

APPENDIX B**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME MET-OCEAN SERVICES CONFERENCE 2008**

(Concept paper)

Background

1. Enhancing all aspects of safety at sea is the primary objective of marine forecast and warning programmes. But there are a wide variety of other applications that have become increasingly important such as offshore resource exploration; military and defence operations; marine engineering; sub-sea communications; tsunami; storm surges and coastal defence; ship routing and navigation; operations in the marginal ice zone; pollution monitoring prevention and clean-up; sustainable management of commercial fishing activities; marine and coastal environmental management; and, most recently, seasonal and climate forecasting. All of these applications require marine meteorological and oceanographic observational data sets and prognostic products that are accurate, timely and supported by innovative and accessible services.

2. Today, the quality and breadth of data products expected by marine industries has expanded considerably and the challenge is to ensure that they provide value to the present and future generation of maritime applications. Operational met-ocean services rely on complex and expensive data collection and real time synthesis systems that must interact in real time across international boundaries. The IOC/WMO Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) has been created to facilitate the development and application of globally distributed marine meteorological and oceanographic services and their supporting observational, data management and capacity building programmes.

3. A close dialog between those people pioneering the development of the next generation of maritime service infrastructures and those using their output in maritime applications is essential to ensure value for money and maximum impact across all maritime operational services. The IMMSC 2008 Conference provides a unique opportunity for international leaders (executive level decision makers) of the maritime Industry, governments, maritime service providers, marine scientists and engineers for maritime safety, marine accident and emergency systems, wind wave and storm surge systems and services in the Arctic and Antarctic to help shape the future of JCOMM activities that will assist the delivery of a new generation of systems for the maritime service sector.

IMMSC 2008 Aim

4. The aim of the International Maritime MetOcean Services Conference 2008 (IMMSC 2008) is to:

- Establish and agree on international MetOcean services requirements, identifying shortcomings of present systems and reviewing long and short-term solutions.

5. The objectives of the IMMSC 2008 are:

- To understand present and future MetOcean needs of the international maritime

industry;

- To build on scientific and technical excellence to respond and better meet these needs;
- To integrate international regional/global efforts with that of others to increase efficiency and capability and minimize duplication of effort;
- To ensure JCOMM acts as a flexible, streamlined organization capable of coordinating international maritime services;
- Enhance coordination of worldwide marine meteorological and oceanographic services and their supporting observational, data management and capacity building programmes;
- Influence the development of best practices.

6. IMMSC 2008 will provide a forum and close dialog between leaders working with marine meteorological and oceanographic (MetOcean) products and services including private and public maritime application industries, system and service providers, marine scientists and engineers to improve communication and mutual understanding.

IMMSC2008 Deliverables

7. The primary output from the conference will be:

- Clear requirements on information providers and user applications ensuring targeted development of the most appropriate and useful MetOcean products and services;
- IMMSC 2008 marine meteorological and oceanographic key products and services assessment report (hard copy and dynamic web components);
- IMMSC 2008 marine meteorological and oceanographic products and services user community directory of MetOcean requirements (hard copy and dynamic web components);
- IMMSC 2008 marine meteorological and oceanographic products and services user community handbook (MarServR, hard copy and dynamic web components). The MarServR will provide a practical and easy-to-use reference of international maritime MetOcean data products and services that will be updated on a four-year cycle.

IMMSC 2008 Scope

8. The IMMSC Scope:

- (a) The Conference is planned for a one-week period (Monday-Friday) in October 2008;
- (b) A limited number of trade stands will be available in the MetOffice street area;
- (c) Poster presentation areas, plenary presentation and limited parallel sessions/breakout groups;
- (d) Places are limited to 200 people with a preferred 50:50 mix of world leading scientist/engineers and application specialists;

- (e) The proposed Conference will work with/benefit from other conferences, particularly industrial conferences, GODAE, MERSEA, BLUElink> and other major operational ocean projects.

