Interim Meeting of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission
Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group
MINUTES

26th February 2024 – 16:00 – Fiji Time

Attendees (15):

John Dalomae (JD)		Solomon Islands Maritime Authority
Adalane Ika (AI)		Nauru Maritime Port Authority
Belen Jimenez Baron (BJ)	Data Manager	Seabed2030 – SaWPaC Regional Center
Caitlin Johnson (CJ)		National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Vaipo Mataora (VM)		Infrastructure Cook Islands
Thierry Nervale (TN)		Solomon Islands Maritime Authority
John Nyberg (JN)		IHO Secretariat
Salesh Kumar (SK)	Hydrographic Surveyor	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Sunil Kumar (SunK)		Maritime Safety Authority Fiji
Nick Pion (NP)		National Maritime Safety Authority, PNG
LCDR Julien Simon (JS)	Director of Oceanography for the Pacific	French Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (SHOM)
Kalela Tonga (KT)		Ministry of Infrastructure, Tonga
Tion Uriam (TU)		Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport and Tourism, Kiribati
Dan Miners (DM)	Geographic Technical Lead	UK Hydrographic Office
Vice Chair Vacant		
Chair Helen Phillips (HP)	Data Governance & Production Engineering Group Manager	UK Hydrographic Office

Apologies (0):

Overview of SWPHC MSDI WG	HP opened the meeting and welcomed new members and guests from the wider SWPHC. Interim face to face meeting adjoining SWPHC Workshop. HP gave an overview of the activities of the working group, including how the working group is structured, operating procedures and the Data Sharing Document. Highlighting value of hydrographic data to wider goals of governments. Opened to the floor for discussion and questions on the working group activities. • John Nyberg commented that the videos would be a useful resource and help to digest the long documents.
What activities should the working group	Helen asked the group if there are activities that the working group could focus on to aid understanding and implementation.

focus on in the next year	• Thierry Nervale observed that there is value to data and organisations may not want to give away data for free. Is there process for this?
	
	Discussion in room highlighted that value can come from other forms and that "open" doesn't mean free. The permissions, release statement and governance behind it is where the IGIF document can come in useful.
	
	• Nick Pion – Commented that resources are useful but is their opportunity for coastal states to approach the working group for ad-hoc assistance with data sharing agreements with respective governments.
	
	• Tion Uriam – Commented on work using IGIF in Kiribati and highlighted how useful the resources are, particularly around data sharing.
	
	• HP mentioned that UKHO have started their maturity assessment for IGIF. Gives a good baseline and highlights areas where more work is required. This could potentially be an action for member states to complete their MSDI Maturity Assessment. This seems like too big an action for right now, would members agree? And if yes, is there an opportunity for the working group to support with an interim step towards maturity assessments?
	
	   – Belen commented that finding out more about the aims of the maturity assessment would be good. Completing the assessment is one thing, but the question is what happens after that? What does the assessment of maturity help with?
	
	   – Julien – The roadmap needs to define the needs of the member states then provide a roadmap to show progress towards end goal. Breaking down the path into manageable sections. Sometimes the path to a goal can be too large and overwhelming.
	
	   – HP – Does this suggest that more work is required on the benefits of completing the maturity assessment, how it helps to move organisations and countries forward. Knowing more about the benefits of maturity assessment may help to encourage members to complete them and provide some guidance on how/why to complete the assessments.
	
	   – Salesh Kumar talked about project at SPC to go back over data holdings to see what could be used for charting purposes and re-assess and record new metadata to understand data holdings.
	
	   – Tion Uriam commented that we have some good resources now, but how to we keep communicating these resources and get feedback on things that are still unclear. How do we use these documents and resources to assist implementation across the SWPHC region.
	
	   – Vaipo Mataora – Shared some information about Cook Islands approach; government has regulated that all data holdings are centralised in one decision. Developed a digital licence agreement for people that want to obtain data. Data sharing policies have been written. Included in data collection licences that resulting dataset must be deposited in central database when complete.
	
	   – Tion Uriam – Shared experience of Kiribati in implementing the IGIF pathways that are the priority for the country. Gathering the stakeholders and explaining the benefits of IGIF took a lot of resource. Need to understand more about how to gather these stakeholders and get buy in from government. Holding workshops takes a lot of effort.

AOB	HP asked participants to get in touch with the working group if they wanted to raise any MSDI issues.

	If anyone is interested in joining the working group more regularly contact HP or DM to be added to distribution list.
Date of next meeting	N/A – To be confirmed.