

**22nd MEETING OF THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC HYDROGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION (SWPHC22)  
3-5 March 2025, Koror, Palau**

**NATIONAL REPORT FROM COOK ISLANDS TO THE SWPHC21**

References:

- A. IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended (see doc. C3-04.2A, [Appendix to Annex A](#))
- B. IHO Circular Letter 20/2019, The IHO Online Form System for responses to Circular Letters and input to IHO Publications (P-5 and C-55): [link](#)  
Online system for P-5 (Yearbook): [link](#)  
Online system for C-55 (Status of Surveys and Charting Worldwide): [link](#)
- C. IHO Strategic Plan: [link](#)
- D. IHO IRCC CL 01/2021 IHO Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 – Procedure for measuring the Strategic Performance Indicator (SPI) allocated to IRCC: [link](#)

**Executive summary**

1. Hydrographic Office / Service:

- a) Name of the institution: Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) – National Hydrographic & Geoscience
- b) Description: The National Hydrography & Geoscience Division, under the Ministry of Infrastructure, is responsible for managing hydrographic surveying, collecting hydrographic survey data, and deriving bathymetric and LiDAR datasets. These activities support the updating of the Cook Islands Nautical Charts in collaboration with the Cook Islands Primary Charting Authority and Land Information New Zealand. The division currently has vacancies in the newly approved Organizational Structure, which will be filled once advertised in the job market. The Cook Islands National Hydrography Coordination Committee convenes quarterly or as needed to address urgent safety issues. The committee also provides updates to the Head of Ministry and the Minister on matters related to hydrographic activities and the nautical charts of the Cook Islands.
- c) Submitted by: Vaipo Mataora, Deputy Secretary Infrastructure Cook Islands, [vaipo.mataora@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:vaipo.mataora@cookislands.gov.ck)  
Detailed information to update IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*) is submitted in Annex A (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annex A if this is the case.

2. Surveys:

*[Describe any significant developments since the last RHC meeting in surveys related to the items below]*

- a) Coverage of new surveys:
- b) New technologies and /or equipment
- c) New ships
- d) Crowdsourced and satellite-derived bathymetry - national policy
- e) Challenges and achievements

Detailed information about surveys to update IHO Publications P-5 (*Yearbook*) and C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is submitted in Annexes A

and B, respectively (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annexes A and B if this is the case.

3. New charts & updates:

*[Describe any significant developments since the last RHC meeting in charting related to the items below]*

- a) ENC coverage, gaps and overlaps
- b) ENC distribution method
- c) RNCs
- d) INT charts
- e) National paper charts
- f) Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft
- g) Challenges and achievements

Detailed information about charting to update IHO Publications P-5 (*Yearbook*) and C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is submitted in Annexes A and B, respectively (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annexes A and B if this is the case.

4. New publications & updates:

*[Describe any significant developments since the last SWPHC meeting in nautical publications related to the items below]*

- a) New Publications
- b) Updated publications
- c) Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital
- d) Challenges and achievements

Detailed information to update IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*) is submitted in Annex A (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annex A if this is the case.

5. MSI

*[Describe the status of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) related to the items below]*

- a) Existing infrastructure for MSI dissemination
- b) Statistics on work of the National Coordinator
- c) New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan
- d) Challenges and achievements

Detailed information about MSI to update IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is submitted in Annex B (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). The national self-assessment of MSI is submitted in Annex C. Please indicate "no change" in Annexes B and C if this is the case.

6. C-55

The table with the latest information to update IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is provided in Annex B (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annex B if this is the case.

## 7. Capacity Building

*[Describe the need for or ability to offer Capacity Building in relation to the items below]*

### a) Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building

### b) Training received, needed, offered

SWPHC Disaster Response Framework: The intent of the SWPHC DRF is to provide a supporting framework for countries in the region affected by a disaster event to more effectively request hydrographic support, and in return, for the Chair of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission to better respond and to co-ordinate hydrographic resources available in the region.

