

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)**

JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR
OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY (JCOMM)
EXPERT TEAM ON MARINE CLIMATOLOGY

ETMC-II/Doc. 1.2(2)
(3.1.2007)

SECOND SESSION

ITEM 1.2

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 26 TO 27 MARCH 2007

Original: ENGLISH

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1.1 Opening

The Second Session of the JCOMM Expert Team on Marine Climatology (ETMC) will be opened by Mr Scott Woodruff, Chairman of the Expert Team, at 0900 hours on Monday, 26 March 2007, at the WMO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland.

1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

The Team will be invited to adopt the agenda for the Session on the basis of the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariats.

1.3 Working Arrangements

The Team will agree on its hours of work and other practical session arrangements. The documentation will be introduced by the Secretariats. It is expected that the documentation, and the meeting itself, will be conducted in English only.

2. JCOMM ASPECTS

The Team will be presented with the reports by the Chairman of the Team and the Secretariats, including actions taken since the First Session of ETMC (Gdynia, Poland, 7 to 10 July 2004).

The Team will be informed on the activities of the Observations Programme Area (OPA), the Data Management Programme Area (DMPA) and the Services Programme Area (SPA) of interest to the ETMC. Of particular interest will be the outcome of the Second Session of JCOMM (JCOMM-II, Halifax, Canada, September 2005), the Third Session of the Services Coordination Group (SCG-III, Exeter, United Kingdom, 7 to 10 November 2006), and the Second Session of the Data Management Coordination Group (DMCG-II, Geneva, Switzerland, 10 to 12 October 2006), as well as actions taken since these sessions.

Reports will also cover requirements/activities within the OPA of the Ship Observations Team (SOT), the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Climate (VOSCLIM) Project, the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP), and within the DMPA of the Expert Team on Data Management Practices (ETDMP). Detailed discussion will take place under relevant agenda items.

3. DATA QUALITY AND EXCHANGE

3.1 New Task Team on Delayed-Mode VOS data (TT-DMVOS)

The DMCG-II agreed that maintaining the delayed-mode VOS data flow utilizing the International Maritime Meteorological Tape (IMMT) format was important, but also that management of the MCSS, including the two separate functions of VOS data handling and MCSS Summaries, needed to be modernized. As an initial step, it recommended the establishment of a new self-funded Task Team on Delayed-Mode Voluntary Observing Ship data (TT-DMVOS), to focus exclusively on the first function. The Team would be tasked, amongst other things, to manage the Global Collecting Centres (GCCs), establish requirements for the IMMT format and the Minimum Quality Control Standards (MQCS), reconcile the IMMT and the International Maritime Meteorological Archive (IMMA) formats, revise relevant WMO technical publications as needed, and establish a website to share relevant information.

The Team will be invited to review the proposed terms of reference of, and define its working relationships with, the new task team, whose membership is planned to include selected members of the ETMC and SOT. (The Climatological Summaries function under the MCSS will be discussed separately, under Agenda Item 6).

3.2 Review of the IMMT and MQCS

The IMMT format and MQCS have been revised by the JCOMM-II in accordance with changes that were proposed as an outcome from the first ETMC Session (ETMC-I). The Team will review the format and standards, including their implementation status (to be put into effect generally for all data collected as of 1 January 2007), and discuss whether there is any further need for revisions or action, at this time, to be passed to the TT-DMVOS.

3.3 Review of BUFR template for ship data

The Team will discuss BUFR encoding requirements for ship data and other marine data. Any changes to existing BUFR templates will have to be passed to the new DMCG Task Team on Table Driven Code Forms after consultation with the SOT Codes Group.

3.4 Review on electronic logbooks

Members operating the VOS have been encouraged to use electronic logbooks such as TurboWin. It is essential that amendments on codes and formats be carefully coordinated and accommodated in a timely fashion in the electronic logbooks. The Team will be presented with the processes currently used to modify some electronic logbooks. Information should be taken into consideration for the discussion under Agenda Item 3.5.

3.5 Review of the operations of the Global Collecting Centres

The Team will review the operation/activities of the GCCs and Responsible Members. The Team will be invited to identify any deficiencies and consider possible further improvements of the data exchange system, to be passed to the TT-DMVOS.

3.6 Ship call sign masking

Ships participating in the VOS Scheme do so on the understanding that the meteorological data they transmit are exchanged between the NMSs for real-time meteorological forecasting activities as well as for climatological research. However, in recent years, there has been a proliferation of publicly accessible websites displaying these data. This has raised questions about how these data were obtained, but of greater concern are: (i.) the identification of ships by their name or callsign on these websites, and (ii.) the mapping of ships from the positional data in their BBXX reports. These situations expose ships to increased security risks and may also have commercial implications. Some ship owners have already withdrawn ships from national VOS programmes, whilst other companies have threatened to withdraw ships from national VOS programmes if the leak of these data to the web continues. Following the SOT-III and the Third International PMO Workshop (PMO-III), recommendations were made to the WMO Executive Council for its Fifty-Eighth Session (June 2006).

