



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Australian Hydrographic Service

LOCKED BAG 8801, WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

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AA530856 (DGNHM)
HYDRO 0150/11

Admiral Maratos
Chair IHO S-23 Working Group
International Hydrographic Bureau

Dear Admiral Maratos,

Australia - Response to S-23 WG Letter No. 02/2011 of 21 March 2011

References:

- A. S-23 WG Letter No 06/2010 dated 20 December 2010
- B. Hydro 0020/11 dated 24 January 2011
- C. S-23 WG Letter No 02/2011 dated 21 March 2011

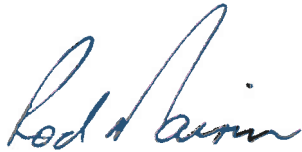
1. Thank you for your chairmanship of the IHO S-23 Working Group and your efforts to reach consensus between contributing States on a number of nationally sensitive matters. As you would be aware Australia has no specific position in relation to the name of the body of water separating the Korean Peninsula and the Japan Archipelago but is committed to supporting the IHO in its aims of reaching a consensus between member states that will enable a 4th Edition of S-23 to be published.
2. Australia's response to reference A, indicated support for the proposed way forward as it provided an efficient and readable document, however reserved the possibility of reviving Australia's second option raised at the Singapore meeting, if consensus to the proposed way forward was not achieved (reference B). S-23 WG Letter No. 02/2011 details the responses from members of the working group and makes it clear that consensus has not yet been achieved.
3. Since sending Australia's response I have had the opportunity to discuss this sensitive matter with delegations from both Japan and Korea, regrettably there has been no breakthrough. Whilst Japan has indicated that they can go along with the 'proposed way forward' at reference A, Korea has made it clear that the 'proposed way forward' is completely unacceptable to them. Korea emphasised that international circumstances had prevented them from having the Korean interpretation of the sea area name considered during preparation of the previous 3 editions of S-23 and that equal visibility of their name was essential in the current considerations. Their delegation advised that Korea has already made significant compromise in agreeing to dual naming of the area, rather than insisting on their own unique name.
4. Consensus has clearly not been reached, however Australia remains committed to moving this matter forward with the aim of reaching a consensus on the format for presentation of the sea area between Japan and Korea in S-23 and thus allowing a 4th edition to be published. Therefore, I request that member states be given the opportunity to consider Australia's alternative proposal tabled at the Singapore S-23

working group meeting. That is, the inclusion of a second page, immediately following the first, for the sea area between Japan and Korea. The first page would show the name "Sea of Japan" as per the 3rd edition as demanded by Japan and the second page would show the name "East Sea" as demanded by Korea.

5. Whilst this proposal is not the preferred position of either Japan or Korea, it may be the last available chance for compromise and consensus available that would allow a new edition of S-23 to be published and thus prevent an inevitable recommendation that the publication be cancelled completely and removed from the IHO catalogue of publications. It is widely agreed that the extant 3rd edition of S-23 is seriously out of date, is not generally useful from a nautical cartographic perspective and its uncorrected state represents a continuous embarrassment for the International Hydrographic Organization.

6. Thank you once again for your efforts in chairing the S-23 Working Group.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rod Nairn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rod" and the last name "Nairn" clearly distinguishable.

R. NAIRN
Commodore, RAN
Hydrographer of Australia

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27 April 2011