

Solomon Islands holds marine and ocean services workshop

The Solomon Islands has six major Islands and over 900 smaller islands. More than 75% of the population live in the rural areas, mostly around the coast. Surrounded by ocean, most of the rural dwellers use small crafts to travel from island to island within the country.

Nevertheless, this means of transport has caused accidents and loss of lives and is a great concern. As one of the responsible authorities for the safety and well-being of ocean goers, the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service (SIMS) has introduced Ocean Services into its portfolio and seek to provide services that will be essential to aid small crafts & vessel travellers.

A Marine and Ocean Services Workshop took place in Solomon Islands 7-9 October 2020. The overall goal of the workshop was to bring together all responsible agencies, stakeholders and communities, and build awareness on the Ocean services information provided by Solomon Islands Meteorological Service in the context of early warning, and to discuss plans for the safety of the local sea travellers.

The workshop was officially opened 7 October 2020 by the Hon. Dickson Mua, Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology. It brought together SIMS and Solomon Islands (SI) National Oceans and Marine Sectors' stakeholders. These include the Solomon Islands (SI) Maritime Authority (SIMA), SI Search and Rescue (Maritime Police), SI shipping owners/operators/companies, small crafts/boats owners/operators, fishery companies and institutions, representatives of coastal communities, representatives of SI National University, fishing community.

The workshop was co-funded by the Government of Ireland, the Climate Risk Early Warning System (CREWS) Initiative and the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and through the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) CREWS Pacific SIDS Project, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Government of Solomon Islands.



