

**13th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC13
VTC, 23-25 June 2021**

Report of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)

Submitted by:	SWPHC Chair
Related Documents:	<i>Any relevant documents and references to the extent that they are known to the originator.</i>
Related Projects:	<i>Any related projects that may impact upon considerations</i>

Chair:	Adam Greenland, New Zealand
Vice-Chair:	TBC
Secretary:	Stuart Caie, New Zealand
Member States:	<p>Members: Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, UK, USA, Vanuatu</p> <p>Associate Members: Cook Islands, Indonesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau</p> <p>Observers: Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia</p>
Expert Contributors:	EOMAP, Fugro, IALA, IIC Technologies, Pacific Community (SPC), Seabed 2030, SevenCs
<i>see Annex A for full details</i>	

1. Meetings Held During Reporting Period

[SWPHC18](#) was held as a VTC held 17-19 February 2021. Approximately 60 delegates attended the on-line meeting, including 43 from Member States and four Associate Members.

2. Work Program

Highlight the important issues and activities during the reporting period.

(For lengthy or complex reports, the use of supporting annexes may be appropriate.)

Note: the IRCC and its subordinated bodies were tasked by A-1 to identify and recommend on whatever actions may be required to incorporate the Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management in the work programmes (see A-1 Decision N° 22).

3. Progress on IRCC Action Items

A summary of progress made during the reporting period is given below:

N.	Action (Agenda item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
1	RHC to Instruct MS in the promotion and distribution of publication of S-67 Mariners' Guide to Accuracy of Depth Information in Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) to the Marine Institutions and Education Schools	RHC	IRCC13	Complete Chair raised this at SWPHC18 meeting
2	Member States to review the paper on the Future of paper Charts and provide feedback on it	RHC	IRCC13	Complete SWPHC18 Action 10 refers

3	Member States strongly encouraged to continue updating C-55	RHC	IRCC13	Complete SWPHC Permanent action
4	RHC to implement the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2.	RHC	IRCC13	In progress SWPHC18 Action 8
6	Invite the Member States who have experience in developing and providing eLearning contents to share their resources and experiences to the e-Learning PT	RHC	IRCC13	Complete Chair raised this at SWPHC18 meeting
11	Promote the discussion of any item with relevance to SDI/MSDI/MSP and to take appropriate actions.	RHC	IRCC13	Complete SWPHC18 Agenda items 6.4 MSDIWG11 OGC-IHO FMSDI; 9.2 (SWPHC MSDIWG); & 12 IHO Revised Strategic Plan and Gap Analysis SWPHC18 Actions 11 & 12
12	Consider CSB and Seabed 2030 initiatives be permanently added as an agenda item at future RHC meetings	RHC	IRCC13	Complete SWPHC18 Agenda item 14
13	Encourage Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels to collect bathymetric data for later uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities	RHC	IRCC13	Complete SWPHC18 Agenda Item 14.3 SWPHC18 Actions 24 & 25
14	Support the modification of the current “RHC Seabed 2030 Coordinator” to a joint “RHC CSB/Seabed 2030 Coordinator” and provide the identification of the Coordinators	RHC	IRCC13	Complete Mr Stuart Caie is the SWPHC CSB/Seabed 2030 Coordinator
16	Encourage MS to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB.	RHC	IRCC13	Complete SWPHC18 Agenda Item 14.2 SWPHC Actions 24 & 25
17	Encourage Member States to promote the vital need to map the entire seabed.	RHC	Continuous	Complete Chair raised this at SWPHC18 meeting
19	Encourage all Member States to make existing seabed mapping data available for use by Seabed 2030 in the GEBCO Grid.	RHC	Continuous	Complete SWPHC18 Agenda Item 14 SWPHC18 Action 23
20	RHC to participate at Regional level in those actions of the UN Ocean Decade matching with IHO’s new strategic targets (IRCC12-08C)	RHC	IRCC13	Complete SWPHC18 Agenda Item 12 SWPHC18 Action 16

4. Problems Encountered

- Travel restrictions imposed by governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has postponed a number of capacity building activities. This is likely to continue into 2022.
- Large geographical extent of SWPHC region
 - Cost of travel is high, opportunities for meetings limited.
- Capacity of the Capacity Builders.
 - More, potentially too much, is being asked of the RHC Office holders; which then impacts delivery of their own HO and RHC based activities
- Engagement of coastal states
 - Coastal states are presented with numerous CB and development activities and programmes which can impact their ability to be able to engage meaningfully.
- Awareness, coordination and collaboration between CB/development activities in the region
 - Numerous CB and development activities/programmes are being planned or delivered in the region at any one time.

5. Any Other Items of Note

Include any other relevant information not covered elsewhere.

- Mr Adam Greenland was appointed SWPHC Chair in 2019, replacing Cdre Fiona Freeman.
- Mr Matt Borbash was appointed SWPHC Capacity Building Coordinator in 2019, replacing Mr Adam Greenland.
- SWPHC18 meeting included a session on the IHO Revised Strategic Plan, Agenda Item 12.

