

Seabed 2030 Conference

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HYDROSPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE SW PACIFIC REGION

Establishing a new SWP hydrospatial
promotion and lobbying body

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Presentation Outline

- **Introduction**
 - **'Hydrospatial' Definition**
 - **What (and where) is the SW Pacific Region?**
 - **Hydrospatial Issues:**
 - Lack of understanding
 - Lack of promotion
 - Issues relating to small island states
 - Climate Change – sea level rise, maritime boundaries, defence/food security
 - **Hydrospatial activities**
 - **Establishing relationships**
 - **Establishing a SWP hydrospatial promotion and lobbying group**
 - **Conclusion**
- **Questions**

Introduction

- **The SW Pacific Region comprises small island developing states and countries affected by:**
 - frequent natural disasters and climate change - affects the maritime environment,
 - political change – affects the governance and business environment
- **Hydrospatial activities in the region may include:**
 - nautical charting, climate change monitoring, maritime protection, port and harbour infrastructure, pre- and post-natural disaster, law of the sea, tourism, professional training, and other areas.
- **Establishment of appropriate relationships between individuals, organisations or states to enable and facilitate opportunities.**

This presentation discusses hydrospatial relationships and promotion of hydrospatial activity

Definitions

- **hydrospatial — *adjective***
Relating to hydrospatial sciences or denoting data, information and knowledge that is associated with a particular location and time of the earth's waters and their contiguous zones.
- **hydrospatial sciences — *plural-only noun (plurale tantum)***
All sciences dealing with the study of the earth's waters and their contiguous zones.

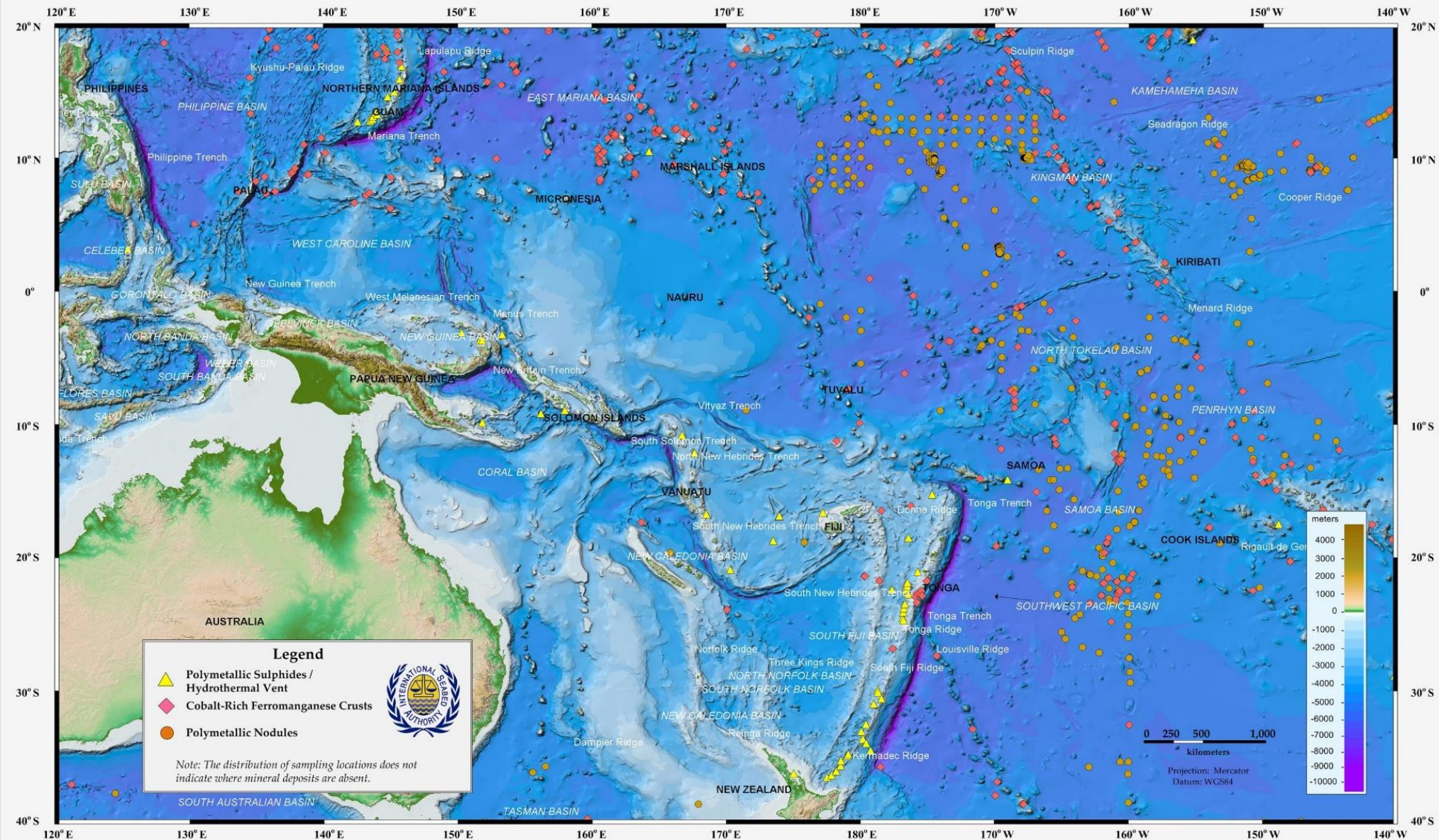
Ref: <https://ihr.iho.int/articles/hydrospatial-update-and-progress-in-the-definition-of-this-term-it-is-term-it-is-all-about-the-blue-of-our-blue-planet-and-it-is-not-replacing-hydrography/>, 2022