A key part of the framework are our Points of Contact – which will be used by the SWPHC Chair to make contact with the affected country and also with other countries who may be able to provide hydrographic support during a disaster event.

### c) Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with a hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study)

Rarotonga Coastal and Flood Mitigation data Collection (LiDAR) Project:

The LiDAR project is to capture information from 12 islands, both northern and southern Cook Islands. LINZ was engaged by Infrastructure Cook Islands to undertake the technical review of the received tender bids to aid the final Tender Evaluation. The LiDAR project will also assist the Cook Islands with updates of the Cook Islands Nautical Charts and will be available to the Cook Islands Primary Charting Authority LINZ.

### d) Description of proposals and requests to the IHO CBSC

## 8. Oceanographic activities

*[Describe any significant developments in oceanographic activity since the last SWPHC meeting related to the items below]*

### a) General

### b) GEBCO & Seabed 2030

### c) Crowdsourced Bathymetry Activities

### d) Tide gauge network

### e) New equipment

### f) Challenges and achievements

## 9. Spatial data infrastructures

### a) Status of MSDI

The Cook Islands CookGeo portal a repository of marine spatial data has been further delayed due to the reprioritisation of regional priorities at SPC unable consultant from SPC to travel to the Cook Islands to undertake the updates of the current version of the portal.

### b) Relationship with the NSDI

The National Hydrography & Geoscience Division continues to collaborate with government agencies and the private sector, providing essential spatial data to support ongoing marine activities and informed decision-making. Additionally, the division ensures that the acquisition of spatial datasets adheres to the required standards and accuracy to be integrated into the geoportal.

### c) Involvement in regional or global MSDI efforts

### d) National implementation of the [UN Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management](#) – including any national data policy and impact

on marine data. Ref: IHO Strategic Plan, Goal 2, Target 2.3, SPI 2.3.1 Number of HOs reporting success applying the principles in their national contexts.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Cook Islands lead by the National Hydrography & Geoscience have developed a national policy on data sharing which the government of the Cook Islands have endorsed in 2019 and policy have been made available to members of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveyors Council.

e) MSDI national portal

The CookGeo portal once launched will become a repository for all Cook Islands marine spatial data and will be available for any one to access.

f) Best practices and lessons learned

Standardisation and accuracy must be maintained.

g) Challenges and achievements

Taking too long for government to realise the important of such portal to assist with the economic development of the Cook Islands.

## 10. Innovation

a) Use of new technologies

b) Risk assessment

c) Policy matters

## 11. Other activities

*[Describe any other significant developments of interest to the SWPHC since the last meeting related to the items below]*

a) Participation in IHO meetings

b) Meteorological data collection

c) Geospatial studies

d) Preparation for responses to disasters

e) Environmental protection

f) Engagement with the Maritime Administration

g) Aids to Navigation matters

h) Magnetic and gravity surveys

i) International engagements

j) Others

## 12. Conclusions

*[Provide a short summary statement that highlights any of the following:]*

a) *Areas of significant achievement:*

New LiDAR data set has been processed and will be made available to LINZ

b) *Areas of particular concern:*

Human Resources

Equipments

c) *Any other matters of interest to the SWPHC]*

The Cook Islands National Hydrography & Geoscience Division requires capacity building to strengthen in-country capabilities, enabling the Cook Islands to meet its international obligations. As part of its efforts to become a full member of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the Cook Islands is actively progressing with the necessary steps in collaboration with the Cook Islands government.

