

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

NATIONAL REPORT FROM PALAU 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: **Bureau of Marine Transportation**
 - b) Description: Bureau of Marine Transportation is the primary national government agency responsible for maritime safety, port and ship security, mass rescue operations, aids to navigation and hydrography.
 - c) Submitted by: William Moses [maritime.palau@gmail.com]
2. Surveys:

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

 - a) Coverage of new surveys: No change
 - b) New technologies and /or equipment: No change
 - c) New ships: No change
 - d) Crowdsourced and satellite-derived bathymetry - national policy: No change
 - e) Challenges and achievements: Due to personnel shortage, we have experienced challenges in collecting data from the data loggers we have installed.
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
 - i. In partnership with Palau, the U.S., as Prime Charting Authority, maintains 10 ENCs in the area.
 - ii. The U.S. has no known significant gaps or overlaps in the Palau region. However, as reschedmed ENC grids are implemented by both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), additional work with ENC coverage may be needed. This will generally be conducted bi-laterally and in concert with the SWPHC as appropriate.

ENC Usage Band	Number of U.S. ENCs
2	1
3	1
4	7
5	1

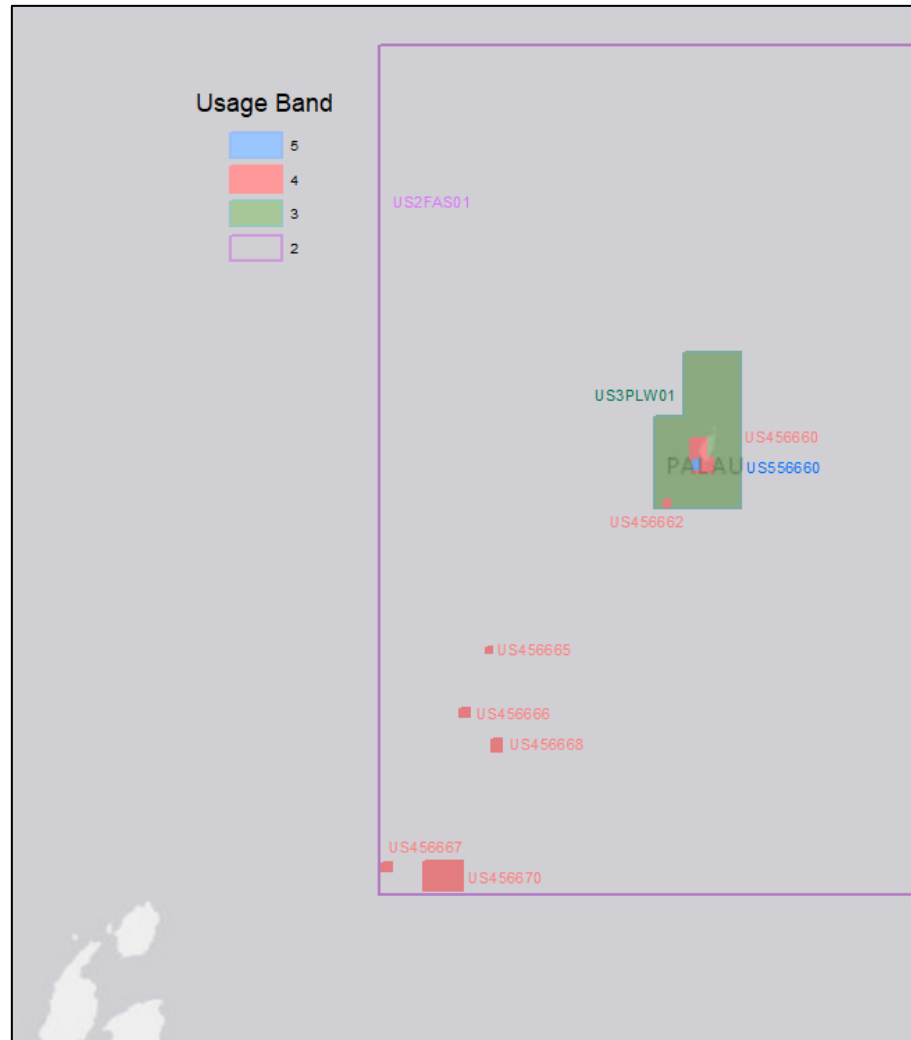


Figure 3.1 Current U.S. ENC Coverage over Palau

b) ENC distribution method

- i. U.S. S-57 ENC produced over Prime Charting Authority (PCA) waters including Palau are available either directly from the NOAA website, or via the RENC system and additional value-added distributors.
 - i. NOAA website at: <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/>
 - ii. NOAA's Interactive Catalog at: <https://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml>
 - iii. International Center for ENC's Distributors at: <http://www.ic-enc.org/Distribution.html>.
 - iv. PRIMAR Distributors at: <https://www.primar.org/home>

c) RNCs

- i. By January 2025, NOAA will end production and maintenance of NOAA

traditional paper charts and RNC products. Six months before a chart is canceled, NOAA updates the chart with a note in the lower left corner stating the chart's status as a "last edition" and the date on which it will be canceled. NOAA also updates its Lists of Latest Chart Editions to indicate that the last edition of the chart has been published. When the chart is canceled, the chart number will be moved from its position in the list of active charts to a cumulative list of canceled charts at the bottom of the page.

