

**This email is an example of SWPHC coordination in response to Tropical Cyclone Winston, which struck Fiji in February 2016. The addressees shown below are the broad groupings of actual addressees. This email was the 5<sup>th</sup> coordination email and shows the nature of the information flow and the activities underway at the time.**

**To:** SWPHC Members, Observers and regional countries; IHO; UKHO (specifically as PCA); SPC (Regional Organisation); Industry partners; Fiji Maritime Authorities; NAVAREA Coordinator; IALA

### **SWPHC Disaster Response - Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston - Fiji - 5/2016**

Dear SWPHC members,

Media reporting continues to focus on government agencies, NGOs and other aid/support agencies and their activities for providing essential services such as medical, water, food and shelter.

Philip – thank you for your message and your information. I am glad you and Gerard are okay. Your point regarding MSAF as the interim hydrographic point of contact is acknowledged. (see Philip's information below).

The following provides an update on support on offer, areas where support is being considered, and general matters for awareness (new information is underlined)

- Fiji (advised by MSA Fiji)
  - No significant damage in Suva
  - MSA network facilities restored
  - Fiji Coastal Nav Warning 9/2016 issued regarding unreliable AtoN
  - Many places have no power, so lit AtoN may not be operating
  - No reports of unreliable AtoN, but a team will be checking
  - Agreed with the promulgation of NAVAREA XIV 17/16
  - Sunil Kumar (MSAF) added to distribution as an active maritime point of contact in Fiji
  - The following information is from Philip Hill - thanks Philip:  
I have just returned from Levuka where Gerard and his team was involved in Tidal Transfer. They were caught out in the cyclone with the accommodation completely destroyed. Fortunately the team of 5 were all safe. They are now engaged in recovery works on the island and will return to the mainland hopefully mid. March. Communication is inconsistent however it is confirmed that there are hazards to navigation and unreliable Aids to Navigation due to damages. Fiji Coastal Navigation warnings have been disseminated in this regard. A full assessment will take time as the immediate concern now is the provision of basic essentials for the preservation of lives.  
Due to breakdown in communication we request that MSAF be the contact point for all Hydrographic matters until communication is restored with Gerard Rokoua and the Fiji Navy.
- Australia (announced by Foreign and Defence Ministers and in media reporting)
  - HMAS Canberra (Amphibious Ship) is expected to arrive in Fiji on 01 March
  - RAAF P3 Orion aircraft – tasked with aerial reconnaissance and damage assessment
  - C17 Globemaster heavy lift aircraft with MRH90 helicopter and relief stores - Four Globemasters have already arrived in Fiji carrying 19 tonnes of supplies along with aircraft and personnel – daily operations intended
  - MRH90 helicopter expected to commence operations as of 25Feb – to assist in delivery of personnel and supplies, particularly to remote and very difficult to access locations
  - RAN ships conducted a number of small hydrographic surveys in Fiji in 2015 – UKHO has reviewed surveys - data sent (25Feb) to UKHO for any appropriate charting action
  - More details of Australian support is available at the following media article - <http://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/operation-fiji-assist-widens-lhd-deployed>
  - The ADF has established a Task Force (JTF635) for Operation Fiji Assist 2016. A summary of the current activities is as follows:

- a Navy hydrographer is embarked on HMAS Canberra
- a Navy hydrographic survey team has been assigned to JTF 635 and is now embarked in Canberra with their fly away survey kit

