

**21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(SWPHC21)  
28,29 February and 1 March 2024, Nadi, Fiji**

**NATIONAL REPORT FROM SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE SWPHC21**

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](#)
- C. IHO Strategic Plan: [link](#)
- D. IHO IRCC CL 01/2021 IHO Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 – Procedure for measuring the Strategic Performance Indicator (SPI) allocated to IRCC: [link](#)

**Executive summary**

1. Hydrographic Office / Service:

- a) Name of the institution: Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA)
- b) Description: The S.I. Maritime Authority (SIMA) was established in 2018 after the enactment of the SIMA Act 2018 and came into effect on 01 January 2021. SIMA as an autonomous authority is the National Maritime Regulator and is responsible for Regulating Shipping issues, Aids to Navigation, Marine Rescue Coordination, Marine Pollution and Hydrographic Services.  
The hydrographic responsibilities are accommodated in the Safety of Navigation Section which comes under the Department of Environment Protection and Safety with the Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) as PCA.
- c) Submitted by: John DALOMAE, email: [john.dalomae@sima.gov.sb](mailto:john.dalomae@sima.gov.sb)

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: Two MBES surveys were conducted in 2023 – Completion of the Port of Honiara and its Approaches and the Port of Noro, Diamond Narrows to Munda Bar and the Blakett Strait.  
These surveys were jointly conducted by SIMA's Hydrographic Team with the Aero Asahi Corporation (AAC) of Japan's personnel under a JICA 4 year (2022-25) funded project called "THE PROJECT FOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT OF ELECTRONIC NAUTICAL CHART FOR HONIARA AND NORO PORTS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS".
- b) New technologies and /or equipment: In the above project, the MBES systems was used for bathymetry data acquisition.  
Some of the equipment purchased under the project and used in the survey includes - Sea positioning and navigation systems, Depth sounding system, Seabed imaging-SSS and Tide Level Recorder.
- c) New ships: Under the project, a 7.5 aluminium stabi craft was refurbished and fitted with 2x 115hp Tohatsu engines.

- d) Crowdsourced and satellite-derived bathymetry - national policy: Nil
- e) Challenges and achievements
  - Challenges: Weather, cost of mobilising equipment and personnel
  - Achievements: Completion of the MBES Surveys with hydrographic data sent to AHO for checks, Data processing and reports in progress.
  - Capacity Training involving Transfer of knowledge and skills to SIMA team from the AAC experts.

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 & updates:

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

- a) ENC coverage, gaps and overlaps: AHO (PCA) to investigate these issues
- b) ENC distribution method: Arrangement through AHO Network
- c) RNCs
- d) INT charts
- e) National paper charts: Published by AHO (PCA), update of Ghizo Hr from 2020 RAN Survey
- f) Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft
- g) Challenges and achievements
  - Challenges: Paper charts not corrected due to non-availability of appropriate correcting instruments, eg. Pens and inks, no proper chart storage drawers,
  - Achievements: Availability of charts to mariners

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 & updates:

*[Describe any significant developments since the last SWPHC meeting in nautical publications related to the items below]*

- a) New Publications: SI National Tide Table for 2023 compiled and published by AHO (PCA).
- b) Updated publications:
- c) Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital:
  - Paper Charts – Delivered by air in the first month of each year or upon request to AHO by SIMA.
- d) Challenges and achievements:
  - Challenges:
  - Achievements: Availability of charts to mariners

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: Reports received from the mariners/public are examined and compiled as NMs and H-Notes and send to MSI Coordinator for checks and

dissemination to AHO Data Centre and/or NavArea X Coordinator. Urgent NMs are broadcasted by the MRCC by radio to domestic vessels daily.

- b) **Statistics on work of the National Coordinator:** In 2023, 19 NMs were received and sent to AHO's Data Centre for the NMs Weekly Editions including 1 sent to NavArea X Coordinator.
- c) **New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan:** Consultation work is continuing with appointment of a contractor – TEPNG of PNG and contract signed in November 2023. Tasks involving design presentation already started in January and completion expected in July 2024.
- d) **Challenges and achievements:**  
**Challenges:** The need for mariners to understand the importance of reporting hazards, slowness in reporting AtoN defects or hazards to the authority,  
**Achievements:** The MRCC is continuing its activities in conducting safety workshops for small craft owners and drivers resulting in decrease in the number of incidents

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:** There is a demand for Capacity Building in our organisation to develop and have experienced hydrographers and cartographers.

