



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of Coast Survey

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282

JUN 10 2011

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
Chairman of the Working Group on the Revision of Special Publication 23
International Hydrographic Bureau
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B.P. 445
MC 98011 MONACO CEDEX

Dear VADM Maratos:

The U.S. supports the proposed way forward and agrees with each of the proposals in Section 4.1. The U.S. further appreciates that a number of countries would like to have the issue of the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago resolved by the countries directly concerned. While resolution by those directly concerned has not occurred despite attempts over the past several years, the U.S. respectfully wishes that the parties directly involved may continue to seek a mutually acceptable solution for a future S-23 revision. Until such time, the U.S. believes that the Working Group has achieved a workable approach for publication of a new edition of S-23, which will now include reservations when consensus cannot be reached. The U.S. views this approach as a "step forward" to allow this important publication to finally be produced as a new edition.

Respectfully,

Meredith Westington
U.S. Representative to the Working Group on the Revision of Special Publication 23

Cc: RADM Christian ANDREASEN
Ing en chef Michel HUET