

**18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION (SWPHC18)  
VTC, 17-19 February 2021**

**NATIONAL REPORT FROM SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE SWPHC18**

References:

- A. IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended (see doc. C3-04.2A, [Appendix to Annex A](#))
- B. IHO Circular Letter 20/2019, The IHO Online Form System for responses to Circular Letters and input to IHO Publications (P-5 and C-55): [link](#)  
Online system for P-5 (Yearbook): [link](#)  
Online system for C-55 (Status of Surveys and Charting Worldwide): [link](#)

**Executive summary**

1. Hydrographic Office / Service:

- a) Name of the institution: *Solomon Islands Maritime Authority, Department of Environment Protection and Safety, Section Safety of Navigation.*
- b) Description: *[General description, including updates for the IHO Yearbook e.g. reorganization] The Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) is the maritime administration assuming all international, regional and national obligations for Solomon Islands. SIMA has the responsibility of hydrography as per the SIMA Act 2018.*
- c) Submitted by: *[name and e-mail of the responsible for the report]. Mr. Thierry Nervale, Director SIMA*

Detailed information to update IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*) is submitted in Annex A (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annex A if this is the case.

2. Surveys:

*[Describe any significant developments since the last RHC meeting in surveys related to the items below]*

- a) Coverage of new surveys: *No new surveys were carried out in 2020. The office is staffed by only 2 personnel following the retirement of the Chief hydrographer and absence of one CAT B surveyor on study leave undertaking overseas studies.*
- b) New technologies and /or equipment *No new technologies or equipment were acquired although the need existed.*
- c) New ships - *No new ships*
- d) Crowdsourced and satellite-derived bathymetry - national policy *No National policy as yet.*
- e) Challenges and achievements: *The main challenge is to ring-fence a budget for hydrography allowing the retention of capacity, the purchase and maintenance of equipment and the conduct of survey in a huge ocean area. However, there were noticeable achievements with the training of qualification of specialists of hydrography (at Category B) and the cndcut of surveys in 2018-2019 when development budget was allocated. Efforts continue in maritime safety information and reporting discrepancies on nautical charts and publications to AHS for updating.*

Detailed information about surveys to update IHO Publications P-5 (*Yearbook*) and C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is submitted in Annexes A and B, respectively (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annexes A and B if this is the case.

## 3. New charts &amp; updates:

*No significant developments since the last report.*

- a) ENC coverage, gaps and overlaps
- b) ENC distribution method
- c) RNCs
- d) INT charts
- e) National paper charts
- f) Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft
- g) Challenges and achievements

Detailed information about charting to update IHO Publications P-5 (*Yearbook*) and C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is submitted in Annexes A and B, respectively (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annexes A and B if this is the case.

## 4. New publications &amp; updates:

*No significant developments since the last SWPHC meeting in nautical publication.*

- a) New Publications - *Solomon Islands National Tide Tables 2020 published by AHS*
- b) Updated publications -
- c) Means of delivery - *Paper*
- d) Challenges and achievements -

Detailed information to update IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*) is submitted in Annex A (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annex A if this is the case.

## 5. MSI

*[Describe the status of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) related to the items below]*

- a) Existing infrastructure for MSI dissemination - *there is a great need in terms of capacity building for implementing processes and infrastructure for MSI dissemination as well as trainings for NAVAREA 10 (Similar to MSI training done in NZ for NAVAREA 14 countries).*
- b) Statistics on work of the National Coordinator. *The MSI coordinator will be (being recruited) the Head of Section Safety of Navigation and will need specific capacity building activities (training and attachment) to assume this function.*
- c) New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan. *None*
- d) Challenges and achievements – *develop and adopt processes for MSI collection and dissemination including the functions of a MSI Coordinator. SIMA is developing its Quality Management Systems and has a Procedure for MSI in draft.*

Detailed information about MSI to update IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is submitted in Annex B (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). The national self-assessment of MSI is submitted in Annex C. Please indicate "no change" in Annexes B and C if this is the case.

## 6. C-55

The table with the latest information to update IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is provided in Annex B (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annex B if this is the case.