Where is the SW Pacific Region?



Seabed Mineral Deposits – SW Pacific

MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN – SAMPLING LOCATIONS FROM THE ISA CENTRAL DATA REPOSITORY



Hydrospatial Issues

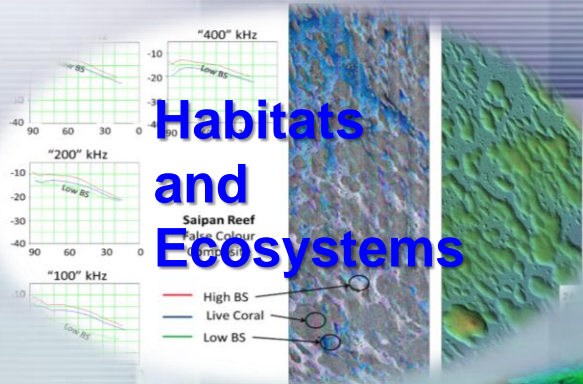
- Lack of understanding
- Lack of promotion
- Issues relating to small island states
- Climate Change – sea level rise, maritime boundaries, defence/food security



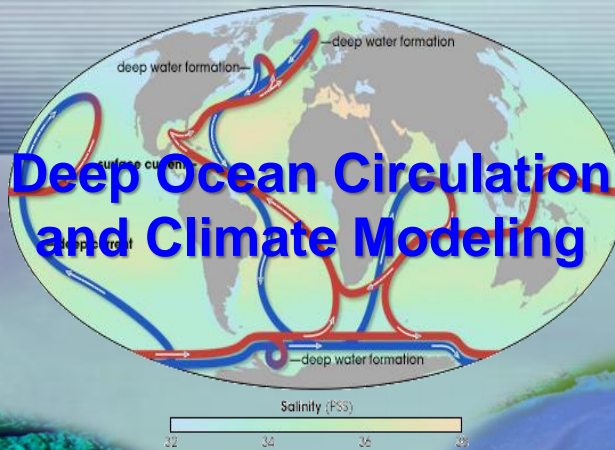
Hydrospatial activities:

- Hydrography – Nautical Charting
- Oceanography
- Oceans & Cables
- Water Resources Management
- Fisheries & Marine Habitat
- Marine Protected Areas
- Marine Spatial Areas
- Coastal Zones & Erosion
- Flood Inundation & Areas
- Marine Mineral Resources
- Ocean Mapping
- Marine Biology
- Marine Geology
- Marine Geophysics
- Marine Environment
- Marine Ecosystems
- Marine Geography
- Marine Shipping
- Marine Ports
- Marine Pilotage
- Marine Weather & Meteorology
- *...and much more...*

