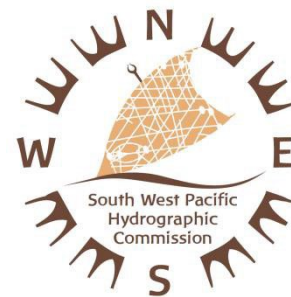




**South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission
(SWPHC)**



File: 2023/1090421

Correspondence Address: swp.hc@defence.gov.au

SWPHC Circular Letter 01/2025

23rd Meeting of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC23) & Capacity Building Workshop on Maritime Safety Information 16 – 20 February 2026, Noumea, New Caledonia

To: Members, Associate Members and Observers of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

Dear Sir/Madam

1. As advised in earlier correspondence the next SWPHC meeting and capacity building workshop will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia, hosted by the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM), as follows:

16-17 February 2026 – IHO Capacity Building Workshop on Maritime Safety Information – by invitation only

18-20 February 2026 – 23rd Meeting of the SWPHC

2. Please take note of the following information and action as necessary:

- a. Pre-meeting 5 February 2026 by VTC

Given the large number of Agenda items to be discussed at SWPHC23, a virtual pre-meeting is planned for **5 February 2026 scheduled for 1100 to 1500 (Sydney time UTC + 11)**. The meeting invitation and virtual link will be emailed to all registered SWPHC23 attendees on 28 January 2026. Please ensure you have registered for the SWPHC meeting to receive the virtual meeting link.

- b. Registration

Those attending the meeting in person are requested to register as soon as possible via the [IHO Portal](#). **Face to Face** registrations close on **19 January 2026**, whilst **virtual** attendees have until **12 February 2026**.

- c. Agenda

If you have any proposed Agenda items please submit to swp.hc@defence.gov.au by **24 November 2025**.

- d. National Reports

The National Report template (report and presentation) will be available on the SWPHC23 meeting site on the [IHO Portal](#). Please provide your report and presentation to the SWPHC Secretariat swp.hc@defence.gov.au by **5 January 2026**.

e. Venue

Both the Capacity Building Workshop and the SWPHC23 Meeting will be held at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), 95 Promenade Roger Laroque, Nouméa 98800, Nouvelle-Calédonie.

Please see the accompanying Logistics Instruction for further details on hotels. Invited participants under the IHO Capacity Building Program are **not** required to make any hotel reservations.

f. Special Requirements – dietary, accessibility

Please let the SWPHC Secretariat know if you have any specific dietary or accessibility requirements to be catered for during the SWPHC meeting (email to swp.hc@defence.gov.au).

3. We are seeking nominations for a number of very important roles with voting to occur at SWPHC 23.
 - a. SWPHC Chair for 2026 to 2029
 - b. SWPHC Vice Chair for 2026 to 2029
 - c. SWPHC Representatives at IHO Council for 2026-2029
 - d. Host for SWPHC 24 meeting in 2027

Nominations to swp.hc@defence.gov.au by **15 December 2025**.

4. I hope that you will be able to attend and look forward to meeting you in New Caledonia.

Yours sincerely,



Hilary Thompson
Executive Director, Australian Hydrographic Office
Chair, South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

4 November 2025