

January 27, 2020

Dear Hydrographic Colleagues of the South-West Pacific,

I am pleased to contact you on the occasion of the upcoming SWPHC-17 and to introduce myself as Director of the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) and Chair of the IHO Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB) Working Group.

As you are aware, Seabed 2030 is in its third year since launch and I am excited to report notable progress has been achieved in the expansion of data coverage of the world's oceans from 6% to 15%! The DCDB and the Seabed 2030 Regional Data Assembly and Coordination Centers (RDACCs) work closely together to ensure the archiving of and access to bathymetric data throughout the global oceans. Data contributions made to the IHO DCDB, or through RDACCs to the IHO DCDB, are assembled and integrated into the freely available GEBCO Global Ocean Map. We envision the RHCs and RDACCs working closely together on matters of coordination to ensure that all efforts are complementary.

Crowdsourced bathymetry activities continue to expand around the world. While systematic surveys will primarily be used to improve Seabed 2030 products, "passage soundings" will play an important role as a powerful source of information to supplement the more rigorous and scientific bathymetric coverage done by hydrographic offices, industry, and researchers. We are pleased to announce the recent publication of *B-12 IHO Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry* and encourage all Member States to respond positively to *IHO CL 11/2019 Annex B: Acceptance of Crowdsourced Bathymetry Activities in National Waters of Jurisdiction*.

https://iho.int/uploads/user/pubs/bathy/B_12_Ed2.0.3_2020.pdf

https://iho.int/mtg_docs/circular_letters/english/2019/CL11_2019_EN_v1.pdf

For your consideration, the DCDB has reviewed its holdings of singlebeam and multibeam bathymetric data in the South-West Pacific Region commensurate with IHO INT Region L and has produced the attached summary. We are actively working on similar views of Crowdsourced Bathymetry and ENC data holdings and will make that information available as soon as possible.

I welcome learning the results of your meeting, ideas you may have toward future Seabed 2030 and crowdsourced bathymetry collaborations, and any way the IHO DCDB may be of assistance in your work.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Jencks

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Figure 1: **Multibeam** bathymetric ship tracks (green lines) of IHO DCDB data holdings in the SWPHC Region commensurate with IHO INT Region L (yellow polygon).

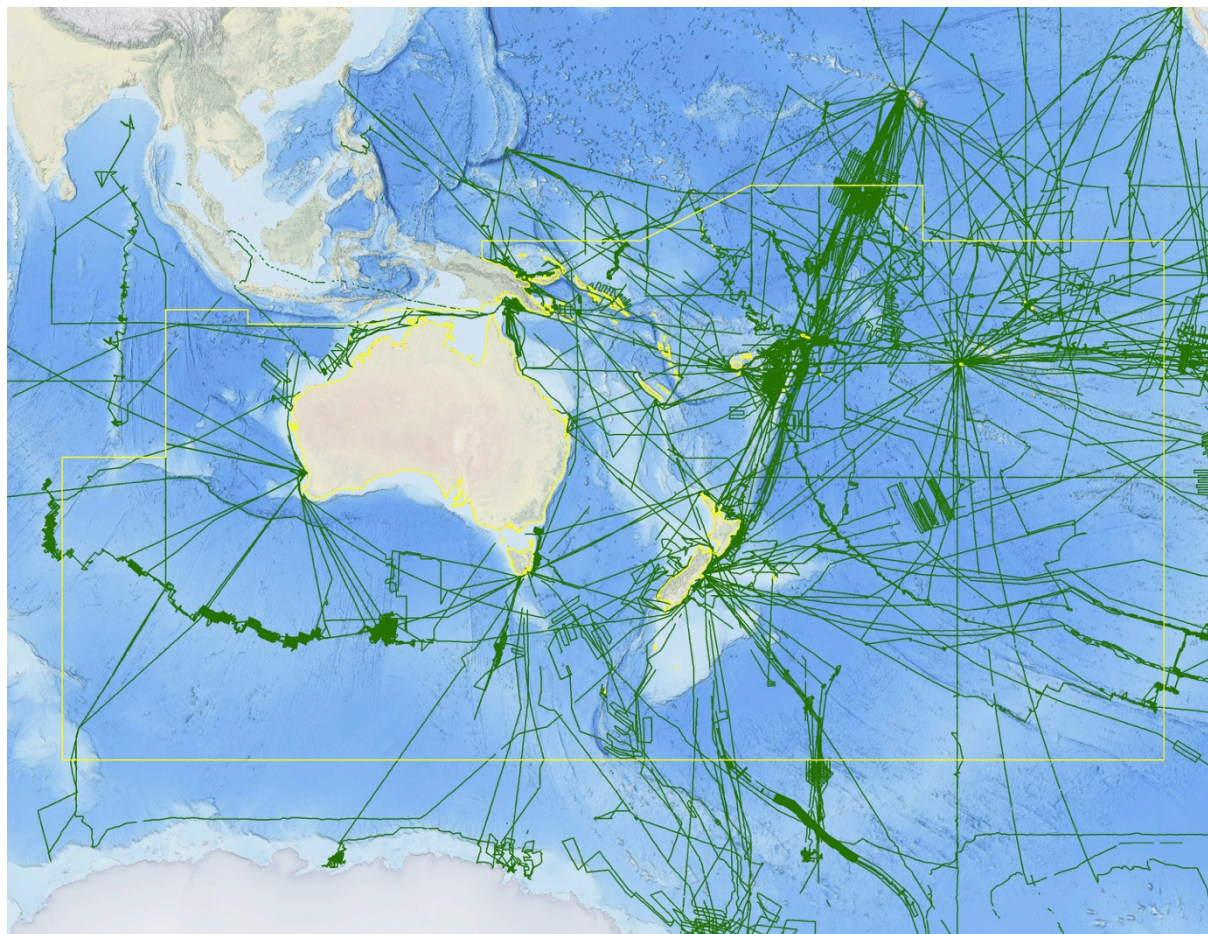


Table A: Information on IHO DCDB-held **multibeam** bathymetry surveys in the SWPHC Region.

