

18th South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission Meeting

VTC, 17-19 February 2021

Summary of National Reports

Submitted by:	SWPHC Secretariat
Executive Summary:	This paper provides a summary report of the important parts of the National Reports submitted to SWPHC18, regarding achievements, challenges faced and lessons learned.

National reports status

1. Out of the 18 Members, Associate Members and Observers of the SWPHC, 10 reports were received prior to the SWPHC18 meeting.
2. This report will be used by the SWPHC Secretariat to brief the audience on significant issues and updates raised by the members.

Achievements

3. Achievements

a. Survey

Risk assessment tools have been developed by Australia and France to assist with their survey prioritisation planning. Using AIS vessel traffic data the tools provide the evidence necessary to identify the requirement for survey and chart improvement.

The region has seen an increase in investment in technology and methodology such as multi-beam echo sounders and Satellite Derived Bathymetry.

b. Charting

Chart re-branding continues for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Niue and Tonga. Further work planned for the Cook Islands, Samoa and Tokelau during 2021 and 2022.

New chart coverage (ENC and paper) produced in areas previously covered by charts on undetermined datums and using old fathoms data.

As Hydrographic Offices move to a 'digital first' environment, the future of paper charts and raster products is being reviewed. Customer consultation and stakeholder engagement forms a key component in any decision to withdraw paper charts.

In line with the IHO Decade of Implementation, Hydrographic Offices are working to transition to the S-100 Universal Data Model.

c. MSDI

SWPHC MSDI WG established and first meeting held 3rd February 2021. Representatives from seven Member States attended the virtual meeting.

Review and adoption of the UN-GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) is in progress by some Hydrographic Offices in the region.

- d. GEBCO Seabed 2030 / Crowdsourced Bathymetry
National bathymetric data contributions to the IHO DCDB and to the Seabed 2030 South and West Pacific Region Data Center increasing.

Palau is participating in a Seabed 2030-funded CSB pilot program.

Challenges

4. Challenges
 - a. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many activities in the region. Travel restrictions and border closures have meant that surveys and capacity building efforts have been postponed or cancelled. Disruptions are likely to continue through 2021.
 - b. In the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, governments are re-prioritising funding and programmes of work, further delaying planned work.
 - c. Customer and stakeholder consultation and engagement regarding the withdrawal of paper charts and raster products.
 - d. Coordinating a diverse MSDI user community group to develop a joined-up work programme.

Action requested of SWPHC

5. SWPHC is invited to:
 - a. **Note** this report
 - b. **Take any actions** as considered appropriate