The List of Latest Chart Editions can be found at:

<https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/charts/list-of-latest-editions.html>

Other products and services based on the paper chart that will be or have been canceled by January 2025 include: 1) Full-size nautical chart PDF images, 2) BookletCharts™, 3) RNC Tile Service, 4) Seamless Raster Navigational Chart Services, and 5) RNC Viewer.

- ii. With the continued transition to electronic navigation, NGA is actively canceling paper charts (i.e. RNC / SNC). The completion date for the full sunset or cancellation of RNC / SNC is by the end of 2025. NGA Public sale / PCA requirements for paper charts after that date will be satisfied via the Certified Printed Electronic Navigational Charts (CPENC) process once the RNC / SNC is canceled.

d) INT charts

- i. The U.S produces INT charts within the SWPHC region and builds its chart schema and Digital Nautical Chart (DNC) library limits from these INT schema, if practical.

Information for Certified Chart Agents for NGA public sale charts can be found at the following link: <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/print-agents.html#nga-paper-charts>

e) Other charts

- i. The U.S. produces many DNCs in SWPHC waters, including Palau. The DNC, produced by NGA, is an unclassified, vector-based, digital database containing maritime significant features essential for safe marine navigation. The DNC uses the Vector Product Format, which is a NATO standard for digital military map and chart data. NGA will cease production of DNC in March 2026 and maintain ENC going forward. Additional details are located at:

<https://msi.nga.mil>.

- ii. Certified Printed Electronic Navigational Charts (CPENCs) are automatically rendered and printed versions of NGA's ENCs that are certified safe for maritime navigation and function like a traditional Standard Nautical Chart (SNC) in areas where U.S. hardcopy requirements still exist. Unlike traditional SNCs, CPENCs are maintained via a new corrections process utilizing ENC change detection results, which symbolically highlight and communicate fewer critical changes on an updated, digital "CORRECTED" version of the CPENC made available between the "IN PRINT" versions containing a significant number of changes that are distributed for normal printing. This new corrections process saves a substantial amount of internal resources compared to the traditional textual Notice to Mariners process.

4. New publications & updates:
[Describe any significant developments since the last SWPHC meeting in nautical publications related to the items below]
 - a) New Publications: No change
 - b) Updated publications: No change
 - c) Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital: No change
 - d) Challenges and achievements: we are working on updates to our sailing directions.

5. MSI
[Describe the status of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) related to the items below]
 - a) Existing infrastructure for MSI dissemination: No change
 - b) Statistics on work of the National Coordinator: No MSI was issued through NAVAREA Coordinator in the previous year.
 - c) New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan: No change
 - d) Challenges and achievements: We will be running a workshop to train our staff how to prepare MSI for promulgation.

6. C-55: No change

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: We are looking for opportunities to train a Cat A hydrographer and CAT B cartographer.
 - b) Training received, needed, offered: Two staff attended SWPHC MSI Training in July 2023.
 - c) Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with a hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study) : No change
 - d) Description of proposals and requests to the IHO CBSC

8. Oceanographic activities
[Describe any significant developments in oceanographic activity since the last SWPHC meeting related to the items below]
 - a) General: our meteorological service is planning on installing additional EWS.
 - b) GEBCO & Seabed 2030: No change
 - c) Crowdsourced Bathymetry Activities: We sent in our CSB permission form on August 2023. Very recently, we have been able to collect the first set of data from all the data loggers we previously installed.
 - d) Tide gauge network: No change
 - e) New equipment: No change
 - f) Challenges and achievements: Our staff were able to collect hydrographic data alongside US Navy personnel.

9. Spatial data infrastructures
 - a) Status of MSDI: No change
 - b) Relationship with the NSDI: No change
 - c) Involvement in regional or global MSDI efforts: No change

- 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: None
- f) Best practices and lessons learned: None
- g) Challenges and achievements

10. Innovation

- a) Use of new technologies: No change
- b) Risk assessment: No change
- c) Policy matters: No change

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: None
- b) Meteorological data collection
- c) Geospatial studies: None
- d) Preparation for responses to disasters: None
- e) Environmental protection: None
- f) Engagement with the Maritime Administration
- g) Aids to Navigation matters: One of our floating buoy was put out of service due to severe weather and have yet to be installed. An MSI was issued. We are upgrading 81 daybeacon structure under grant funding. We have established a leading light in front of our West Passage entrance. We have yet to notify the PCA nor issue an MSI.
- h) Magnetic and gravity surveys: None
- i) International engagements: None
- j) Others: None

12. Conclusions

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

- a) *Areas of significant achievement*
- b) *Areas of particular concern*
- c) *Any other matters of interest to the SWPHC]* We are planning on seeking grant funding to establish a hydrography office in order to produce large scale charts for our waterways used by domestic vessels and visiting yachts.