- b) **Training received, needed, offered**

**Training received:** Part of the JICA Project mentioned in (2) above includes practical and theoretical training - 4 SIMA officers participated in the surveys to gain knowledge and skills,

- 3 SIMA Officers attended the CAT B – Hydrography for Charting and Disaster Management Training in Japan in 2023.
- 1 Officer attended the Hydrographic Leadership Program (SWPHC) and MSI Trainings

**Training needed:** ENC compilation using compilation software as Caris and 7Cs,

: Training in surveying software for bathy data gathering and processing as Hypack

: OTJ Training attachments in hydrographic surveying and cartography

: MBES specialised training

: Understanding processes and standards for submission of hydrographic data with PCA

- c) **Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with a hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study)**

**Status of national:** As a small Island State with limited resources, the SIMA's Hydrographic Office needs national and international support to develop its activities to achieve its aspirations, capacity trainings, etc

Status of bilateral: An ongoing JICA funded project called “THE PROJECT FOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT OF ELECTRONIC NAUTICAL CHART FOR HONIARA AND NORO PORTS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS” commenced in 2022 and will complete in 2025.

Project involves conducting MBES Surveys in 2 International Ports of Honiara and Noro and their approaches in 2022 and 2023, practical participation trainings in surveying stages, procurement of surveying equipment,

AHO also plays an important role in this project in examining data as PCA

d) Description of proposals and requests to the IHO CBSC

Consideration of having a technical expert well versed in using CeeHydro systems Equipment and the Hydrographic Surveying software HYPACK MAX. Providing such capacity Building Training activity in-country could be a better option for consideration.

8. Oceanographic activities

[Describe any significant developments in oceanographic activity since the last SWPHC meeting related to the items below]

- a) General: None
- b) GEBCO & Seabed 2030: None
- c) Crowdsourced Bathymetry Activities: None
- d) Tide gauge network:
- e) New equipment: Nil
- 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 [UN Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management](#) – including any national data policy and impact on marine data.  
Ref: IHO Strategic Plan, Goal 2, Target 2.3, SPI 2.3.1 Number of HOs reporting success applying the principles in their national contexts.
- e) MSDI national portal
- f) Best practices and lessons learned
- g) Challenges and achievements

10. Innovation

- a) Use of new technologies: In the JICA project mentioned above, SIMA’s Hydrographic Team had the opportunity to work alongside personnels from the Aero Asahi Corporation (AAC) in conducting 2 surveys using the MBES system.
- b) Risk assessment: Two IALA SIRA Workshops were held for the Buala and Lata Ports.
- 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: SIMA’s Deputy Director attended IHO’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Assembly in Monaco 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- b) Meteorological data collection: The collection of met data is done daily and disseminated by the Solomon Islands Meteorological Services (SIMS) of the Ministry of Environment, Climate

Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology. SIMA's MRCC disseminates the report to the public and domestic vessels.

- c) Geospatial studies
- d) Preparation for responses to disasters: These functions remain with the ministry above (11(b)).
- e) Environmental protection: SIMA now has integrated environment protection in its organisational structure and recruited staff with skills directing it towards the marine environment. This office comes under the Department of Environment Protection and Safety (EPS).
- 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: The AtoN Section has an annual program for inspecting and maintaining all lit and unlit AtoN facilities in the country. Currently, 9 lighthouses are monitored remotely under the telecommunication coverage systems and plans are in place to have another 9 installed. Two IALA SIRA Workshops were held for the Buala and Lata Ports in 2023.
- h) Magnetic and gravity surveys: None
- i) International engagements: .....
- j) Others

## 12. Conclusions

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

*a) Areas of significant achievement:*

- Since 2021, the Hydrographic section has developed to a stage that it is equipped with the appropriate resources to provide some of the basic hydrographic services to its Stakeholders and other relevant authorities.
- Participated in the Governmental Ocean 12 Meetings to promote Hydrography,
- The PCA – AHO continues to provide support in publishing and providing paper charts and SI National Tide Tables to SIMA as well as distributing Solomon Islands ENC's through its various charting Agencies.

*b) Areas of particular concern*

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*c) Any other matters of interest to the SWPHC]*

SWPHC to support and call partners to support small islands developing states in conducting and expanding their hydrographic activities 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: <a href="#">Principal Officer, Safety of Navigation</a> Name: <a href="#">John Dalomae</a> Postal address: <a href="#">Solomon Islands Maritime Authority</a> <a href="#">P.O. Box 1932, Commonwealth Street,</a> <a href="#">Honiara, Solomon Islands</a> Tel: (Work) <a href="#">(677) 21535 Ext 223</a> (Mobile) <a href="#">(677) 747 9869</a> Fax: Email: <a href="mailto:john.dalomae@sim.gov.sb">john.dalomae@sim.gov.sb</a>
-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	<a href="#">Director SIMA</a> <a href="#">Mr. Thierry Nervale</a> Phone: Work: <a href="#">(677) 28157</a> Mobile: <a href="#">(677) 756 9473</a> Email: <a href="mailto:thierry.nervale@sim.gov.sb">thierry.nervale@sim.gov.sb</a>  <a href="#">Deputy Director SIMA</a> <a href="#">Mrs. Agnes Gaote'e</a> Phone: Work: <a href="#">(677) 21535 Ext 223</a> Mobile: <a href="#">(677) 749 5976</a> Email: <a href="mailto:agnes.gaotee@sim.gov.sb">agnes.gaotee@sim.gov.sb</a>  <a href="#">Senior Officer – Safety of Navigation</a> <a href="#">Mr. Daniel Malesi Mani</a> Phone: Work: <a href="#">(677) 21535 Ext 223</a> Mobile: <a href="#">(677) 746 2723</a> Email: <a href="mailto:malesi.mani@sim.gov.sb">malesi.mani@sim.gov.sb</a>
-Web site -site web -sitio web	<a href="http://www.sima.gov.sb">www.sima.gov.sb</a>

