

World Meteorological Organization

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

GENEVA, 2007



Cg-XV/Doc. 3.4.4

Submitted by: Secretary-General and
Co-presidents of
JCOMM

Date: 8.III.2007

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Agenda item: 3.4.4

MARINE METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAMME; THE REPORT OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS OF JCOMM

SUMMARY

ACTION REQUIRED:

Congress is invited to:

- (a) Adopt the draft text given in Appendix A for inclusion in the general summary;
- (b) Approve the draft resolution in Appendix B;
- (c) Provide guidance regarding the future implementation of the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme.

REFERENCES:

1. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions and Recommendations of the Second Session of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (WMO-No. 995)*
2. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-eighth Session of the Executive Council (WMO-No. 1007)*

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendices for inclusion in the final report:

- A. Draft text for inclusion in the general summary of Cg-XV
- B. Draft Resolution 3.4.4/1 (Cg-XV) – Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme

Appendix for information:

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.4.4: Progress/Activity Report

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY OF Cg-XV

3.4.4 MARINE METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAMME; THE REPORT OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS OF JCOMM (*agenda Item 3.4.4*)

3.4.4.1 Congress noted with appreciation the report of the Co-presidents of JCOMM, Dr P. Dexter and Dr J.-L. Fellous, on the work accomplished by the Commission during the past intersessional period. It congratulated the Commission for the substantial progress made, and new initiatives taken in many areas of major importance to Members. Congress recognized that the establishment of the JCOMM, as a jointly sponsored technical commission, had proven to be a great success, particularly by bringing together the marine meteorological and oceanographic communities, both nationally and internationally, and integrating operational marine activities.

3.4.4.2 Congress emphasized the importance of the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme, including its traditional activities in areas such as Maritime Safety Services, as well as the new priorities in operational oceanography and the implementation of an integrated ocean observing system for climate. It approved the integrated programme, including its support for WMO priority cross-cutting activities. Congress urged Members to provide all the resources necessary for its implementation, so that WMO could fully coordinate and facilitate the sustained provision of global and regional coverage data, products and services to address the continued and expanding requirements of the maritime user community for met-ocean services and information.

3.4.4.3 Congress agreed that the provision of marine meteorological and oceanographic services, to meet the requirements of marine users, continued to be of the highest priority, since they contributed substantially to national economies, as well as being essential for the safety of life at sea, as recognized in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). Therefore, Congress agreed that continued priority should be given to assisting Members in the further implementation of such services. In this context, Congress endorsed the International Maritime Met-ocean Services Conference to be held in Exeter, United Kingdom, from 5 to 9 October 2008.

3.4.4.4 With regards to the Progress/Activity Report on the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme, Congress:

- (a) Noted the achievements under the JCOMM during the past intersessional period, and urged that work in its identified ongoing priority areas should continue;
- (b) Supported the new priority areas to be addressed by the JCOMM, including in particular the DPM, in accordance to the work plan for JCOMM.

3.4.4.5 Congress adopted Resolution 3.4.4/1 (Cg-XV).

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Res. 3.4.4/1 (Cg-XV) – MARINE METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAMME

THE CONGRESS,

Noting:

- (1) Resolution 16 (Cg-XIV) – Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme,
- (2) The *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions and Recommendations of the Second Session of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology* (WMO-No. 995),
- (3) Recommendation 2 (JCOMM-II) – The Development of Operational Oceanographic Products and Services under JCOMM,
- (4) The request by EC-LVIII, paragraph 3.4.4.2 to the JCOMM to continue working in the ongoing WMO priority areas, including the new area of tsunami monitoring and mitigation systems and services, in close cooperation with the various Intergovernmental Coordination Groups for the Tsunami Warning and Mitigation Systems of IOC,

Considering:

- (1) That a continuing concerted effort by National Meteorological Services is needed, in association with national oceanographic agencies and institutions as appropriate, in order that marine meteorological and oceanographic services meet national, regional and international requirements,
- (2) That marine meteorological and oceanographic services provision may be a fundamental source of income, particularly for developing countries needs to increase efficiency while maintaining safety,
- (3) That these targets can only be achieved by continuing and enhancing collaborations with international organizations representing users' interests, such as the IMO, IHO, OGP, ICS, INTERCARGO AND INTERTANKO, etc.,
- (4) That these goals should be addressed through application of a vigorous training and capacity building strategy based on different stages of development that, appropriately applied to each Member, result in a fully functioning suite of met-ocean services satisfying national, regional and international needs,
- (5) That progress in developing and implementing marine meteorological and oceanographic products and services will be achieved through best use of adequate technology and opportunities such as *in situ* met-ocean data, and emerging remote sensing platforms,
- (6) That the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme (MMOP) has an important role to play in WMO cross-cutting activities such as WMO Information System (WIS), Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DPM), and support for Least Developed Countries, in particular the Small Island Developing States, for whom marine resources are a key development factor, as well as in assess coastal vulnerability to marine-related hazards,

Decides:

- (1) That detailed planning and implementation of the MMOP should form an integral part of the new WMO Strategic Plan, and assist Members to arrange for enhanced services provision, including new operational ocean forecast and warning systems to be developed in close coordination with users;
- (2) That the MMOP should be strengthened and expanded to address new and urgent challenges and issues, especially on Disaster Risk Reduction and Coastal Management;
- (3) That additional funding be sought for high-priority activities in the field of training, capacity building and support for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States;

Requests the Executive Council, with the assistance of the JCOMM and other relevant technical commissions, and regional associations, to promote, guide, and assist in the implementation of the MMOP,

Urges Members concerned to collaborate actively, by making time and expertise of their staff available, and by giving all possible support, both direct resources and in-kind, to the implementation of the MMOP and the work of JCOMM through:

- (1) Strengthening their marine meteorological and oceanographic services, including both basic services in support of the safety of life and property at sea as required under SOLAS, and also specialized services for various marine user groups;
- (2) Continuing and/or expanding their contribution to met-ocean data collection and archival, including associated metadata, making use of modern telecommunication facilities for the collection and dissemination of information, within the concept and developing structure of the WMO Information System;
- (3) Expanding the application of remotely-sensed ocean data to the provision of services and to global climate studies, and assisting developing countries to access and make best use of these data;
- (4) Assisting developing countries to fulfil their responsibilities under, and gain full benefit from, the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme, in particular through strengthening specialized training facilities and programmes in marine meteorology and oceanography;
- (5) Facilitating national involvement in the JCOMM through support and encouragement of experts and key relevant officers to participate in and contribute to intersessional activities, such as the work of the JCOMM expert teams and main subsidiary bodies, or national activities being developed or undertaken in support of the JCOMM work programme;
- (6) Supporting the implementation of regional demonstration projects promoted by the WMO in areas such as Integrated Coastal Management, in particular, in case of extreme events (e.g., storm surges, and high and/or long waves), as well as the analysis of the impacts of oceanic response to climate variability and change;

Requests the Co-presidents of JCOMM:

- (1) To ensure that the Commission takes the lead in satisfying the technical needs of Members in the area of marine meteorology and oceanography, including by continuing its policy of preparing and updating guidance material in various aspects of marine

meteorology and oceanography management, through the collaborative efforts of its experts;

- (2) To continue the efforts of the Commission in enhancing the role of the WMO in the field of marine meteorology and oceanography;
- (3) To arrange for contributions from the JCOMM to other WMO Programmes, as appropriate;

Requests the Secretary General:

- (1) To assist in the implementation of the programme, and in particular, to give high priority to training and capacity building requirements;
- (2) To foster the overall integration of the programme in the cross-cutting activities of the WMO, in accordance with the Strategic Plan for WMO;
- (3) To arrange for the coordination of activities under the MMOP, with relevant programme activities of the IOC and other international organizations;
- (4) To assist in the implementation of these activities;
- (5) To seek for further enhancement of cooperation between the MMOP and other WMO Programmes and technical commissions;
- (6) To seek extrabudgetary resources, as necessary, to facilitate the implementation of the programme and the work of the JCOMM;
- (7) To bring this resolution to the attention of all concerned.

Note: This resolution replaces Resolution 16 (Cg-XIV), which is no longer in force.

