



MINISTÈRE DE LA DÉFENSE



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N° 38 SHOM/DSPRE/NP

SERVICE HYDROGRAPHIQUE
ET OcéANOGRAPHIQUE
DE LA MARINE

DIRECTION DE LA STRATEGIE,
DE LA PLANIFICATION ET
DES RELATIONS EXTERIEURES

IHO South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission CL 01/2008

Dossier suivi par
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Objet : The IHO South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission
(SWPHC) objectives and road map for 2008 and 2009.

Reference : /

Dear Hydrographer, dear colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that France has taken over the chairmanship of the IHO South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission from New Zealand since January 2008. As chief executive of SHOM, it is a great honour for me to represent the hydrographic community interests in one of the largest area of responsibility of the IHO regional hydrographic commissions.

First of all, I would like to thank New Zealand, and Mr John Spittal from Land Information New Zealand in particular, for the excellent job done during the last three years. As progress cannot be reached without a sustainable and collective effort, France hopes that all nations and international and regional maritime organisations will remain committed to raise the awareness of the importance of hydrography in this region.

Destinataire(s) : SWPHC members – [+ all IHO rep. in countries of INT charting Area L] – Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) – Pacific Islands Maritime Association – Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) – IHB – European Commission (Voir liste jointe).

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In accordance with the decisions made at the 8th meeting of the SWPHC (Papeete, 19-20 Sep. 2007)¹, I believe that three main objectives should be considered with the highest priority:

- assessment and clear understanding of the situation in this area in terms of hydrographic services to be provided in compliance with SOLAS, Chap V, Reg. 9 against maritime requirements ;
- development of hydrographic capabilities in the island States ;
- implementation of an adequate ENC coverage.

In order to progress with these objectives, my intentions are:

- to liaise with PacMA and SOPAC authorities ;
- to identify major maritime events in the region where IHO should be represented in order to draw the attention of decision makers ;
- to participate actively in the IHO WEND and Capacity Building committees, as chair of the SWPHC ;
- to meet and liaise as soon as possible with IMO islands States representatives in London, together with an IHB representative, prior to the IMO NAV54 meeting ;
- then to investigate with SWPHC members and Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States national hydrographers in particular, the most efficient way to develop hydrographic services in this region.

I would be very grateful to you if you can provide me² with your comments on these assesment and proposals, by the end of March.

L'ingénieur général de l'armement Gilles Bessero
directeur général du SHOM

¹ An update on the status of the action list will be provided by the end of June 2008.

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Copie(s) extérieure(s) : SHOM's rep. in the Pacific (Head of the Pacific Oceanographic Group)
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