

Letter received by e-mail on 13 January 2012

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
Chair of the Working Group on the Revision of S-23 (Limits of Oceans and Seas)
President
International Hydrographic Bureau
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Reference: Republic of Korea Letter dated January 10th, 2012

Dear Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos,

Thank you very much for circulating the ROK's letter dated January 10th, 2012, responding to Japan's letters and papers.

Since the ROK's letter does not seem to raise substantially any new points, please be advised that Japan's response to this letter are in principle all included in our previous correspondences.

Please just be reminded on the following two points:

(1) The ROK has not commented to date on (a) ROK government's official nautical charts (102A)'s use of the name Japan Sea up until its edition in 1993, (b) the ROK government (National Geographic Information Institute)'s official report in 2007/11/20 explicitly stating that the name Japan Sea became "rapidly in wider use since 1830" onward and well before Japan's international debut, and (c) the ROK's documented total silence on and acceptance of the name Japan Sea in the IHO for 40 years since it became a full-fledged member in 1957 (including during the 20 years since 1977 when the work to revise the S-23 started, and the 11 years since the first draft of the revised S-23 was circulated using the name Japan Sea). Please be reminded that these ROK's official positions are unequivocally in line with common international perception that the name Japan Sea is just one of the international names for seas and oceans, no different from the Pacific Ocean or the Philippine Sea and many others, developed over the centuries by (mainly European) maritime powers and sailors. I attach again the ROK documents for your reference. These indicates that the issue of the global use of the name Japan Sea being

somewhat related to “the advent of *Japanese* imperialism” in the 20th century, as claimed by the ROK, could not have existed from the outset, and did not exist for the ROK either until this was suddenly brought up as a political issue in the 1990’s.

(2) As official records unequivocally indicates, the ROK’s claim that the first edition of the S-23, published in 1929, adopted the name Japan Sea based “solely on Japan’s claims” is simply not true. I also suggest that the IHB respond to the ROK’s claim that a particular part of its collective decision in 1929 was somewhat flawed and illegitimate and therefore needs correction.

Japan will be opposed to the IHO’s allowing, as well as rewarding, any IHO member country’s unnecessarily questioning established international names such as Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, the Philippines Sea, South China Sea, or Japan Sea, thereby disrupting the IHO’s pursuit of “greatest possible uniformity in nautical charts and documents”, which is essential for the safety of international navigation.

