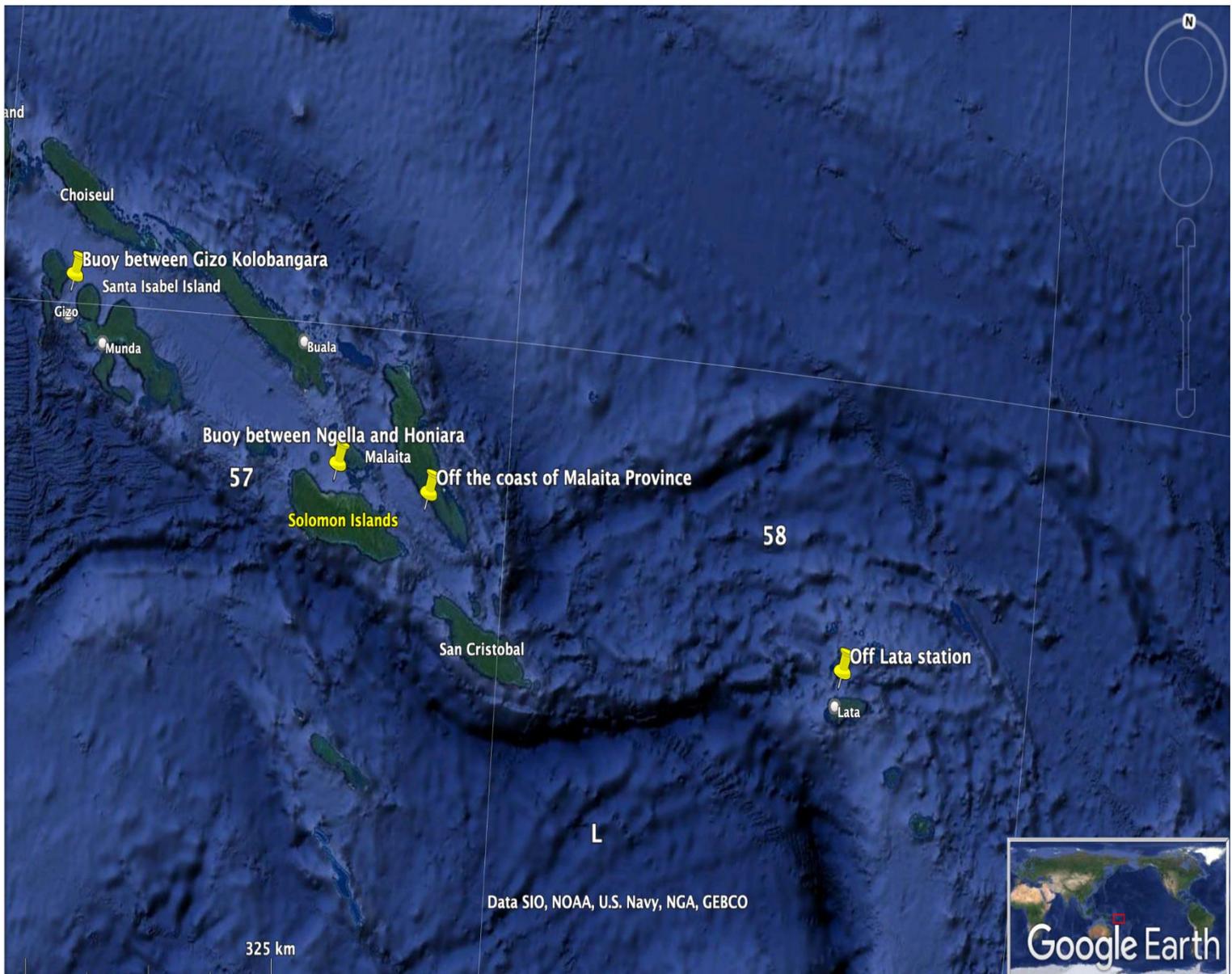


Solomon Islands National Report.

Solomon Islands (SI) consists of 6 major islands and over 900 small islands. It has a land area of 28,400 square kilometres, and a population of about 800,000. Most of its exclusive economic zone is covered by sea so the popular means of travel between the islands is by sea transport. Also, most people reside along the shoreline thus are connected to the ocean in one way or another. Most of the incidents occurring throughout the year due to natural disasters is seas incidents compared to cyclones or flooding losses. One of the causes of such incidents is due to lack of ocean data.

Ocean observation in the country to date is still at its premature stage. With only three established tide gauges in the country is not enough to extract data that gives ocean information w which will help reduce incidents at sea.

Now that we will be supported with the purchase and deployment of wave drifter buoys, the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service is planning to deploy the instruments within our island waters at strategic locations where more people commute by boat between urban centres and their homes. One location of choice is between Choiseul and Western provinces, the other one



will be somewhere between Guadalcanal, Central and Malaita provinces and also between Makira and Temotu Provinces. See diagram below.

This is to provide real-time data information on parameters such as waves, currents, swell height and so forth that are needed by boat travellers commuting back and forth along those areas of the sea. At those particular areas of concern, we have been victimized by the treacherous seas that have taken a lot of lives of people travelling. People get drifted and never to be found or if lucky enough are getting washed ashore at some far away locations. For facts, last year we have lost 8 people that includes children who are getting capsized by swells between Choiseul Island and Kolombangara (Western Province). Another is the capsizing of a number of boats between Honiara and the Central Islands.

Such incidents should have been avoided if we had real-time data from buoys on ocean waves, swells and currents to help inform boat travellers so that they can make better and right decisions when traveling by boat. Understanding these parameters will also enable the protection of coastal inundation especially on lagoons along the coasts. Other reasons are to provide ocean data to Solomon Islands (SI) Met Service to issue warnings on rough seas with confidence that the provided data is genuine because of the deployed buoy. Also, to verify the satellite data that are being used for the products issued to the public on marine weather.

The Ocean section of the Solomon Islands Met service and our technical team will be assisting the experts from DBCP in heading the installation of the buoys. Research to locate the right positions for the deployment of the buoys is the first task to be undertaken by the ocean experts and the met team. Once that is accomplished then deployment is the next task. The next task is the public awareness on the importance of these instrument. Once the instruments are up and running the plan is to undertake maintenance of these buoys every three months on regular basis. To do this task the SI Met service requests training to be provided by the DBCP ocean experts. The plan for Data storage is that data to be kept in a server stored at our climate office or alternatively, ocean data to be stored online and be made available to access by our met service. Accomplishing this task requires support and collaboration with DBCP and other country partners.

The maintenance of the buoys is the responsibility of the Solomon Islands Met service. However, regular assistance will be requested from DBCP from time to time to accomplish these tasks.