Input to the IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*)*Country: Cook Islands**Organization: Ministry of Infrastructure Cook Islands*

(Please provide the information in English. Consider using the IHO Online Form System, see reference B)

<b>Contact information/ Informations de contact / Información de contacto</b>	
-National Hydrographer or equivalent -Directeur du service hydrographique ou équivalent -Director del Servicio Hidrográfico o equivalente	Post: Deputy Secretary Name: Vaipo Mataora Postal address: PO Box 102, Rarotonga, Cook Islands Tel: +682 20321 Fax: +682 24321 Email: <a href="mailto:vaipo.mataora@cookislands.gov.ck">vaipo.mataora@cookislands.gov.ck</a>
-Head of the Hydrographic Office (if different from the person indicated above) -Directeur du Service Hydrographique (si différent de la personne indiquée ci-dessus) -Director del Servicio Hidrográfico (si diferente de la persona indicada anteriormente)	Post: Deputy Secretary Name: Vaipo Mataora Postal address: PO Box 102, Rarotonga, Cook Islands Tel: +682 20321 Fax: +682 24321 Email: <a href="mailto:vaipo.mataora@cookislands.gov.ck">vaipo.mataora@cookislands.gov.ck</a>
-Other point(s) of contact -Autre(s) point(s) de contact -Otros punto(s) de contacto	
-Web site -site web -sitio web	
<b>Country information / Informations sur le pays/ Información sobre el país</b>	
-Declared National Tonnage -Tonnage national déclaré -Tonelaje Nacional Declarado	Tonnage: Tonnage: 1, 728, 362.90 Gross 716 vessels Date: 16/02/2023
-National day -Fête nationale -Fiesta nacional	
-Date of establishment and Relevant National Legislation -Date de mise en place et législation nationale pertinente	

-Fecha de constitución y legislación nacional pertinente	
-Date first joined IHO -Date d'adhésion à l'OHI -Fecha de adhesión a la OHI	
-Date ratification Convention -Date de ratification de la Convention -Fecha de ratificación de la Convención	
-Remarks on membership -Remarques sur l'adhésion -Comentarios sobre la adhesión	
<b>Agency information/ Information sur l'agence/ Información sobre la agencia</b>	
-Top level parent organisation -Organisme mère -Organización asociada de nivel superior	Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI), National Hydrographic & GeoScience division
-Principal functions of the organisation or the department -Attribution principales de l'organisme ou du département -Principales funciones de la Organización o departamento	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cordinate hydrographic surveys</li> <li>• Reviewing and verifying charted information is correct and up to date.</li> <li>• Reviewing and verifying information in notices to mariners, sailing directions, lists or</li> <li>• lights, etc. related to the Cook Islands is correct and up to date.</li> <li>• Verifying processes and procedures for MSI are implemented effectively</li> </ul>
-Annual operating budget -Budget annuel -presupuesto anual	200k
-Total number of staff employed -Effectifs totaux -Número total de personal empleado	2
-Number of INT charts published -Nombres de cartes INT publiées -Número de cartas INT publicadas	

-Total number of paper charts published-Nombre total de cartes papier publiées-Número total de cartas de papel publicadas				
-Number of ENC cells published -Nombres de cellules ENC publiées -Número de células ENC publicadas				
-Number of Other charts -Nombre d'Autres cartes -Número de Otras cartas				
-Type of publications produced -Type d'ouvrages produits -Tipo de publicaciones producidas				
-Detail of surveying vessels/ aircraft -Détail des bâtiments hydrographiques / aéronefs -Detalle de los buques hidrográficos / aeronaves	-Name -Nom -Nombre	-Displacement -Déplacement -Desplazamiento	-Date Launched -Date de mise en service -Fecha de botado	-Number of crew -Nombre de l'équipage -Tripulación
-Other information of interest -Autres informations utiles -Otra información de interés				

Input to the IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*)

*Country: Cook Islands*

(Please provide the information in English. Consider using the IHO Online Form System, see reference B)

