

20th Meeting of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

National Report by Solomon Islands



[SWPHC - Member State]



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Main achievements during the year

- Recruitment of a total of 7 personnel for the Safety of Navigation Section including four (4) for Hydrography and three (3) for AtoN
- Participation of One(1) Staff in the “SWPHC Hydrographic Leadership Program”.
- SPC On-line Capacity Building Training on MSI and H-Note for SIMA Staff.
- Support from SPC team to address the SoN Risk Assessments Recommendations for the international Ports of Honiara and Noro.
- Support from SPC in the execution of two (2) x Risk Assessments for the Ports of Auki in Malaita Province and Gizo in Western Province.
- Sponsorship from JICA for two (2) of our Staff to attend the JICA Training Program “Hydrography for Charting and Disaster Management” (Internationally Accredited Category B).
- Support from SPC/IALA for 1 x AtoN Officer to successfully completed the Level 1 AtoN Manager Training Program.
- Detail Hydrographic Survey of Tanameko Bay in Santa Isabel by SIMA alone and the Honiara International Port Survey under the JICA/SIMA Project.
- PCA – AHO’s ongoing support in Charting for Solomons and the Production of its National Tide Tables on yearly basis.
- AHO-SIMA revised MoU ready to be signed.



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Main challenges and/or obstructions

- Hydrography services are expensive for a small organisation like SIMA – partner support is essential.
- Sourcing of spares for equipment repairs or maintenance from overseas is challenging and expensive taking the budget to deliver hydrographic surveys.
- Need to constant capacity development programme as small team can suffer departure a single officer
 - need to plan well in advance capacity development for succession plan
 - But recruitment of employees well in advance is challenging.
- Despite challenges need solutions to delivery hydrographic survey as traffic is increasing (international and domestic) and grounding incidents are frequents.



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Any other matters of interest

- Support towards the MSDI development in small island States
- Find ways of long-term support from partners for:
 - capacity development through SWPHC and PCA
 - Purchase and maintenance of equipment
 - Delivery of coastal hydrographic surveys by SIMA
- Promote hydrography as one of the main ocean science and integrate it to the National Ocean Policy implementation
- Prepare for a digitalised future and understand what it means for hydrography in Solomon Islands and for SIMA development



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Any Questions?



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