

Panel discussion

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There is a need to consider what could be the benefit(s) of dual naming (*Japan Sea / East Sea*) for Japan? For example, the acceptance by Japan of the dual naming would surely contribute to building sustainable peace between the concerned States, peace being understood here as “more than no war” in the sense developed by Prof. Stoltman. Such a gesture of goodwill would be put to the credit of Japan and this would undoubtedly be most appreciated in the international community. There would be merit in identifying additional such benefits for Japan.

Now, referring to the long standing preparation of a new edition of IHO publication S-23 and the forthcoming IHO Assembly in 2017, I see two possible options to move forward on this issue.

THE "SAFE WAY" OPTION

- The name appearing in the current valid 3rd edition to be used;
- On the same page, the name(s) of the State(s) expressing reservation(s) to appear, with the indication whether the reservation refers to name and/or limit, details of which will be included in an Appendix. It has to be noted that the 2002 draft edition of S-23 has followed a similar procedure for a number of sea areas, and reservations in the Appendix have been recorded by Australia, Norway, Russian Federation and USA.

This possible “way forward” was proposed by Australia in 2010 as part of the IHO S-23 WG activities. Japan's comment on that proposal was as follows: “*The basic position of Japan remains that the name Japan Sea should be maintained unchanged. However, if a consensus can be formed around it, Japan, as a responsible member of the WG, can go along with the "Way Forward" in a spirit of compromise.*” There is therefore good probability that this option could be accepted by Japan.

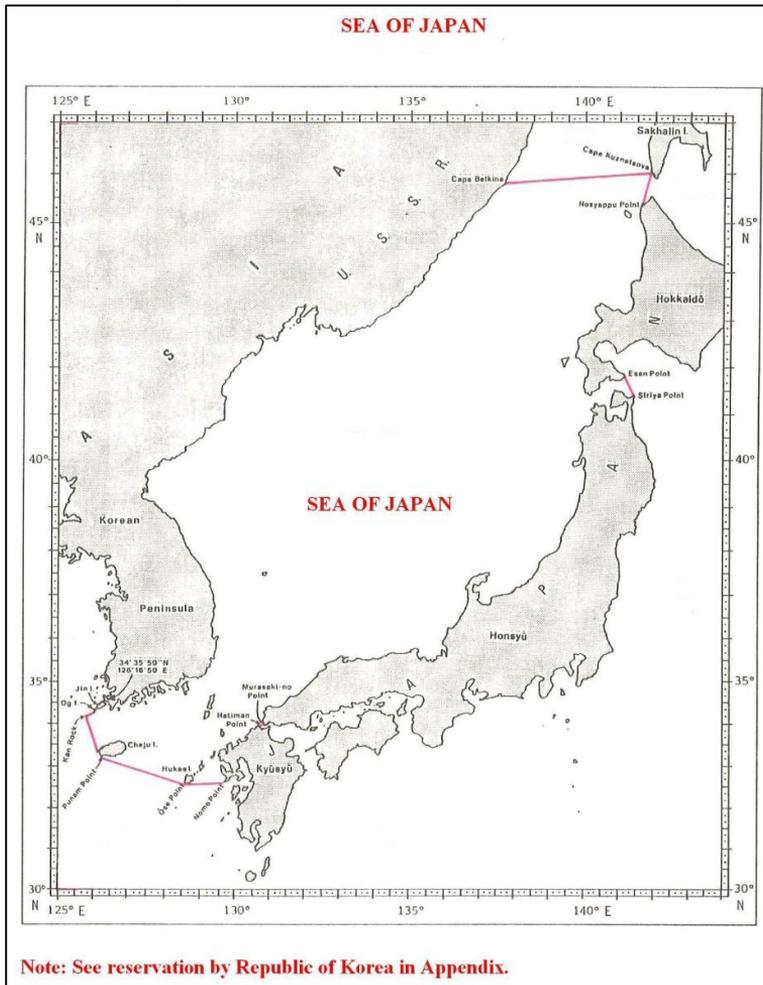
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Republic of Korea did not support this proposed way forward. However, there may be some merit to reconsider that option since having the name East Sea included in S-23, even in an Appendix, could pave the way for chart and map makers, worldwide, to use both names Sea of Japan (or *Japan Sea*) and *East Sea*.

The figures in the following two pages illustrate this “Safe Way” option.

“Safe Way” option

Figure 1. “Safe Way” option (S-23 Sheet)



To Republic of Korea's repeated requests that this IHO resolution should be applied to the case of Japan Sea / East Sea, Japan has so far opposed that it is not applicable to this issue, for instance because the resolution does not explicitly refer to seas. However, there may be room to challenge that position.

The figure in the following page illustrates this possible "Preferred Way" option.

Possible "Preferred Way" option

Figure 3. "Preferred Way" option (S-23 Sheet)