Input to the IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*)

Country: PALAU
 Organization: Bureau of Marine Transportation

(Please provide the information in English. Consider using the IHO Online Form System, see reference B)

Contact information/ Informations de contact / Información de contacto	
-National Hydrographer or equivalent -Directeur du service hydrographique ou équivalent -Director del Servicio Hidrográfico o equivalente	Post: Name: Postal address: Tel: Fax: Email:
-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: Director Name: William H. Moses Postal address: P.O. Box 1471 Koror, Palau 96940 Tel: 680 488 4224 Fax: 680 488 3207 Email: maritime.palau@gmail.com
-Other point(s) of contact -Autre(s) point(s) de contact -Otros punto(s) de contacto	
-Web site -site web -sitio web	
Country information / Informations sur le pays/ Información sobre el país	
-Declared National Tonnage -Tonnage national déclaré -Tonelaje Nacional Declarado	Tonnage: 4,418,301GT Date:03.31.2023
-National day -Fête nationale -Fiesta nacional	October 1
-Date of establishment and Relevant National Legislation -Date de mise en place et législation nationale pertinente -Fecha de constitución y	Oct 2021 Creation of National Hydrographic Coordinating Committee Feb 2019 Designating Bureau of Marine Transportation to be in charge of hydrography Dec 2019 Maritime and Admiralty Act

legislación nacional pertinente	
-Date first joined IHO -Date d'adhésion à l'OHI -Fecha de adhesión a la OHI	
-Date ratification Convention -Date de ratification de la Convention -Fecha de ratificación de la Convención	
-Remarks on membership -Remarques sur l'adhésion -Comentarios sobre la adhesión	
Agency information/ Information sur l'agence/ Información sobre la agencia	
-Top level parent organisation -Organisme mère -Organización asociada de nivel superior	Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Industries
-Principal functions of the organisation or the department -Attribution principales de l'organisme ou du département -Principales funciones de la Organización o departamento	BOMT oversees maritime safety, aids to navigation and hydrography, port and ship security, ship registration and Mass Rescue Operations.
-Annual operating budget -Budget annuel -presupuesto anual	\$270,828
-Total number of staff employed -Effectifs totaux -Número total de personal empleado	9
-Number of INT charts published -Nombres de cartes INT publiées -Número de cartas INT publicadas	10
-Total number of paper charts published-Nombre total de cartes papier	10

publiées-Número total de cartas de papel publicadas				
-Number of ENC cells published -Nombres de cellules ENC publiées -Número de células ENC publicadas	10			
-Number of Other charts -Nombre d'Autres cartes -Número de Otras cartas	0			
-Type of publications produced -Type d'ouvrages produits -Tipo de publicaciones producidas	0			
-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				

Input to the IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*)

Country: _____

(Please provide the information in English. Consider using the IHO Online Form System, see reference B)

C-55 Summary for:				Comments on Charts:
Country:	PALAU			
Country Iso Code:				
Country SubCode:				
INT Region:				
Country/Depend:				
Last updated:				
Provided by:				
Chart coverage	Passage (%)	Coastal (%)	Port (%)	Comments on Surveys:
INT	100%	100%	100%	
RNC	0%	0%	0%	
ENC	100%	100%	100%	
Status of Paper Charts				
Paper charts with depths in meters (%)				
Paper charts referenced to a satellite datum (%)				
Status of surveys	Adequate (%)	Resurvey (%)	No survey (%)	
0-200m	50%		50%	
> 200m	0%	0%	0%	

MSI	Y/N	Comments on MSI:
Local warning	Y	
Coastal warning	Y	
Nav warning	N	
Port warning	N	
GMDSS	Y/N	Comments on GMDSS:
Master Plan	N	
Area A1	N	
Area A2	N	
Area A3	N	
NAVTEX	N	
SafetyNet	N	

National MSI Self-Assessment

Country: PALAU Organization: Bureau of Marine Transportation

(Please provide the information in English)

1. Maritime area

[Describe maritime area including details of the geographic boundaries]

2. Operational Points of Contact for the National Coordinator

INSTITUTION	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE	EMAIL
Bureau of Marine Transportation	680 488 4224	680 488 3207	maritime.palau@gmail.com

3. GMDSS Master Plan

*[Report on the status of the GMDSS Master Plan: Is it up to date? When was the last update?]**[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

4. NAVTEX Coverage:

No change

5. Operational Issues:

No change

6. Contingency Planning

No change

7. Capacity Building

Request training of Cat A and Cat B personnel

8. Other Activities

Two of our staff attended SWPHC MSI training in July 2023.

9. National Maritime Website

None

10. Recommendations

None

11. Summary