Activities cont'd

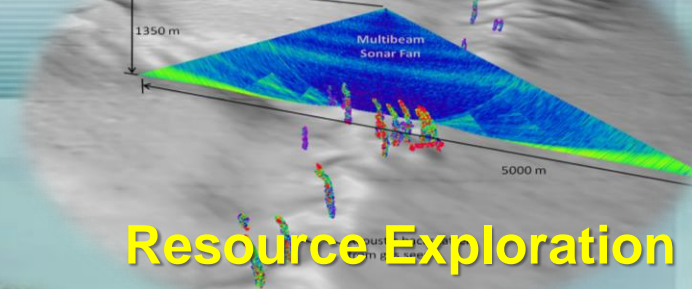


Habitats and Ecosystems

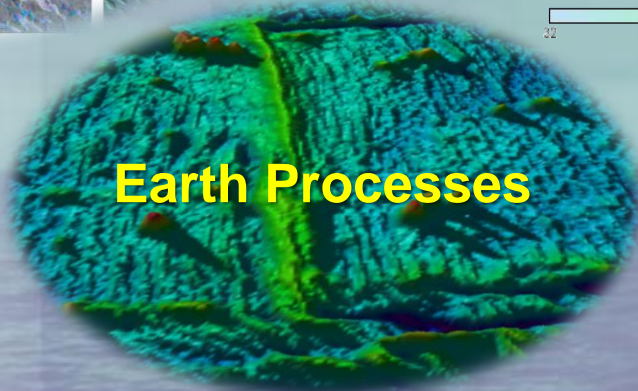


Deep Ocean Circulation and Climate Modeling

Natural Hazards



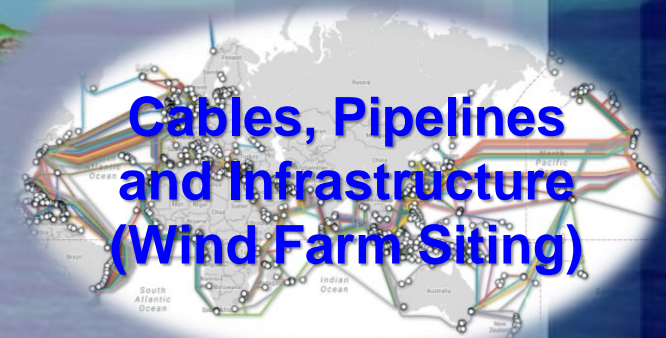
Resource Exploration



Earth Processes



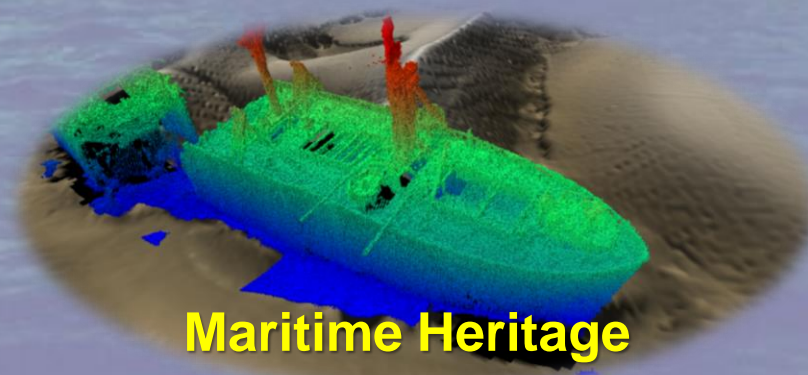
Tsunami Inundation and Storm Surge



Cables, Pipelines and Infrastructure (Wind Farm Siting)



National Security



Maritime Heritage

And much more!