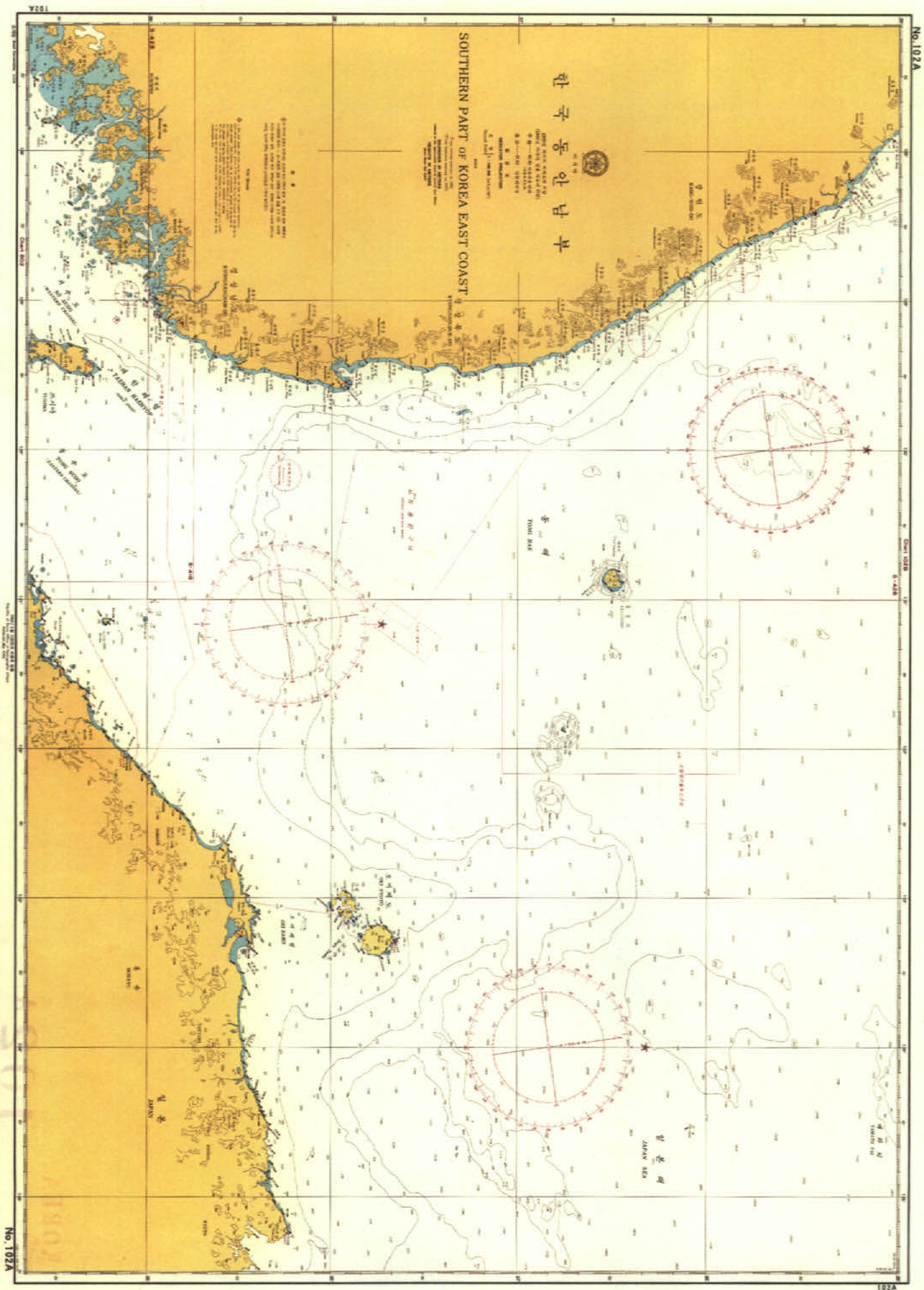
I trust that the WG and other IHO members see the necessity to further consider the “Way Forward”, while being reminded that WG members expressing support and favouring the “Way Forward” or the continued use of the name Japan Sea, far outnumber the countries expressing support for the concurrent use of two names, which are currently reduced to the two Koreas. Therefore, if the S-23WG is to accept the ROK’s logic on this matter, the ROK’s proposal of “concurrent use” is the one that should be abandoned.

Lastly but not least, I would like to reiterate the GOJ’s intention to spare no effort in cooperating with the Chair Group and other WG members in the preparation of the IHC.

Yours Sincerely,

Hideo Nishida
Japan Representative to the S-23 WG

Cc: Ing.egn chef Michel Huet, Secretariat of S-23 WG



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Attachment B

Provisional translation by the Japanese Government of the excerpt from the ROK government's document, "History of the Korean Map in the World History at a glance: Intensive survey on "Tong-hae", "Dok-do" and Kando", released to the public on November 20th, 2007)

(Excerpt from page 2)

One noticeable feature of the survey is that it looked at the "Tong-Hae" issue from trends of different periods of time. Maps in the 16th century refers to "Tong-Hae" as either "China-Sea", "Oriental Sea", "East Sea" or other names. In the 17th century, the name "Korea Sea" began to be in use, and became the main way of referring to the sea area in the 18th century (1700 – 1790). **However, in the late 18th century (1790-1830), the name "Japan Sea" begins to appear in maps, and from 19th century onwards (1830 onwards), the name "Japan Sea" became rapidly in wider use.**

(Table from page 3)

Period	Names
16 th century	"China Sea", "Oriental Sea", "East Sea" and others
Latter half of 17 th century	"Korea Sea" begins to be in use
18 th century (1700-1790)	"Korea Sea" becomes the main way to refer to the sea
<u>Late 18th Century (1790-1830)</u>	<u>"Japan Sea" begins to appear in maps</u>
<u>19th century (1830) onwards</u>	<u>"Japan Sea" becomes rapidly in wider use</u>

(note: emphasis put by the GOJ)

(end of provisional translation)