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PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT

SUMMARY

Reference: Cg-XV/Doc. 3.4.4

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendix:

- Progress/Activity Report for the period 2004-2007

PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2004-2007

1. This report covers the overall activities and organization of the Programme and its Commission (JCOMM) since the Fourteenth Congress (Cg-XIV) in 2003. The Management Group of JCOMM has met formally every year in Geneva or Paris, and JCOMM–II was held in Halifax, Canada in September 2005.
2. Substantive achievements under the JCOMM were reached during the period 2004-2007. These included, *inter alia*:
 - (i) The GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System) Marine Broadcast System is fully operational, with the new Website being increasingly utilized (weather.gmdss.org). Future developments of this Website are planned jointly with other international organizations through pilot projects. There are some ongoing technical issues, including, in particular, the possible transmission of graphical information over Inmarsat, as a part of the GMDSS services;
 - (ii) The MPERSS (Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System) is now operational, a new standing Expert Team established, and a Website developed (www.maes-mperss.org);
 - (iii) Outline of a *Guide to Storm Surge Forecasting* has been prepared. The finalization of this Guide is a priority for 2007;
 - (iv) The Expert Team on Sea Ice (ETSI) is providing substantial support to the IPY, in particular, by developing an Ice Information Portal (www.polarview.org) that was operationally implemented in March 2007;
 - (v) At present, regular meteorological forecasts and warnings for shipping under the GMDSS do not extend to the Polar Regions. In response to this issue, a joint IMO/IHO/WMO Correspondence Group on Maritime Safety Information Services was established to address this problem and other associated issues. The work of this group was summarized, reported and endorsed at the Eleventh Session of the IMO Sub-committee on Radio Communications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR-XI), in February 2007;
 - (vi) The surface buoy network is now essentially complete and needs to be sustained; Argo profiling float programme is 93% complete; the tide gauge network is 40% complete; VOSCLim programme which targets a sustained network of some 200 voluntary observing ships delivering high quality observational data for climate related applications is 57% complete. Overall, the ocean *in situ* observing system is approximately 56% implemented, with the JCOMM plan driving to full implementation, in principle by 2012; however, such implementation will require additional resources;
 - (vii) Development of interoperability of the ocean data management systems, including the WIS and assistance with regard to implementation of metadata collection and delivery to end users, in a way consistent with ocean community data management practices, and also consistent with the WMO Information System (WIS). In particular, the JCOMM End-to-End Data Management (E2EDM) Pilot Project is planned for integration in the WIS as a DCPC;
 - (viii) Organization jointly with the IOC and Member Countries of training workshops related to: (i) enhancement of observational networks, and (ii) enhancement of Member Countries' capacities to use the collected data and services.

3. A new sub-structure was adopted by the Commission during its Second Session. JCOMM's work is accomplished through a Management Committee and three programme areas (Observations, Data Management and Services), and their subsidiary expert and task teams, as well as two cross-cutting activities for capacity building and satellite data requirements. Since JCOMM-II, all Programme Area Coordination Groups, and almost all Expert Teams have met and have defined their Strategic and Work Plans in time for the Congress session.

4. The new or ongoing priority areas to be addressed by the JCOMM include, in particular:

- (i) Further coordinate and facilitate the sustained provision of global and regional data, products and services to address the continued and expanding requirements of the maritime user community for met-ocean services and information; further integration of science and standards into operational services supporting Maritime Safety, Marine Accident Emergency Response, Disaster Risk Reduction and Maritime Hazards;
- (ii) Implementation of the ocean observing system and its long-term maintenance on an operational basis, including existing pilot projects such as Argo, OceanSites, VOSCLIM, and the key ocean satellite missions; further development of the ocean surface drifter network to eventually include barometers on all units;
- (iii) Greater involvement of smaller maritime countries, in particular, in the work of the Commission, in support to the MMOP;
- (iv) Substantial enhancement of the JCOMM data management and interoperability, and its integration with the IODE and WIS;
- (v) Engagement with the private sector in support of the implementation of the JCOMM work programme and of operational oceanography in general.

5. In reviewing the WMO and IOC regular budget allocations to JCOMM, the Commission stressed that the Secretariat resources would meet only about 50% or less of the funding requirements associated with the actions agreed and requested by the JCOMM-II session. Major efforts will be made during the remainder of the intersessional period to attract extrabudgetary resources required for effective JCOMM implementation, in a coordinated fashion, not only within the UN system, but also from external sources.