	11:00-13:00	SWPHC18 Day 2		
12	60	IHO Revised Strategic Plan 2021-2026 Review of high-level gap analysis for each Goal submitted by Coastal States to deliver the strategic plan for the SWPHC. Goal 1 gap analysis summary (FR lead) Goal 2 gap analysis summary (US lead) Goal 3 gap analysis summary (UK lead)	SWPHC18-12A SWPHC18-12B SWPHC18-12C	All
		All gap analyses will be available on the website (AU, FJ, FR, NZ, PG, WS, SB, TO, UK, US, VU, CK, ID, KI, NR, NU, PW, MH, NC, TV)	SWPHC18-12D to 12W	
12.1	15	Actions identified to develop SWPHC 3–6year draft work plan & priorities to achieve the Goals & Targets of the IHO Strategic Plan (AU/CB Coordinator lead)	SWPHC18-12.1	All

Coastal States provided a high-level gap analysis for each goal of the Strategic Plan, answering the questions:

- Where are we now?
- What is the gap?
- What is the role of the SWPHC to meet the goals/targets of the strategic plan?
- How do we collectively meet the challenges and achieve the goals and targets of the strategic plan?

A summary of the gap analysis was provided by France (Goal 1), US (Goal 2) and UK (Goal 3). The SWPHC CB Coordinator and Australia summarised the actions identified to develop a SWPHC Work Plan and a Working Group is to be formally established to review the actions

(SWPHC18 Action 18). All documents are available on the SWPHC18 webpage (<https://iho.int/en/swphc18-2021>).

- In response to IRCC12 Action 12, SWPHC18 meeting included a session on GEBCO and Seabed 2030, Agenda Item 14. Actions include a request to SWPHC Members to complete the Seabed 2030 Community Survey; provide images to the Seabed 2030 Image Stream; provide bathymetric data to the Seabed 2030 Project using the Contributing data form; and for IHO Members and non-Members to review their policy on data release and consider submitting positive responses to CL 21/2020 or IRCC CL 01/2020 (CSB Data for Public Domain).
- The first meeting of the SWPHC MSDIWG was held 3 February 2021. Further details are available on the SWPHC MSDIWG webpage (<https://iho.int/en/msdiwg-0>).

6. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted in-person activities, work continues in the virtual space. This was evident with the successful delivery of the SWPHC18 VTC meeting, and in particular, the session on the IHO Revised Strategic Plan to assist in formulating a SWPHC 3-6year Work Plan.

Discussions on the Strategic Plan raised the following:

- further work is required on the Strategic Plan Indicators (SPIs).
- IRCC and Council to consider the need for region specific SPIs.
- there is a need for ongoing regional sharing and communications regarding the transition to S-1xx products and services.
- with respects to Goal 2, Council to consider the consolidation of a single data portal as a single point of truth, rather than each Member developing their own portal.
- the need to further discuss a maturity model for MSDI.

SWPHC, in collaboration with other international, regional and bi-lateral partners, is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals.

7. Justification and Impacts

There are no proposed actions or recommendations.

8. Action Required of IRCC

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note this report
- b. note any actions required
- c. provide feedback to the SWPHC on any of the topics discussed

Membership of SWPHC [Based on SWPHC18 participation]

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SWPHC Proposed Work Plan - 2021 to 2022

1. Any remarks relevant to the understanding of the plan to be inserted in here.

RHC Tasks

- A. Convene SWPHC19 in 2022
 B. Establish a WG to review actions and themes with respects to IHO Revised Strategic Plan and develop SWPHC 3-6 year draft work plan and priorities
 C. Establish a WG to review the SWPHC Disaster Response Framework and produce a 'redline' version
 D. Establish a WG for sharing experience on S-100 Implementation and identify CB requirements
 E. Host and conduct a NOAA ESTOFS workshop for the SWPHC to learn how to use the model forecast guidance

Task	Work Item	Priority	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Status	Contact Person	Affected Pubs/Standard	Remarks
1	WG to develop SWPHC 3-6year draft work plan and priorities in response to IHO Revised Strategic Plan	H				P	SWPHC Chair		WG comprising NZ, UK and CB Coordinator. To include sharing experience on implementing S-100
2	Chair to review the SWPHC Statutes	M			SWPHC 19	P	SWPHC Chair	SWPHC Statutes	
3	RHC support to Seabed 2030 and CSB	H				O	SWPHC CSB/Seabed 2030 Coordinator		
4	WG to review the SWPHC Disaster Response Framework	M			SWPHC 19	P	SWPHC Secretary	SWPHC Disaster Response Framework	WG comprising NZ, FJ and US
5	Workshop on NOAA ESTOFS	M	Deliver workshop for the SWPHC members to learn how to use the	Sept-21	Sept-21	P	SWPHC CB Coordinator		

			model forecast guidance						
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Abbreviations:

- 1) **Priority:** H-high, M-medium and L-low
- 2) **Status:** P-planned, O-ongoing and C-Completed