## 7. Capacity Building

*[Describe the need for or ability to offer Capacity Building in relation to the items below]*

- a) ~~Offer of and/or~~ demand for Capacity Building – *Development of QMS procedures including for the conduct of hydrographic surveys (preparation, delivery and report + Hydrographic Instruction to Surveys), maintenance of equipment, MSI management.*
  - b) Training ~~received~~, needed, ~~offered~~: *Trainings in multi-beam surveys, chart compilation software eg. CARIS, dKart etc., awareness programs in MSDI,*
  - c) Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with a hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study) – *preparation of a project with JICA to conduct hydrographic surveys.*
  - d) Description of proposals and requests to the IHO CBSC
8. Oceanographic activities
- a) General – *participate in the Ocean 12 work which is the integrated approach to ocean under the 2018 Solomon Islands Ocean Policy and is focusing on Marine Spatial Planning.*
  - b) GEBCO & Seabed 2030
  - c) Crowdsourced Bathymetry Activities
  - d) Tide gauge network
  - e) New equipment
  - f) Challenges and achievements
9. Spatial data infrastructures
- a) Status of MSDI
  - b) Relationship with the NSDI
  - c) Involvement in regional or global MSDI efforts
  - d) National implementation of the Shared Data Principles – including any national data policy and impact on marine data.
  - e) MSDI national portal
  - f) Best practices and lessons learned
  - g) Challenges and achievements
10. Innovation
- a) Use of new technologies
  - b) Risk assessment
  - c) Policy matters
11. Other activities
- [Describe any other significant developments of interest to the SWPHC since the last meeting related to the items below]*
- a) Participation in IHO meetings - *did not participate in any IHO meetings in the past due to budget constraints.*
  - b) Meteorological data collection - *does not undertake Meteorological data collection.*
  - c) Geospatial studies - *Cat B Surveyor graduated with a Master's degree in Spatial Science Technology from the University South Queensland.*
  - d) Preparation for responses to disasters -
  - e) Environmental protection – *SIMA has integrated environment protection in its organisational structure and is recruited staff with skills in environment.*
  - f) Engagement with the Maritime Administration – *hydrography is completely integrated to SIMA functions and organisational structure to ensure there are synergies and budget streamline with Aids to Navigation functions.*
  - g) Aids to Navigation matters – *see above.*
  - h) Magnetic and gravity surveys - *does not have the capability to undertake such surveys,*
  - i) International engagements
  - j) Others

## 12. Conclusions

*[Provide a short summary statement that highlights any of the following:*

- a) Areas of significant achievement – there is/has been capacity, equipment and budget for hydrography but not consistent and at the same time to significantly progress hydrographic services*
- b) Areas of particular concern – reconcile budget and team capacity to consistently deliver hydrographic services.*
- c) Any other matters of interest to the SWPHC*

The Areas of significant achievement are:

### *(a) Areas of significant achievement*

- 1. January 2012 – the hydrographic unit established within the Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Administration,*
- 2. 19 February and 2 March 2012 - Visit of Mr. Bob Wilson, International Hydrographic Projects' Manager, seconded from the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) as part of the IHO Capacity Building Programme to carry out assessment of the current status of hydrography and to raise awareness in the country of the importance of hydrography and nautical charting,*
- 3. 28 September 2017 - Signing of MOU between AHO (PCA) and SIMSA “Concerning Co-operation in the Field of Hydrography”, Publication of nautical charts bearing SLB Numbers,*
- 4. 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 - Solomon Islands became the 91<sup>st</sup> member of the IHO,*
- 5. 1 January 2021 – The Solomon Islands Maritime Authority has full power since the commencement of its own act on 7 September 2018. The SIMA Act 2018 has hydrography as part of its functions.*

### *(b) Areas of particular concern*

- 1. Delay in paying the IHO membership fee due to complicated government processes and lack of budget,*

### *(c) Any other matters of interest to the SWPHC*

- 1. SWPHC to support and call partners to support small islands developing states in mobilising funds dedicated to hydrography and assist in-country in developing processes and procedures for integrated safety of navigation functions.*