The Council discussed the issues and adopted Resolution 7 (EC-LVIII). The Team will be invited to discuss the issue and make recommendations for the SOT.

4. DATA ARCHIVAL

4.1 Development of the International Marine Metrological Archive (IMMA) format

The Team will review the development and status of the IMMA format, which is in wide use for storing historical and contemporary marine data for the International Comprehensive Ocean-Atmosphere Data Set (ICOADS). The Team will discuss potential linkages and convergence issues between the IMMA and IMMT formats, with recommendations to be passed to the TT-DMVOS.

4.2 History of the marine ship code

The ETMC-I recalled that work had been done to document information relating to the history of the marine ship codes, and to make it available via the web. Details related to said information can be located at the following web address: http://goos.kishou.go.jp/ws/ETMC/code_task/. This documentation is extremely valuable, in particular to the correct interpretation of observational data contained in the archives, which are clearly sensitive to the codes and formats used for their exchange.

The ETMC-I also agreed on a work plan to: (i.) make all final reports of CMM and Commission for Synoptic Meteorology (CSM)/CBS sessions available on the website, (ii.) update the website, (iii.) look for past editions and supplements to the *Manual on Codes* and making them available on the website, and (iv.) expand this task to other marine codes such as FM 18 DRIFTER/BUOY, FM 62 TRACKOB, FM 63 BATHY, FM 64 TESAC and FM 65 WAVEOB. The Team requested Mr Yoshida to contact Dr Kent to expand the search for older versions of the *Manual on Codes*. It also agreed that all Team Members should look for the older versions of the *Manual on Codes* in the archives of each country and inform Mr Yoshida if missing versions are found.

Since the ETMC-I, NOAA's Climate Database Modernization Program (CDMP) has also partnered to some extent on this work, including archiving copies of the resultant imaged publications.

The Team will be presented with progress reports and will be invited to comment and make recommendations on this issue, as appropriate.

4.3 Archival of wave and storm surge data, extreme wave archive

The ETMC-I had agreed that the ETWS would take responsibility for the development of global wave metadata archives, and noted with appreciation that the ETWS was currently involved in the preparation of a variety of such products (e.g., catalogues of wave and storm surge data and modeling).

More recently, however, the DMCG-II requested the ETMC to consider the possibility of developing, in collaboration with the ETWS and other appropriate groups, a JCOMM Extreme Wave Event Archive.

The Team will be presented with a proposal for the Extreme Wave Event Archive, plus related activities of the ETWS, and will discuss these issues and future potential linkages with ETWS.

4.4 Logbook and international marine data recovery (e.g. RECLAIM)

The Team will be informed about National activities to recover logbooks and other international marine data, focused on the REcovery of Logbooks And International Marine data (RECLAIM) project. The Team will discuss the need to further promote and enhance such activities.

5. PLATFORM METADATA ARCHIVAL

5.1 Current status of WMO Ship Catalogue (WMO-No. 47)

The ETMC-I agreed that the SOT should assume responsibility for future revisions to WMO-No. 47, with the ETMC assuming an advisory role, as appropriate. A database for the WMO-No. 47 has been under development with the WMO Secretariat. The Team will be presented with the status of the database and its future plans, including the status and prospects for implementation of changes more recently proposed by the SOT to WMO-No. 47.

5.2 Old versions of WMO Ship Catalogue (WMO-No. 47)

Older versions of WMO-No. 47 were imaged and digitized by the CDMP. The Team will be presented with the current status of this project. The Team will be invited to give comments and recommendations on the project, especially regarding the availability of the digitized data.

5.3 Ocean Data Acquisition System (ODAS) Metadata

Following a format originally proposed by the CMM Subgroup on Marine Climatology (the predecessor group to the ETMC) and adopted at JCOMM-I, a database of ODAS (e.g., moored and drifting buoys, and mobile and fixed ocean platforms) metadata has been under development by the JCOMM, and graciously hosted by China. The Team will be briefed about the status of this database, and about efforts across JCOMM to gather current and historical ODAS metadata to be included into this or other databases (e.g., WMO-No. 47 or JCOMMOPS). For example, the ETMC-I had agreed that, on a temporary basis, mobile offshore platforms should be a subject to the WMO-No. 47 metadata requirements, whilst fixed-platforms should be the subject of ODAS metadata requirements.

