

**South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)
Report to IRCC5**



1. **Chair:** RAdm Tom Karsten (National Hydrographer, United Kingdom) – Dec 2012 onwards
RAdm Nick Lambert (National Hydrographer, United Kingdom) – June 2012-Dec 2012

Vice Chair: Mr Nicholas Pion (Hydrographer, Papua New Guinea) June 2012 onwards

2. Membership

Full Members: Australia, France, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States of America

Associate Members: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

Observers: Nauru, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, South Pacific Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Maritime Association (PacMA)

IHB Representative: Captain Robert Ward (Director)

3. Meetings

- 3.1 The 11th SWPHC Meeting held in Brisbane, Australia on 15-16 February 2012 was attended by thirty nine participants - making it the best attended meeting to date. There were delegates from six Full Members (Australia, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, United Kingdom and United States of America), observers from the IHB, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, SOPAC, as well as industry representatives.

- 3.2 The 12th SWPHC meeting will be held in Vanuatu, 11-15 November 2013.

4. Status of IRCC Actions (relevant to SWPHC)

IRCC04/01 Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.

In hand - MS will be encouraged to approve pending applications at the forthcoming 12th SWPHC Meeting.

IRCC04/06 Comply with the CBSC Procedures and ensure the timely provision of the appropriate documentation that justify expenses associated to CB projects, and to demand refund, if needed, not later than one month after the event has finalized.

The SW Pacific RHC notes the action and will comply with the CBSC Procedures through the management of the SW Pacific CB Projects by the SWP CB Coordinator.

IRCC04/07 Invite GEBCO Guiding Committee/Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs to attend corresponding RHCs meetings, aiming at strengthening collaboration with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level.

In hand – GEBCO Guiding Committee/Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs have been invited and will attend the forthcoming 12th SWPHC Meeting.

IRCC04/08 RHCs to provide comments on draft C-55 framework, developed by Australia, to IRCC Chair.

Complete

IRCC04/09 Consider amending Statutes of the RHCs in order to allow non-IHO MSs to host RHCs conferences, when and if applicable.

Complete. The existing SWPHC Statutes have provision for an Associate Member or Observer State within the Commission (i.e. a non-IHO MS) to host a SWPHC conference (refer Clause 4(f) of the Statutes).

IRCC04/12 Complete statistical information identifying achievements prepared at the IRCC Meeting.

Complete

IRCC04/13 Provide written feedback on Annexes B and C of WEND Principles (CONF.18/WP3) according to 18th IHC Decision 13.

Complete

IRCC04/17 Circulate the paper "A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability" to RHCs to be used as a raising awareness tool.

In hand – The paper will be circulated for discussion at the forthcoming 12th SWPHC Meeting.

IRCC04/18 Provide the IRCC Chair with their report on the progress of the relevant tasks of the IHO 2012 Work Programme.

Complete.

IRCC04/20 Review the relevant tasks of the IHO 2013 Work Programme in their respective work plans and report on suggested updates, if any, to the IRCC Chair.

Complete

IRCC04/27 Inform MSs of the IMO's transition to and the implication of the mandatory IMO Member States Audit Scheme from 2015.

In hand – MSs will be informed of the IMO's transition to and the implication of the mandatory IMO Member States Audit Scheme at the forthcoming 12th SWPHC Meeting.

IRCC04/30 Consider the participation of the stakeholders at the RHC conferences.

In hand – Consideration will be given to the participation of stakeholders at the forthcoming 12th SWPHC Meeting.

IRCC04/32 Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2012 and target values for 31 December 2017.

Complete – Estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs requested by e-mail from SWPHC MS; nil return.

5. Intercessional activities:

5.1 South West Pacific Regional Hydrography Programme

Background:

Maritime safety has been a major concern in the South West Pacific region for many years. In December 2011, Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together in improving navigational and maritime safety in the South West Pacific. This has been compounded by the expansion of the cruise ship industry in the South West Pacific in recent years and is likely to

increase further. The overarching goal of the activity is to achieve accurate and adequate charting coverage in the South West Pacific.

Key Deliverables:

- A complete set of Electronic Navigational Charts published for Tonga, Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau
- An enduring Hydrography Risk Assessment Framework established for South West Pacific Maritime Infrastructure that comprises:
 - A Regional Risk Assessment for South West Pacific maritime infrastructure including traffic analysis, economic assessment and GIS
 - A Regional Risk Assessment Implementation Plan and funding mechanism agreed by donors /key stakeholders

Tasks Completed:

- Prototype Hydrography Risk Assessment methodology developed
- Vanuatu pilot study (Proof of concept) comprising of:
 - In country data gathering visit Sep 2012
 - S-AIS and domestic traffic analysis
 - Maritime economic analysis
 - GIS Risk Assessment
 - Vanuatu Hydrography Risk Assessment Results published Feb 2013
- Final Hydrography Risk Assessment methodology published Feb 2013

Next Steps:

- UKHO to review the Vanuatu risk assessment results against the current Vanuatu chart schema.
- LINZ to implement the component parts of the Hydrography Risk Assessment methodology to carry out further Hydrography Risk Assessments for Pacific Island Countries in the South West Pacific region; this is dependant upon sufficient funding. Expressions of interest have been received for risk assessments of the Cook Islands, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Kiribati.

5.2 Technical Assessment & Advice Visits

Nothing to report

5.3 Capacity Building

The capacity building project 'PNG National Hydrographic Capability Development' (Project 3.5.13 of the 2012 CBWP) was carried out in November-December 2012. Two cartographic staff from the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Hydrographic Office were attached to the Australian Hydrographic Office for a period of 2 weeks each and underwent training in chart production systems and processes.

4. General aspects:

The Commission has not met in the intervening period between IRCC4 & 5 meetings and the intercessional activities have been highlighted in this report. The Logistic and Registration Information for the next SWPHC meeting have been circulated to Member States.

5. Conclusions:

SWPHC is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals.

6. Proposals:

IRCC are invited to note this report.