C-55 Summary for:				Comments on Charts:
Country:	Cook Islands			
Country Iso Code:	CK			
Country SubCode:				
INT Region:	L			
Country/Depend:	C			
Last updated:				
Provided by:	Cook Islands			
<b>Chart coverage</b>	<b>Passage (%)</b>	<b>Coastal (%)</b>	<b>Port (%)</b>	
INT	100	100	0	<b>Comments on Surveys:</b> 1. Data provided by New Zealand. 2. In general, depths > 200m are attained very close to the island and fringing reefs. There is no current priority to survey depths > 200m. 3. The cruise industry has raised concerns for safety of navigation in these areas. 4. The interisland routes are inadequately surveyed. These routes require surveying to modern standards to meet the needs of contemporary shipping.
RNC	100	100	100	
ENC	100	100	100	
<b>Status of Paper Charts</b>				
Paper charts with depths in meters (%)				
Paper charts referenced to a satellite datum (%)				
<b>Status of surveys</b>	<b>Adequate (%)</b>	<b>Resurvey (%)</b>	<b>No survey (%)</b>	
0-200m	71	29	0	
> 200m	0	20	80	

MSI	Y/N	Comments on MSI:
Local warning	Y	Harbour Master will send safety Informations to all Local Operators and Domestic Shipping who operates out of Avatiu and Avarua Harbour of any MSI
Coastal warning	Y	
Nav warning	Y	Ministry of Transport notify RCCNZ to issue Notice to Mariner of any MSI within the Cook Islands
Port warning	Y	Harbour Master will send safety Informations to all Local Operators and Domestic Shipping of any MSI
<b>GMDSS</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Comments on GMDSS:</b>
Master Plan	N	
Area A1	N	



Area A2	N	
Area A3	N	
NAVTEX	N	
SafetyNet	N	

## National MSI Self-Assessment

*Country: Cook Islands*  
*Organization: Ministry of Transport*

(Please provide the information in English)

## 1. Maritime area

RCC New Zealand covers the Cook Islands waters including the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

## 2. Operational Points of Contact for the National Coordinator

INSTITUTION	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE	EMAIL
Ministry of Transport	+682 28810	+68228816	<a href="mailto:marah.tairi@cookislands.gov.ck">marah.tairi@cookislands.gov.ck</a>

## 3. GMDSS Master Plan

*[Report on the status of the GMDSS Master Plan: Is it up to date? When was the last update?]*

*[Specifics of equipment used and software version with date up-dated]*

Equipment Type for Ports and Local Area	Software Version	Date of Up-date

*[Detail the number of warnings identified as immediate priority (requiring transmission within 30 minutes) and the average elapsed time for passing to NAVAREA coordinator, as reported to the last RHC meeting]:*

Year Y-2		Year Y-1		Year Y	
Total	Average elapsed time	Total	Average elapsed time	Total	Average elapsed time
xx	xx.x Mins	xx	xx.x Mins	xx	xx.x Mins

## 4. NAVTEX Coverage:

*Cook Islands does not broadcast coastal warnings via NAVTEX*

## 5. Operational Issues:

*Receiving and transmitting becomes difficult the further you are away from the main islands, sometime very difficult to hear.*

## 6. Contingency Planning

*Navigational warning affecting SOLAS ships are sent to the NAVAREA XIV Coordinator.*

## 7. Capacity Building

*Ministry of Transport, as well as members of the Cook Islands Hydrographic Office have participated in the past MSI training courses in SWP region. Assistance is required for the continuation of this training.*

## 8. Other Activities

*Ministry of Transport (MSI) provide assistance and supports the Cook Islands Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) for Search and Rescue (SAR) purpose.*

## 9. National Maritime Website

[www.transport.gov.ck](http://www.transport.gov.ck)

## 10. Recommendations

*It is strongly recommended that the Capacity Building Fund provides assistance in dispatching necessary experts to Cook Islands for conducting a feasibility study for the provision of GMDSS equipment for broadcasting of MSI under NZ guidance.*

## 11. Summary

*This self-assessment report highlights the MSI activities for the year 2024. Cook Islands is very actively involved in providing MSI services to the maritime industry locally including local operations and RCC New Zealand and LINZ*