



THE UNITED KINGDOM
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

ADMIRALTY WAY · TAUNTON · SOMERSET · TA1 2DN · TELEPHONE +44 (0)1823 337900 · FAX +44 (0)1823 284077
www.ukho.gov.uk

**From: Rear Admiral Nick Lambert
The UK National Hydrographer**

Via post & e-mail

170-11 / NH

Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos
IHB President and Chairman of the S-23 WG
International Hydrographic Bureau
4 quai Antoine 1^{er}
B P 445
MC 98011 MONACO CEDEX
Principauté de Monaco

22 June 2011

Dear Admiral Maratos

S-23 WG Letter No. 03/2011-

S-23 Working Group Reporting to Member States

Thank you for your letter dated 24 May 2011. The UK thanks the Chair of the S-23 Working Group for his considerable efforts in progressing this important work.

The UK very much supports the aim of the S-23 WG to produce a revised edition of Special Publication S-23, Limits of Oceans and Seas, but acknowledges that it is for littoral states to resolve any disagreement over names of areas.

The S-23 WG report "way forward" proposals at paragraph 4.1 of Annex C to S-23 WG Letter 03/2011 requests comments on "Whether Member States agree to the insertion in S-23 of reservations" and "The different name(s) and/or limit(s) with the details et cetera, and the details and technical arguments of the reservations to be included in an Annex". The UK's view is that the "way forward" offers a pragmatic solution which could facilitate the publication of S-23 and, although not resolving disagreements, it would enable reservations to be represented in an official IHO publication. This is, of course, on the assumption that Member States can agree the method for recording these reservations. The UK hopes that support for this technical solution is not misconstrued as being bias towards any particular littoral state over any other in regard to the disagreements over names.

The UK also believes that it is essential to include an "Important Notice" in the publication, highlighting that the purpose of S-23 is only for technical hydrographic uses and that the content should not be construed as having any legal or political connotations.

Finally, the UK trusts that the "way forward" proposals will meet the satisfaction of all parties so that the publication of a new edition can be progressed.

Yours sincerely

[Handwritten signature]