Source Contributor	# of Surveys
USA:	325
German:	1
Industry:	2
Total Surveys	328

Figure 2: **Singlebeam** bathymetric ship tracks (purple lines) of IHO DCDB data holdings in the SWPHC Region commensurate with IHO INT Region L (yellow polygon).

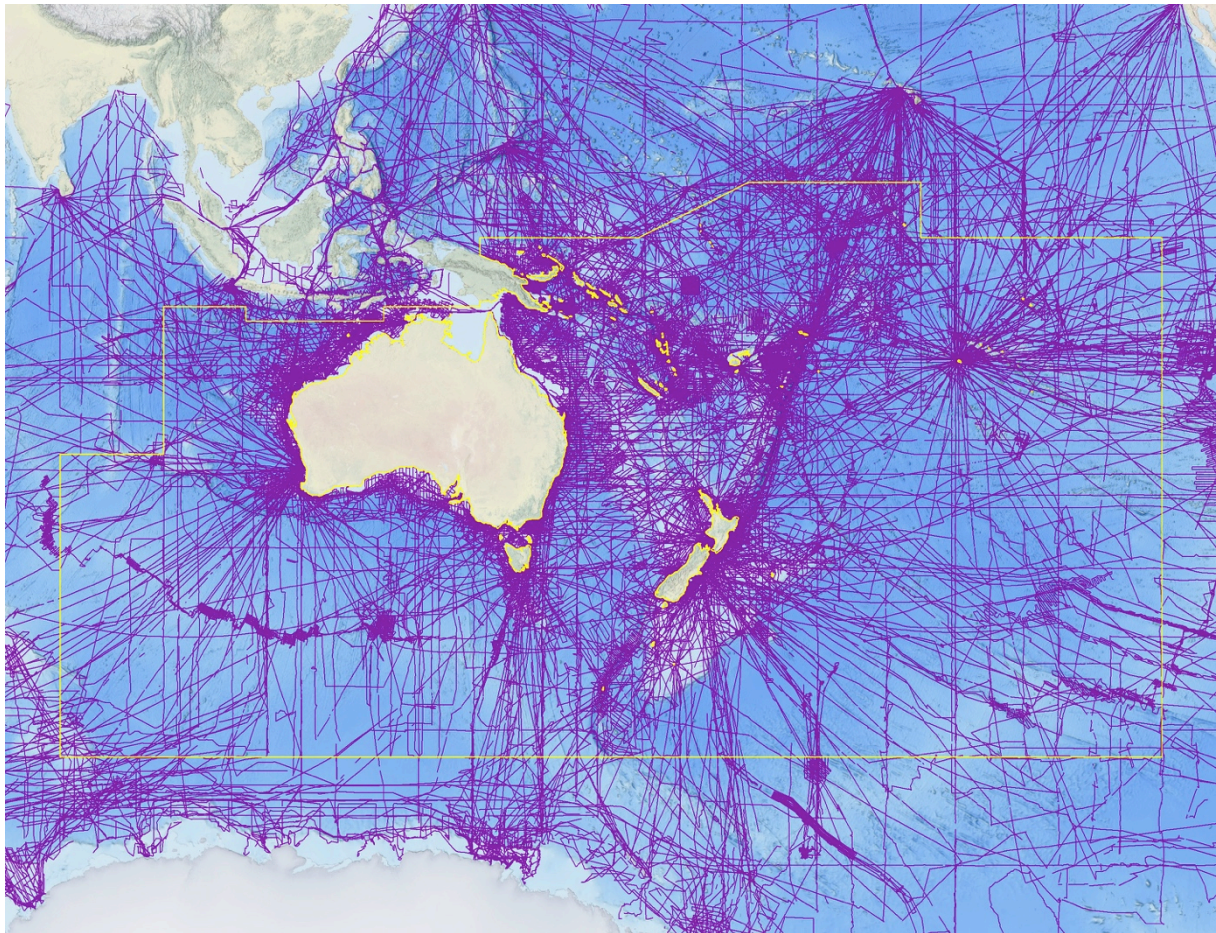


Table B: Information on IHO DCDB-held **singlebeam** bathymetry surveys in the SWPHC Region

Contributing Country	# of Surveys
Australia	98
CAL-Solomon-NH	1
China	4
Cooks-Tonga	1
France	31
Germany	6
Japan	72
Kermadec-Tonga	1
New Caledonia	11
New Zealand	96



Russia	26
Solomon-BNF	1
United Kingdom	11
USA	640
USA-Australia	2
USA-ODP Members	11
Vanuatu	2
Total Surveys	1014