Input to the IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*)Country: *SOLOMON ISLANDS*Organization: *Solomon Islands Maritime Authority*

(Please provide the information in English. Consider using the IHO Online Form System, see reference B)

<b>Contact information/ Informations de contact / Información de contacto</b>	
-National Hydrographer or equivalent -Directeur du service hydrographique ou équivalent -Director del Servicio Hidrográfico o equivalente	Post: Name: Postal address: Tel: Fax: Email:
-Head of the Hydrographic Office (if different from the person indicated above) -Directeur du Service Hydrographique (si différent de la personne indiquée ci-dessus) -Director del Servicio Hidrográfico (si diferente de la persona indicada anteriormente)	Post: Name: Postal address: Tel: Fax: Email:
-Other point(s) of contact -Autre(s) point(s) de contact -Otros punto(s) de contacto	<i>Director SIMA</i> Mr. Thierry Nervale
-Web site -site web -sitio web	<i>www.sima.gov.sb</i>
<b>Country information / Informations sur le pays/ Información sobre el país</b>	
-Declared National Tonnage -Tonnage national déclaré -Tonelaje Nacional Declarado	Tonnage: <i>122,240.7</i> Date: <i>December 2019</i>
-National day -Fête nationale -Fiesta nacional	<i>7th July Independence day</i>
-Date of establishment and Relevant National Legislation -Date de mise en place et législation nationale pertinente -Fecha de constitución y	<i>SIMA Act 2018</i>

legislación nacional pertinente	
-Date first joined IHO -Date d'adhésion à l'OHI -Fecha de adhesión a la OHI	<i>15th July 2019</i>
-Date ratification Convention -Date de ratification de la Convention -Fecha de ratificación de la Convención	<i>15th February 2020</i>
-Remarks on membership -Remarques sur l'adhésion -Comentarios sobre la adhesión	
<b>Agency information/ Information sur l'agence/ Información sobre la agencia</b>	
-Top level parent organisation -Organisme mère -Organización asociada de nivel superior	<i>SIMA is an independent authority with its own Board of Management under the Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID)</i>
-Principal functions of the organisation or the department -Attribution principales de l'organisme ou du département -Principales funciones de la Organización o departamento	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hydroscheme,</i></li> <li>• <i>Hydrographic surveys,</i></li> <li>• <i>Depository of Hydrographic records,</i></li> <li>• <i>Issue Hydrographic Data and MSI, Issue of local NMs to AHS for weekly NMs publications</i></li> </ul>
-Annual operating budget -Budget annuel -presupuesto anual	<i>TBC</i>
-Total number of staff employed -Effectifs totaux -Número total de personal empleado	<i>TBC</i>
-Number of INT charts published -Nombres de cartes INT publiées -Número de cartas INT publicadas	<i>Arrangement with AHS</i>
-Total number of paper charts published-Nombre total de cartes papier publiées-Número total de cartas de papel publicadas	<i>Arrangement with AHS - 15 Paper Charts (SLB)</i>

-Number of ENC cells published -Nombres de cellules ENC publiées -Número de células ENC publicadas	<i>Arrangement with AHS - 41 ENC cells</i>			
-Number of Other charts -Nombre d'Autres cartes -Número de Otras cartas				
-Type of publications produced -Type d'ouvrages produits -Tipo de publicaciones producidas				
-Detail of surveying vessels/ aircraft -Détail des bâtiments hydrographiques / aéronefs -Detalle de los buques hidrográficos / aeronaves	-Name -Nom -Nombre	-Displacement -Déplacement -Desplazamiento	-Date Launched -Date de mise en service -Fecha de botado	-Number of crew -Nombre de l'équipage -Tripulación
-Other information of interest -Autres informations utiles -Otra información de interés				

Input to the IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*)

Country: Solomon Islands (NO CHANGE)

(Please provide the information in English. Consider using the IHO Online Form System, see reference B)