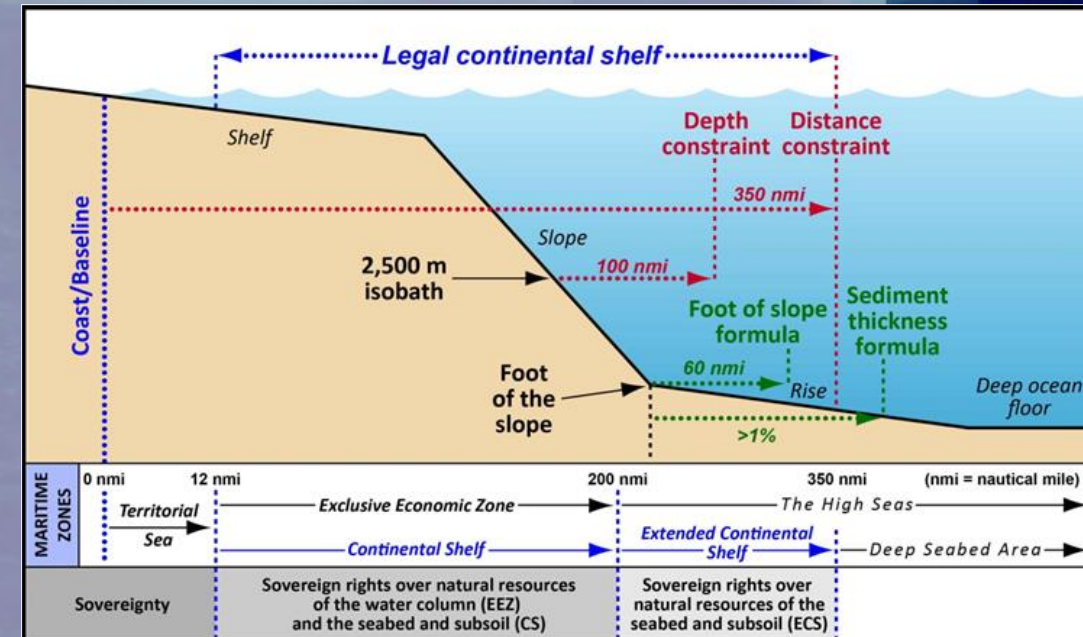
Hydrospatial activities in the region

- **Nautical Charting**
- **Climate Change Monitoring**
- **Maritime Environmental Protection**
- **Port and Harbour Infrastructure**
- **Pre- and Post-natural disaster**
- **Law of the Sea**
- **Tourism (particularly eco-tourism)**
- **Professional training, and**
- **Other areas (e.g. deep sea mining and exploration, telecommunication cable laying)**



Maritime environmental issues

- Cyclones
- Earthquakes
- Volcanic activity
- Rising sea level due to climate change
- Coastal erosion
- Flood inundation
- Marine pollution



Small Island State Issues

- **Reliance on foreign aid:**
 - Creates dependency,
 - Potential of undermining long-term sustainability of initiatives, and
 - Limiting local capacity development.
- **Inadequate governance, inadequate regulatory systems, lack of compliance to accepted governance systems or lack of infrastructure can:**
 - lead to a disjointed approach to outreach and capacity building policies
 - compromise hydrospatial activities and efforts.
- **Corruption**

Community Engagement

- Effective community engagement is crucial for the success of hydrospatial initiatives,
- Often hindered by varying levels of awareness and educational backgrounds among local communities.
- Reconciling traditional maritime practices with modern strategies poses a significant challenge, requiring a deep understanding of cultural contexts.