<b>Country information / Informations sur le pays/ Información sobre el país</b>	
-Declared National Tonnage -Tonnage national déclaré -Tonelaje Nacional Declarado	Tonnage: 70, 886 Date: 2023
-National day -Fête nationale -Fiesta nacional	07 <sup>th</sup> July Independence Day
-Date of establishment and Relevant National Legislation -Date de mise en place et législation nationale pertinente -Fecha de constitución y legislación nacional pertinente	01 <sup>st</sup> January 2021 SIMA Act 2018
-Date first joined IHO -Date d'adhésion à l'OHI -Fecha de adhesión a la OHI	15th July 2019
-Date ratification Convention -Date de ratification de la Convention -Fecha de ratificación de la Convención	15th February 2020
-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	SIMA is an autonomous authority with its own Board of Management under the Ministry of Infrastructure Development. (MID)
-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>• Prepare Hydroscheme,</li> <li>• Conduct Port and Harbour Hydrographic surveys,</li> <li>• Issue of Hydrographic Data and MSI, Issue of local NMs to AHO for weekly NMs publications, NavArea X Coordinator</li> </ul>
-Annual operating budget -Budget annuel -presupuesto annual	USD\$151,000-00 (amount not fixed and depends on priority sites identified)



-Total number of staff employed -Effectifs totaux -Número total de personal empleado	4			
-Number of INT charts published -Nombres de cartes INT publiées -Número de cartas INT publicadas	Arrangements with AHO			
-Total number of paper charts published-Nombre total de cartes papier publiées-Número total de cartas de papel publicadas	Arrangements with AHO – 15 Paper Charts (SLB)			
-Number of ENC cells published -Nombres de cellules ENC publiées -Número de células ENC publicadas	Arrangements with AHO – 41 ENC cells			
-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	
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Input to the IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*)

Country: Solomon Islands

(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:	SB-SLB – 090			
Country SubCode:				
INT Region:				
Country/Depend:				
Last updated:				
Provided by:				
<b>Chart coverage</b>	<b>Passage (%)</b>	<b>Coastal (%)</b>	<b>Port (%)</b>	Comments on Surveys:
INT				
RNC				
ENC				
<b>Status of Paper Charts</b>				
Paper charts with depths in meters (%)				
Paper charts referenced to a satellite datum (%)				
<b>Status of surveys</b>	<b>Adequate (%)</b>	<b>Resurvey (%)</b>	<b>No survey (%)</b>	
0-200m				
> 200m				

MSI	Y/N	Comments on MSI:
Local warning	Y	<i>Issued by SI Meteorology Services or National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) locally and is broadcasted by MRCC</i>
Coastal warning	Y	<i>As above</i>
Nav warning	Y	<i>As above</i>
Port warning	Y	<i>Issued by SIPA and broadcasting by MRCC</i>
GMDSS	Y/N	Comments on GMDSS:
Master Plan	Y	<i>SIMA – MRCC has a plan in place and is currently proceeding with procurement and installation of equipment and software. Expected completion August 2024</i>
Area A1	Y	<i>MRCC</i>
Area A2	Y	<i>MRCC</i>
Area A3	Y	<i>MRCC</i>
NAVTEX	N	

SafetyNet	N	
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## National MSI Self-Assessment

Country: Solomon IslandsOrganization: Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA)

(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°S 163°E, 12°S 165°E, 12°30'S 174°10'E, 14°S 161°15'E, 14°S 155°E, 12°S 155°E, 10°S 170°E, 12°30'S 171°10'E, 04°50'S 160°E, 10°S 170°E, 04°50'S 160°E, 04°50S 160°E, 07°25S 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 Coordination Centre	+677 21609 +677 21535 Ext 217		<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?]*  
 Consultation work is continuing with appointment of a contractor –contract signed in November 2023. Tasks involving design presentation already started in January, procurement, installation of equipment and software completion expected in August 2024.

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

Equipment Type for Ports and Local Area	Software Version	Date of Up-date

*[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?]*

Consultation work is continuing with appointment of a contractor –contract signed in November 2023. Tasks involving design presentation already started in January, procurement and installation of equipment and software completion expected in August 2024.

Problems:

## 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]*

## 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]*

- Propose CB Training for National Coordinators in compilation and processes for submission of MSI to NavArea X Coordinator,
- MSI Training

## 8. Other Activities

*[Participation in other IHO or IMO Working Groups, Regional Hydrographic Commissions, regional conferences related to MSI over past year]*

*Nominated officer regularly participated in 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)

## 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.]*