C-55 Summary for:				Comments on Charts:
Country:				
Country Iso Code:				
Country SubCode:				
INT Region:				
Country/Depend:				
Last updated:				
Provided by:				
Chart coverage	Passage (%)	Coastal (%)	Port (%)	Comments on Surveys:
INT				
RNC				
ENC				
Status of Paper Charts				
Paper charts with depths in meters (%)				
Paper charts referenced to a satellite datum (%)				
Status of surveys	Adequate (%)	Resurvey (%)	No survey (%)	
0-200m				
> 200m				

MSI	Y/N	Comments on MSI:
Local warning		
Coastal warning		
Nav warning		
Port warning		
GMDSS	Y/N	Comments on GMDSS:
Master Plan		
Area A1		
Area A2		
Area A3		
NAVTEX		
SafetyNet		



## National MSI Self-Assessment

Country: **SOLOMON ISLANDS**Organization: **Solomon Islands Maritime Authority**

(Please provide the information in English)

## 1. Maritime area

*The Solomon Islands Search & Rescue Region is bounded by the geographical coordinates; 14°S,157°E, 16°S163°E, 12°S165°E, 12°30'S,174°10'E, 14°S 161°15'E, 14°S155°E, 12°S155°E, 10°S170°E, 12°30'S 171°10'E 04°50'S160°E 10°S170°E 04°50'S 160°E 04°50'S 160°E 07°25'S 155°E 14°S 155°E. Maritime SAR services are provided by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC).*

## 2. Operational Points of Contact for the National Coordinator

INSTITUTION	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE	EMAIL
Maritime Rescue Cordination Center	+677 21609	+677 23798	<a href="mailto:mrcc@solomon.com.sb">mrcc@solomon.com.sb</a>

## 3. GMDSS Master Plan

*[Report on the status of the GMDSS Master Plan: Is it up to date? When was the last update?]*

*[Specifics of equipment used and software version with date up-dated]*

Equipment Type for Ports and Local Area	Software Version	Date of Up-date
BARRET 2050 Advanced HF SSB Transceiver		

*[Detail the number of warnings identified as immediate priority (requiring transmission within 30 minutes) and the average elapsed time for passing to NAVAREA coordinator, as reported to the last RHC meeting]:*

Year Y-2		Year Y-1		Year Y	
Total	Average elapsed time	Total	Average elapsed time	Total	Average elapsed time
xx	xx.x Mins	xx	xx.x Mins	xx	xx.x Mins

## 4. NAVTEX Coverage:

*[Diagram of NAVTEX stations and service areas within maritime area; Contact details for NAVTEX Stations; Confirm operational status has been validated.]*

5. Operational Issues:

*[New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan; Problems encountered?]  
Sufficient personnel must be recruited to maintain 24/7 presence at the MRCC in addition to capacity to sustain long SAR and marine pollution operations. However, this requires significant budget for a small administration with wide maritime responsibilities for activities that cannot be planned.*

6. Contingency Planning

*[Provide information regarding contingency plans that have been established and future plans where appropriate. Also report on any testing of the plan that has been conducted]  
The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NATPLAN) is activated in case of marine pollution under the Shipping (Marine Pollution) Regulations 2011.  
The National SAR Plan is implemented for any SAR activities but still needs to be finalised and approved.*

7. Capacity Building

*[Demands for Capacity Building, Training requested or received, any offered, status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with MSI component]  
See request for capacity building activities in the report.*

8. Other Activities

*[Participation in other IHO or IMO Working Groups, Regional Hydrographic Commissions, regional conferences related to MSI over past year]  
Regular participation to the SWPHC meetings.*

9. National Maritime Website:

*[(Address, statistics (if permitted by national legislation; how often is the information on your web site updated? Do you display the date and time of the last update on your web site?)]  
[www.SIMA.gov.sb](http://www.SIMA.gov.sb) (124,215 visits and 38,502 visitors for the last 365 days with significant increase in October and December due to recruitment). Website updated as needed but lack of resources to maintain up to date information.*

10. Recommendations

*[If any]*

11. Summary

*[Please provide a short summary of this paper which will be included in the final report of the meeting.]  
The upgrade of radio-communication and systems to track vessels and conduct safety of navigation activities within Solomon Islands waters is an imperative to boost the delivery of obligations as Coastal State together with proper staffing for 24/7 response capability.*