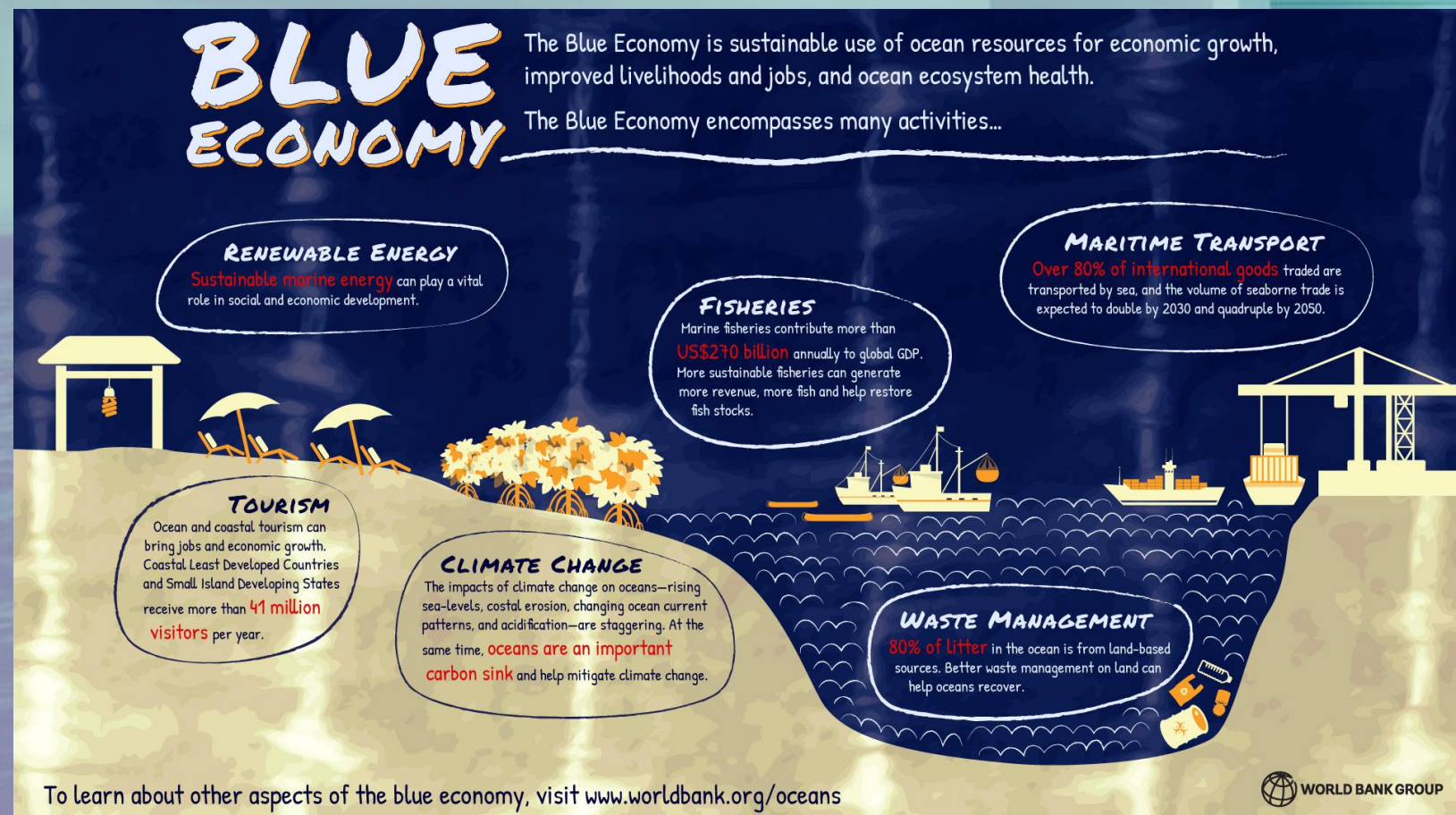
Fostering of Relationships

Vital for:

- fostering cooperation
- mitigates social and economic inequalities.

Facilitates:

- equitable resource distribution,
- benefits among diverse communities and stakeholders
- Sharing of information and knowledge



Major AID & Intergovernmental Organisations

Some major intergovernmental organisations working in the SW Pacific:

- UN – UNDP,
- IHO - SWP Hydrography Commission
- European Community
- DFAT
- Asian Development Bank
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division)

Council of Regional Organisations in the SW Pacific

The Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) comprises several regional inter-governmental agencies:

- the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) (formerly the South Pacific Commission),
- the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA),
- the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP),
- the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP),
- the South Pacific Travel Organisation (SPTO),
- the University of the South Pacific (USP),
- the Pacific Aviation Safety Organisation, and
- the Pacific Power Association.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat acts as CROP's permanent chair and provides secretariat support.

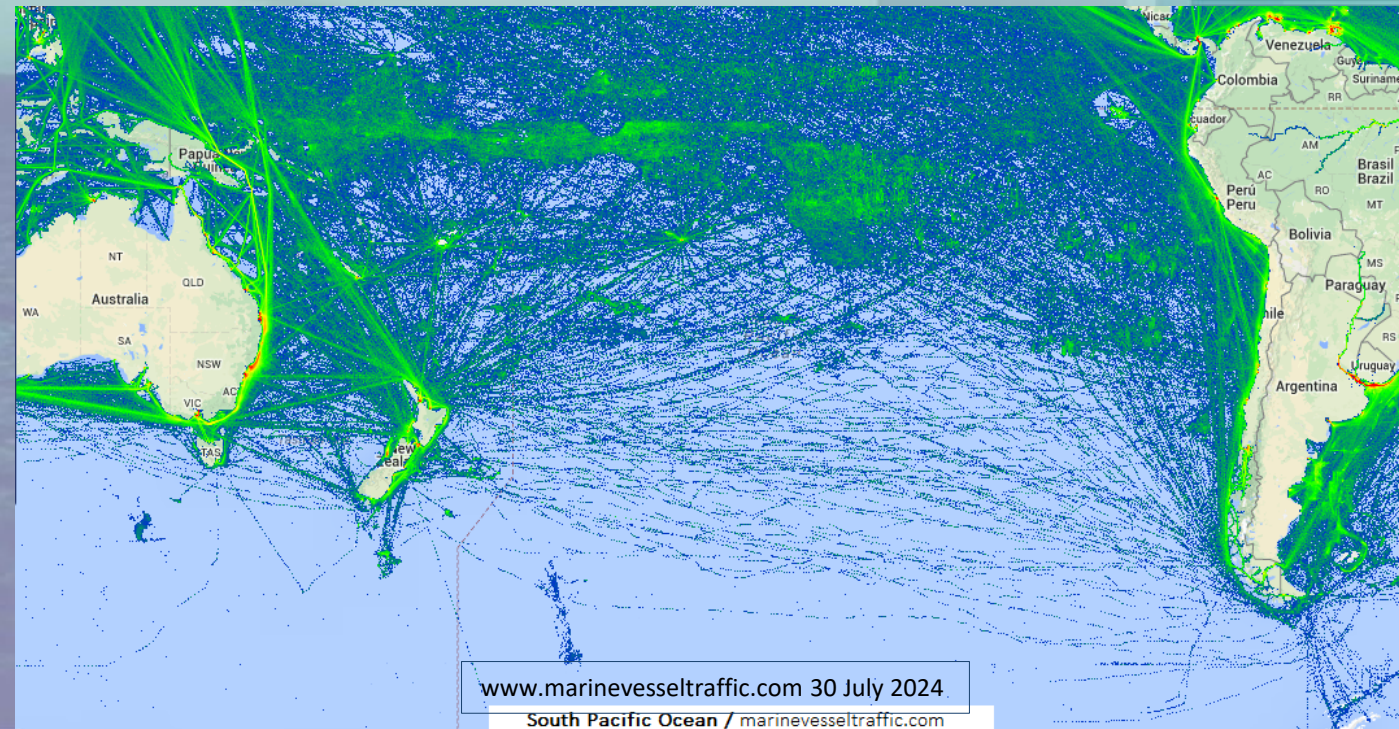
SW Pacific Regional Non-Government Organisations Alliance

