

19th Meeting of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

Summary of National Reports



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South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission



Summary report

- 11 National Reports received
- The report summarises
 - Achievements
 - Challenges



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Achievements - Survey

- The region has seen continued investment in technology and methodology such as multi-beam echo sounders, LiDAR and Satellite Derived Bathymetry as well as the use of autonomous platforms.
- Several surveys of recommended tracks, accesses and passages in New-Caledonia, mainly inside the lagoons.
- Successful partnerships and collaborations to collect data for habitat mapping.
- Use of risk assessment tools to plan and prioritise surveys.
- Completion of Category A Hydrographic Surveyor courses.



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Achievements - Charting

- Chart re-branding completed for the Cook Islands, PNG, Niue, Tokelau and Tonga. Further work planned for Samoa during 2022.
- New chart coverage (ENC and paper) produced in areas previously covered by charts on undetermined datums and using old fathoms data.
- In total 220 ENC cells & 113 paper charts published by HOs for the SWP region since SWPHC18.
- Hydrographic Offices are working to transition to the S-100 Universal Data Model – UKHO/SHOM S-100 ECDIS collaboration.
- Hydrographic Offices allowing access to S-57 datasets.
- Increased used of SDB on charts.



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Achievements - MSDI

- Active engagement with; UN-GGIM WG-MGI; Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Marine Domain WG; and SWPHC MSDIWG
- User experience improvements to data portals
- Working across government agencies to improve access to MGI datasets.
- Guidance on MGI metadata and data vocabularies; and how to undertake data stocktakes developed.
- Making data available in support of humanitarian & disaster response following natural disaster in Tonga.



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Achievements – GEBCO Seabed 2030

- Increase in national bathymetric data contributions to the IHO DCDB and to the Seabed 2030 South and West Pacific Region Data Centre (SaWPac).
- Increase in CSB projects and installation of CSB dataloggers.
- NZ Government signs agreement with Seabed 2030.
- Increased collaborations with SaWPac to collect SDB in the region for chart improvements and make available to IHO DCDB.



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Challenges

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact many activities in the region. Travel restrictions and border closures have meant that surveys and capacity building efforts have been postponed or cancelled. Also, availability of survey equipment impacted.
- Recruitment and retention of staff, limited skills and capacity to deliver programmes of work.
- Transition to S-100.
- Coordinating a diverse MSDI user community group to develop a joined-up work programme
- Understanding of our part in climate change commitments (COP26)



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Actions requested of SWPHC19

- **Note** this report
- **Take any actions** as considered appropriate



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