and Kiribati. This presentation also provided useful feedback to members on ways to align geospatial projects to development goals, increasing the likelihood of funding.

#### 6.1.2 Evolving the hydrographic support for safety and efficiency of maritime navigation, undergoing profound transformation

- Establishment of the SWPHC S-100 Coordinator position. Ms Verena Bossellman-Borsos (NZ) was appointed to SWPHC S-100 Coordinator role, and conducted a survey of SWPHC members to gauge their needs from the S-100 Coordinator role. The results of this survey will then guide the SWPHC S-100 forward plan.
- Two S-100 Workshops were conducted by VTC. These workshops proved to be very popular, with 50 attendees to the 21 May 2024 S-100 Benefits workshop. These workshops have been recorded and are available for reference on the SWPHC Events and Recordings webpage supported by the IHO.

#### 6.1.3 Use capacity building and training to develop and increase the ability of member states to support safety and efficiency of maritime navigation

- Maritime Safety Information Workshop – July 2023 Nadi Fiji
- Hydrographic Disaster Response Workshop – February 2024 Nadi Fiji
- [SWPHC Disaster Response Framework](#) – A Disaster Response Framework to support better co-ordination of hydrographic activity in response to a natural disaster was developed with SWPHC members. The framework has delivered a contacts matrix to facilitate communication between the SWPHC Chair and affected member states. The development and testing of the framework fostered communication between members including lived experience from member states affected by recent natural disasters.
- Hydrographic Leaders Program (HLP) - At SWPHC21 the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office announced UK Government funding for Cohort 2 of the HLP. A Steering Committee for the program is being established with the call for mentors and participants to be released in June 2024. SWPHC HLP has been well regarded by other organisations and the model is being considered by other RHCs for adoption.

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

- Nine industry experts attended SWPHC21 and made presentations on topics such as capacity building, industry developments on SDB, use of innovative technology for hydrographic survey, development of Sub ECS products and S-100 programs across the region.
- Industry representatives were also active in participation at the two S-100 workshops, demonstrating their willingness to partner with the region to achieve the IHO S-100 timeline.

#### **8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed**

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

- 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

- 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 and IHO Council.

#### **9. Achievements and lessons learned:**

- Appointment of SWPHC S-100 Coordinator and conduct of S-100 workshops
- Collaborative development of the SWPHC Work Plan using the Theory of Change
- Largest SWPHC Commission meeting to date, offering both in person and virtual attendance, supporting attendance by members, industry and stakeholders, and enabling observers to attend to build hydrographic capacity in member organisations without the financial and climate costs of travel.
- Developing a SWPHC platform to support commission activities (email, YouTube channel for hosting recordings)
- Targeted workshop on edition 5.2 of the S100 Standard to support SWPHC members exercising their vote on the standard.
- Hydrographic Leaders Program Cohort 2
- Membership – Republic of Marshall Islands Associate Member
- Membership – Kiribati announced as 100<sup>th</sup> member state of the IHO
- Finalisation of the SWPHC Disaster Response Framework – providing a structure for the co-ordination of hydrographic assistance in the face of a natural disaster.
- Capacity Building Workshops – Maritime Safety Information and Hydrographic Disaster Response – attended by SWPHC members and associate members, as well as key regional stakeholders like SPC and Maritime New Zealand and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Renewed relationship with SPC
- Conduct of targeted virtual sessions on key IHO matters to support SWPHC member countries exercising their IHO voting rights starting with CL 18 Approval of Ed 5.2.0 IHO Publication S-100
- Invitation to attend Pacific Heads of Maritime meeting, and formal acknowledgement of the SWPHC as a Development Partner for the Pacific One Maritime Framework

#### **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 on the IHO Strategic Plan objectives and goals.

The SWPHC has prioritized engagement with SPC, IMO and IALA, with successful relationship building meetings occurring alongside SWPHC21. This has resulted in SPC inviting the SWPHC to actively participate in the Pacific One Maritime Framework. Through this particular program the role of hydrography as a fundamental enabler to build a clean, green, secure, sustainable, resilient, digital

and gender-just Pacific maritime community is being recognised. Across the Pacific, governments are realizing the importance of hydrography to meet their country goals.

**11. Actions required of IRCC:**

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note this report.
- b. consider any further actions required
- c. note the progress of the SWPHC Work Plan 2024-2027.

Hilary Thompson

SWPHC Chair