There are currently 14 organisations within the PRNGO group:

- Council of Pacific Education (COPE)
- Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)
- Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC)
- Foundations of the People of the South Pacific (FSPI)
- Greenpeace
- Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women (PACFAW)
- Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC)
- Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)
- Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)
- South Pacific and Oceania Council of Trade Unions (SPOCTU)
- Pacific Council of Churches (PCC)
- WWF Pacific (WWF)
- Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG)
- Pacific Youth Council

Establishing relationships

- Relationships must be established between individuals, organisations or states
- Understanding of culture and customs – societal, political and organisational
- Follow-up after initial contact



What does the Public want?

- **Hydrospatial science doesn't have the answers to climate change or other activities related to maritime development and sustainability, but can monitor and provide tools to cope with some of the effects.**
- **When it comes to climate change, the public has:**
 - **high expectations about tackling climate change.**
 - **an increasing interest in the fast and reliable provision of precision information regarding:**
 - **the actual conditions of our oceans,**
 - **the assessment of the long-term sea level rise, and**
 - **the early detection and warning of marine geo-hazards or extreme weather events.**

Working together

- Synergy can be achieved between organisations, including government departments, aid donors, NGOs, etc., by finding common ground through promotion of hydrospatial science.
- Collaboration and relationship building allow this synergy to happen in a number of ways:
 - Development of relationships between stakeholders to allow discovery of data and information that mutually assists work and operations.
 - Allows cost savings where data collection can be undertaken jointly instead of in a 'stovepipe' fashion that encourages hoarding of data and information.
 - Can assist in greater rapidity of action in times of disaster relief operations.
 - Creates greater trust between organisations, greater transparency of operational requirements and a greater capacity for load sharing.
 - Allows better planning for future local, national and regional requirements for hydrospatial activities.
 - Allows better planning and engagement in resource sustainability and development.

Establishing a NFP SWP hydrospatial promotion and lobbying group?

- Facilitate awareness and understanding of the fundamental importance of hydrospatial activity within SWP region among:
 - Public
 - Regional bodies (including inter-governmental, NGOs and business)
 - Government ministries
 - Politicians and senior bureaucrats
- Assist in hydrospatial capacity building within the community
- A Not-For-Profit SWP hydrospatial promotion and lobbying group based in Fiji:
 - Open to those with interest in hydrospatial matters, commercial members
 - Fostering of relationships
 - Funded by individual and corporate membership, and commercial sponsorship as req'd
- **'Oceania Hydrospatial Society'**

Conclusion

- **The physical and political environment presents some issues for hydrospatial science practitioners and SWP community due to:**
 - **Lack of understanding**
 - **Lack of promotion**
 - **Issues relating to small island states**
 - **Climate Change – sea level rise, maritime boundaries, defence/food security**
- **Strong relationships and an understanding of the culture and politics is necessary for long-term engagement**
- **A NFP SWP hydrospatial promotion and lobbying group ‘Oceania Hydrospatial Society’ will be established**

Questions?

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