



# HYDROGRAPHIC and OCEANOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT JAPAN COAST GUARD

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H.O.D 09/11  
24 June ,2011

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
Chair of Working Group on the Revision S-23 (Limits of Oceans and Seas)  
President  
International Hydrographic Bureau  
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Reference: S-23 WG Letter No. 03/2011 dated 24 May 2011

Dear Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos,

I thank you for the S-23 WG Letter No. 03/2011 in which you requested comments on a draft report to Member States highlighting the way of work of the S-23 WG.

I will not reiterate here in this letter in detail, Japan's position on the issue of naming the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and Japanese Archipelago, since Japan has already expressed its position on various occasions, including in the comments dated 13 April 2011 and 24 January 2011 attached to this letter. The main points of our position are as follows:

- While the basic position of Japan on this issue remains unchanged, Japan, as a responsible member of the WG, can go along with the proposal in the S-23 WG Letter No. 06/2010 (hereinafter referred to as "Chairman's proposal") in a spirit of compromise, if a consensus can be formed around it. Japan made this decision as the maximum compromise it could make.
- Japan cannot accept any proposals which deviate from the Chairman's proposal, such as inclusion of name(s) other than Japan Sea on the page in question, insertion of details of reservation(s) (items other than the name(s) of the State(s) expressing reservation(s), with the indication whether the reservation refers to name or limits, or both, as indicated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet of paragraph 2.4 of the Chairman's proposal) on the page in question regardless of whether they appear in the text or as a footnote, or insertion of details of reservation(s) on the next page.
- Japan cannot accept the name "East Sea" to appear anywhere in the main body of S-23 for whatever reason.

I wish to express support for the Chair's continuous efforts to try to resolve this issue and expect that the draft 4th edition of S-23 will be finalized based on the significant progress made so far with respect to the Chair's proposal (Letter No.06/2010).

Taking this opportunity, I would like to invite your attention to the following point on a draft report (Annex C to 03/2011).

Annex C states that "It may be noted that the different positions of Korea and Japan in naming the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago, is a significant reason for the lengthy deliberations and delay in the progress of the revision of this publication" (1.1), but the decision to undertake a revision of S-23 was made in 1977 and it was not until Korea suddenly started to demand the change of the name that the name of the sea became "the issue". This means that the revision had not been achieved in the first 20 years for reasons attributable to those other than the issue of naming the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago, and in the last 14 years for a reason attributable to an issue which was raised by political motivation.

I would appreciate it very much if you could consider reflecting the above facts in Annex C.

On the draft Important Notice revised by the USA (Annex B), I wish to suggest the following changes in order to avoid ambiguity as to what elements of the reservation would be put on the relevant page of the main body of the S-23.

The second sentence of Subparagraph 1 of Paragraph 2 after the changes, would read as follows:

"Where States use different names or limits compared to the ones indicated on specific pages, a reservation footnote has been inserted indicating the name(s) of the State(s) expressing reservation(s) and whether the reservation refers to name or limits, or both."

I pay tribute to your constant efforts in trying to make progress on this issue and strongly hope that this issue be resolved appropriately under your leadership.

Yours sincerely,



Hideo Nishida

Japan Representative to S-23WG

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