6. REVIEW OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME AND OTHER CLIMATE RELATED PROGRAMMES

6.1 Requirements for and provision of marine climatological data and services

The Team will discuss requirements for marine climatological data and services. An original objective of the MCSS was to establish a joint effort of all maritime nations in the preparation and publication of climatological statistics and charts for the ocean. The current version of the *Guide to Marine Meteorological Services* (WMO-No. 471) and *Manual on Marine Meteorological Services* (WMO-No. 558), include guidance for the climatological summaries, accordingly.

The DMCG-II agreed on the need for modernization of the management of the two separate functions of the MCSS: delayed-mode VOS data handling and the preparation of climatological summaries. The future and modernization of the climatological summaries function will be discussed here (modernization of the data handling function, as discussed under Agenda Item 3.1, will be tasked to the new TT-DMVOS). As background for this discussion, the Team will be informed of the results of a questionnaire concerning the MCSS Summaries (circulated by the WMO in 2005), which considered the applications and benefits of the MCSS Summaries, and included suggestions for modifications to the Scheme.

The Team will be invited to review the guidance and consider needs for such guidance and revision of the Manual and the Guide, as necessary. The Team will also discuss how both oceanographic and ice climatologies could be coordinated, as requested by JCOMM-I, with the marine meteorological data to be seen as an integrated product.

6.2 Climate change detection monitoring and indices

In this regard, the Team will be informed of the outcome of the meeting of the joint CCI/CLIVAR/JCOMM Expert Team on Climate Change detection and indices (Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada, 14 to 16 November 2006).

7. MARINE DATA AND CLIMATOLOGY WORKSHOPS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Second JCOMM Workshop on Advances in Marine Climatology (CLIMAR-II) took place in Brussels, November 2003. This was followed by the Second International Workshop on Advances in the Use of Historical Marine Climate Data (MARCDAT-II) (Exeter, United Kingdom, 17 to 20 October, 2005), thus continuing the alternating sequence (with approximately two-year intervals) of these successful, and closely-related workshops.

Among the recommendations from the CLIMAR-II, was to hold a CLIMAR-III in 2007, which was endorsed by the MARCDAT-II and JCOMM-II, and tasked specifically from the DMCG-II. The Team will be informed about the status of planning, based on an offer by Poland to host the workshop in May 2008.

The Team will also be informed about a new "Wiki" (www.marineclimatology.net), which has been introduced to allow the marine climatology community to track recommendations from MARCDAT-II (as well as from the earlier CLIMAR and MARCDAT Workshops, as appropriate), and invited to participate and provide other feedback.

8. MANUALS, GUIDES, AND OTHER TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

8.1 Guide to the Applications of Marine Climatology

Presentations at the CLIMAR-II were incorporated into a JCOMM Technical Report (JCOMM TR No. 22, 2004), and a selection of papers was published in a special issue of the International Journal of Climatology (IJC; Royal Meteorological Society, United Kingdom). This formed an update to the Dynamic part of the Guide, which was originated at the First CLIMAR Workshop (CLIMAR99, Vancouver, September 1999).

The Team will discuss the status of the IJC Special Issue, and the need to provide further updates to the Dynamic part of the guide, possibly as a similar outcome from CLIMAR-III.

8.2 Review of the Manual on Marine Meteorological Services (WMO-No. 558) and the Guide to Marine Meteorological Services (WMO-No. 471)

The Team will be invited to make a proposal on amendments to the Manual and Guide, as appropriate.

8.3 Guide to Climatological Practices

At its first meeting, the Team was informed that the *Guide to Climatological Practices* (WMO-No. 100), has been reviewed for many years and that updated Part I was available on the Commission for Climatology (CCI) website. The Team further noted that Part II was currently under preparation and a draft outline of the full Part II and responsible authors have already been identified for all the sections in the outline. Considering that the Team has been updating the *Guide on Applications of Marine Climatology* (namely, publishing its dynamic part) by organizing a series of workshops, the Team agreed that it would not be necessary to make further input to the *Guide to Climatological Practices* at this stage. However, the Team noted that it would be useful if the Team could review 2.7 "*Climatological Summaries*", in view of the implementation of the Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme. Dr Mietus was tasked to review this section, if the text of 2.7 were made available.

The Team will be informed on undertaken actions and on the current status of the Guide to Climatological Practices and decide whether any further revisions might be proposed.

9. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

9.1 Terms of reference (TOR) of ETMC

The Team will be invited to propose revisions of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Team, as appropriate.

10. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

The Team will be expected to review, modify as necessary, and approve action items and recommendations. The final report of the Session will be circulated to the Team Members shortly after the Session for review and approval.

11. Closure of the session

The Second Session of the JCOMM Expert Team on Marine Climatology (ETMC-II) is expected to close by 1700 hours on Tuesday, 27 March 2007.