- France (advised by SHOM and New Caledonia Govt)
  - Deployable survey team on standby in Noumea if required / asked for
  - FS *Vendémiaire* is on standby to sail if required
  - Vincent Lamarre is the SHOM point of contact in Noumea – thanks Bruno and Vincent
  - New Caledonia Government standing by for any support requests from Fiji Government – thanks Eric
  - An update on the support being provided by the French Govt is as follows (as of 24Feb)(thanks Alberto/Giles for forwarding this information):  
The French humanitarian aid begins to arrive in Fiji. A French military plane left this morning from New Caledonia carrying three tons of humanitarian aid provided by the French Red Cross. This aircraft type "CASA" is able to land or take off on short length strips. At the request of the Fijian authorities, it will remain on site to ensure the transport of aid material to the most affected islands. He will be joined tonight by a second aircraft of the same type with the personnel and cargo from the civil defense and risk management of New Caledonia. Furthermore, the Airbus Helicopters foundation, as part of its partnership with the crisis and support center, made a helicopter available to Fijian authorities for reconnaissance flights and delivery of medical or communication equipment.  
We coordinate our actions with those of the governments of Australia and New Zealand under the FRANZ Agreement in the South Pacific in case of natural disasters, which we assumed the presidency since October 2015.
- New Zealand (advised by LINZ and in media reporting)
  - NZDF P3 Orion conducting aerial reconnaissance and damage assessment
  - LINZ has issued a NAVAREA XIV warning advising of unreliable Aids to Navigation (see 2/2016 for content)
  - LINZ continues direct contact with MSA Fiji
  - LINZ NZ Hydrographic Authority (NZHA) stands ready to assist as required
  - HMNZS Canterbury will depart Auckland this weekend for Fiji loaded with essential supplies such as building materials, water storage tanks, and medical supplies, and will also carry helicopters and medical and engineering personnel. Canterbury will also be supported by HMNZS Wellington.
  - C130 heavy lift aircraft are delivering relief supplies and equipment.
- UK (advised by UKHO)
  - From the UKHO response team meeting on 23 Feb, the following are the outcomes:
    - preparing a situational awareness report that will detail chart coverage plus before and after satellite imagery analysis of near shore infrastructure - this document will be live and kept up to date as new information arises
    - full range of support, including deployable staff on standby but will be guided by requirements of Fiji and SPC
    - Sam Harper is due to conduct IHO Tech Visit to Tuvalu at the end of March so can meet with Fiji stakeholders as required
    - Sam Harper is the UKHO point of contact – thanks Sam
    - UKHO has reviewed RAN survey data and is now considering any necessary charting action
- US (advised by NGA)
  - Offering assistance, if required, and should any government request US assistance, they are standing by – thanks Brian and John
- SPC (advised by SPC)
  - SPC has contacted the government of Fiji offering support and assistance and are currently awaiting their response and direction
  - Kifle has rightly pointed out there is much we can learn from our previous support activities following TC Pam in Vanuatu – thanks Kifle

- SPC has provided a link to their 'Cyclone Winston Spatial Data Resources' portal – <http://gsd.spc.int/winston/> - thanks Jens
- The following update from SPC was provided by Jens – thanks Jens:
  - I spoke with Jervis Robinson, Category Surveyor and Quality Control, Fiji Hydrographic Office, Fiji Navy. He told me that Gerard is fine and in Levuka on the island of Ovalau. Jervis was speaking with me from a ship in the Lomaiviti group, currently undertaking an anchorage survey for relief ships that they are expecting.
  - As for SDI/MSDI information please refer to [pcrafi.spc.int](http://pcrafi.spc.int) for baseline exposure and infrastructure layers. SPC are currently receiving satellite imagery via Digital Globe, and we will commence basic damage assessment from today in conjunction with the Fiji Lands Department. We are also aware of the excellent emergency mapping done through the EU Copernicus Programme: <http://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/list-of-components/EMSR155>
- IHO (advised by IHO)
  - IHO is on standby to assist where it can
  - Alberto Costa Neves is the IHO point of contact – thanks Alberto
  - President Ward is presently in transit/in Indonesia
  - Opportunity to capture relevant information to enable a SWPHC Disaster Response Plan/Checklist – thanks Alberto
- IALA (advised by Stephen Bennett)
  - Contacted CEO of MSA Fiji via email and offered support - IALA stands ready to assist if requested – thanks Stephen
  - IALA Secretary-General, Francis Zachariae, has written to Fiji formally offering such assistance as might be appropriate

Very good support is being provided by the Australian, New Zealand and French Military Forces. The current phase of the disaster response is primarily the remit of the various Defence Forces, emergency response agencies and NGOs. As the major disaster response assets are yet to arrive in Fiji, there isn't yet much for the SWPHC to do, beyond what SPC and UKHO are undertaking as part of their specific 'hydrographic' responsibilities. Our respective Govts may have been asked to provide support and are doing so as requirements evolve or change. I only expect some elements of the SWPHC will be involved in the hydrographic aspects of the recovery phase, with charting updates etc... based on recent survey information or that derived from post disaster assessments/surveys – the UKHO and Fiji will obviously lead this aspect.

I will send a further update next week as more on-the-ground assessment is undertaken by the various agencies/forces.

Thank you again for your support/information so far.

Regards

Brett

**B.K. Brace**  
 Commodore, RAN  
 Hydrographer of Australia  
 Chair SWPHC