

21st Meeting of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission

National Report by
SOLOMON ISLANDS



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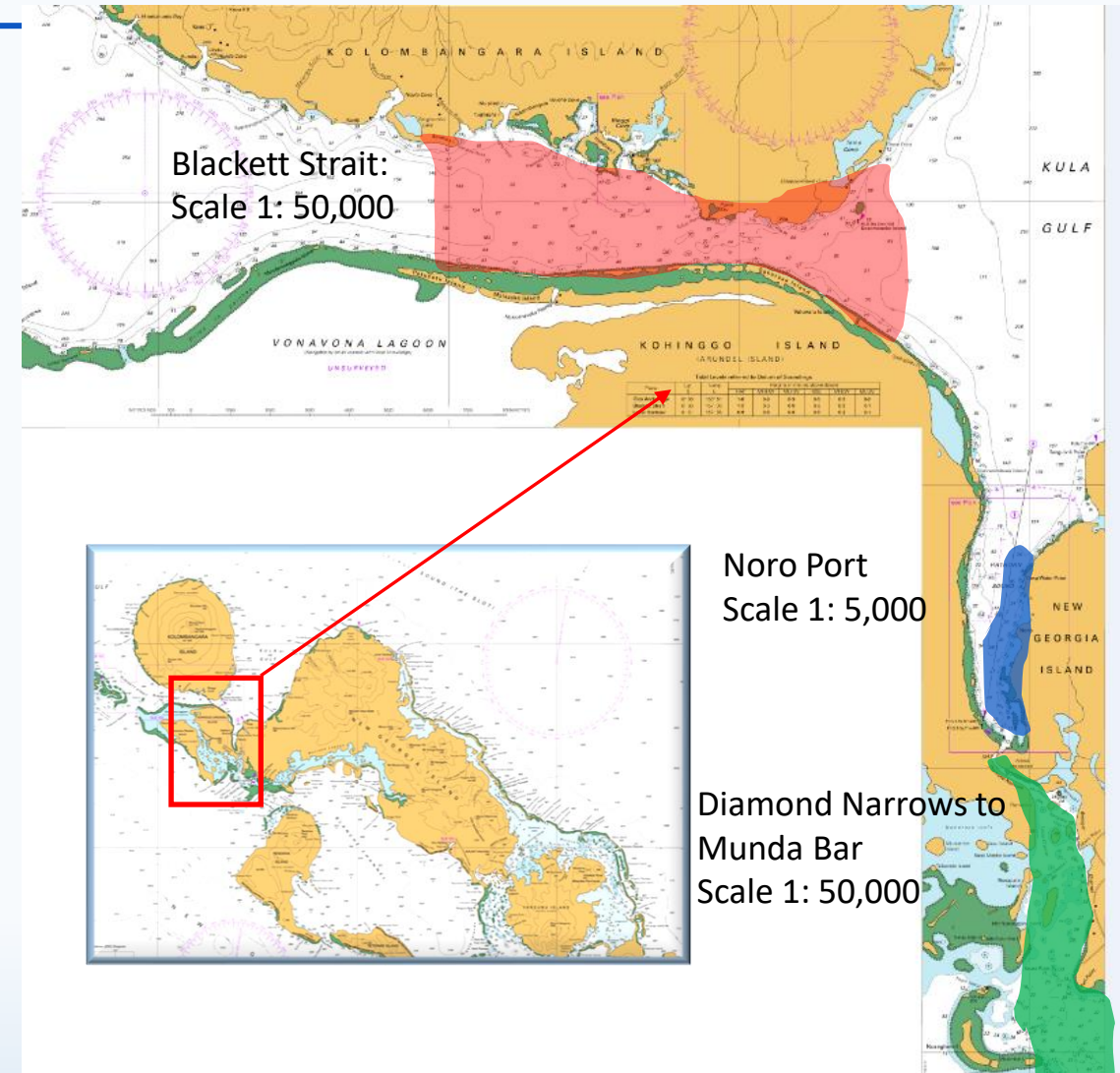
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Main achievements during the year

- Hydrographic Surveys
 1. Completion of MBES Survey for Port of Honiara and Approaches, and Port of Noro, Diamond Narrows to Munda Bar Blackett Strait (various scales). Jointly conducted by SIMA's Hydro Team with personnel of Aero Asahi Corporation under a JICA funded 4-year project,
 2. Conducted a mini survey to evaluate sea depths and demarcate race limits of games venue for canoeing in the 2023 Pacific Games,



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Main achievements during the year

- Trainings

1. 1 Officer completed the “SWPHC Hydrographic Leadership Program”,
2. 3 Officers completed the JICA Training Program “Hydrography for Charting and Disaster Management” (Internationally Accredited Category B) in Japan,
3. 2 Officers attended the Training for Development Support of Electronic Navigational Charts for Honiara and Noro Ports in Japan,

- IALA SIRA Project

1. 2 Assessment Projects completed for Ports of Buala (Santa Isabel) and Lata (Santa Cruz) Islands,

- PCA’s Support

1. Publication and provision of paper charts to SIMA, distribution of ENCs thru various distribution network,
2. Publication of annual SI National Tide Tables
3. Participation in Tripartite Meetings and 1st TWG in the JICA Project



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Main challenges and/or obstructions

- Hydrographic responsibilities are expensive for small Coastal States and organisations to cover their territorial waters to enhance safety of navigation, thus, partner support is essential,
- SIMA's challenges:
 - High cost of Ship's hire in transporting survey team and equipment to and from priority areas when conducting surveys,
 - Cost of funding surveys, maintenance of equipment etc,



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Any other matters of interest

- SIMA's medium- and long-term aspirations on the idea of Digitalisation in Navigation in Solomon Islands –
 1. Procurement of MBES Systems,
 2. Produce its own Paper and ENCs in collaboration with the PCA – AHO,
 3. Work on means where charts are available and accessible by all on digital devices to enhance safety of navigation (small boat users), assist in customary sea boundary disputes and manage marine resource harvesting plans, etc



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