

## South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)

12<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Port Vila, Vanuatu

12-14 November 2013

### IHB Report

#### Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

1. Amendments to the Convention on the IHO were approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in May 2005. By August 2013, 39 of the required 48 approvals to the Protocol of Amendments had been received by the Government of Monaco. The following IHO Member States of the SWPHC have not yet indicated positive support:

No response as yet from:
Fiji
Tonga

2. The 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Hydrographic Conference will be held as the first Assembly of the IHO if the remaining nine approvals are received by the Government of Monaco before 6 July 2014.

#### Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

3. Since the last meeting, the required majority of IHO Member States has approved the membership of Haiti. Haiti, together with Bulgaria, Mauritania, Montenegro and Sierra Leone have yet to deposit their instruments of accession with the government of Monaco, thereby formally acknowledging membership of the IHO.

4. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. By August 2013, the status of approvals for these States was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam	39 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	32 of 52 required
Georgia	33 of 54 required

5. The following IHO Member States of the SWPHC have not yet indicated positive support:

State Applying for Membership	No response as yet from:
Viet Nam (applied 2011)	Fiji Tonga
Brunei Darussalam (applied 2012)	Fiji Tonga
Georgia (applied 2013)	Fiji Tonga

6. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals through their respective governments.

#### Regional Applications for Membership of the IHO

7. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, non IHO Member States' representatives from the SWPHC region wishing to progress an application for membership of the IHO through their respective governments.

#### Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies

8. The IHO has been invited to participate in the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) meetings as an observer organization. The next meeting of APHoMSA will be held in Fiji in 2014. The purpose of the forum is to promote a safe and clean environment in the Asia-Pacific region through cooperation, coordination and exchanges of information and experience. In

this context, the work of the IHO, and in particular, the RHCs in the region is seen as an important contribution. President Robert Ward will represent the IHO.

#### **INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region L**

9. Australia, as Chair of the South West Pacific International Charting Coordination Working Group (SWPICC-WG) for Region L, has provided updates to S-11 and led the development of ENC schemes in that region. Since SWPHC-11, six new editions of INT charts have been published in Region L by France, NZ and UK.

#### **IHO GIS Data Base**

10. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS data base. The GIS database will have two main parts: a country database and a regional database. The country database will contain all relevant information about the coastal States in the world - similar to the information contained in the IHO Year Book. The regional database will contain geospatial information about the coverage and location of charts, surveys and related information. It is expected that there will be an upload capability that will allow States to keep the relevant information up to date. The regional data base is expected to provide the principal resource for managing international chart coordination, ENC coverage, as well as the identification of survey or charting "hotspots". The countries data base and a beta version of the regional database for Antarctica are now under evaluation.

11. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The current representative for the SWPHC is IGA Bruno Frachon from France.

12. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int) and (ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

#### **Action Requested of SWPHC-12**

13. SWPHC-12 is invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Report** in-country progress on approving the Amendments to the IHO Convention and approving New Member States, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- **Support** the development of ENC schemes in Region L, under the coordination of AUS as chair of the SWPHC-ICCWG.
- **Continue to provide** updates to S-11, through AUS as coordinator for INT Region L;
- **Take any other actions** as needed.