

Dear Colleagues,

At the first session of the JCOMM Expert Team on Marine Climatology (ETMC) in Gdynia, July 2004, the Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme (MCSS), was an agenda item. It was decided to prepare a questionnaire and to circulate it among the WMO Members involved in marine climatology, in order to gather opinions on the applications, benefits, new requirements and possible modifications concerning the Scheme and its output.

The Expert Team on Marine Climatology would therefore very much appreciate your **filling in the attached questionnaire and sending it back to the chairman (preferably by e-mail or fax):**

**Prof. Dr Mirosław Mietus
Institute of Meteorology and Water Management
Maritime Branch
Waszyngtona 42
PL-81-342 Gdynia
Poland**

Fax: +48 58 6288 163

E-Mail: Mirosław.Mietus@imgw.pl

at your earliest convenience, but if possible before 12 September 2005. Your response will be taken into account in the deliberations of the Expert Team and in the elaboration of an appropriate recommendation planned to be submitted to the second session of JCOMM in September this year.

Background; objectives of MCSS

In 1960, at its third session, the WMO Technical Commission for Marine Meteorology (CMM) adopted a recommendation aiming at developing an international programme for exchange of global marine climatological and associated oceanographic data and for the preparation of standardized global marine climatological products at regular intervals on the basis of these data.

Along these lines, the Fourth World Meteorological Congress in 1963 adopted Resolution 35 (Cg-IV), deciding to establish such a system, called Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme (MCSS).

It is coordinated by the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) and its Expert Team on Marine Climatology (ETMC).

In this scheme the oceans and seas are divided into areas of responsibility and eight Members (called "Responsible Members") have assumed responsibility to prepare marine climatological summaries for these areas. These Members are: Germany; Hong Kong, China; India; Japan; the Netherlands; the Russian Federation; the United Kingdom and the USA. The Responsible Members receive minimum quality controlled surface observations from the Global Collecting Centers (UK and Germany). Summaries are prepared in chart and/or tabular form for selected representative areas and include such data as dry-bulb temperature, dew point temperature, sea temperature, air-sea temperature difference, visibility, weather, wind direction and speed, pressure, cloud, and waves. Mean monthly and yearly

climatological statistics are calculated on a decadal basis for the periods 1961-70, 1971-80, 1981-90. An example is given in the annex, showing the calculated air temperature for January in the decade 1991 – 2000 in the German area of responsibility.

The development of the Summaries is based on the MCSS data management system and its efficient and effective exchange, quality control, archiving and provision of the marine climatological data originating from the globally operating Voluntary Observing Ships. In view of the importance ascribed to this work by the former CMM, as well as by JCOMM and its Expert Team on Marine Climatology, Members are encouraged to continue publishing the Summaries.

Information on MCSS is contained in the WMO Technical Regulations, WMO – No. 49, Volume I and in the Manual on Marine Meteorological Services, WMO – No. 558, Volume I as well as in the Guide to Marine Meteorological Services, WMO – No. 471.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to the questionnaire,
Best regards,

Prof. Dr Mirosław Mietus (Chairman ETMC),
Reinhard Zöllner (GCC Germany) and Miss Elanor Gowland (GCC UK)

Questionnaire on the use and application of the products of the Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme and proposals for modification of the system

I General

Organization:

Country:

Name
title:

/

Job

II Applications, benefits

In our institution we know about:

- MCSS Summaries none of these so far
 we would like to receive more information

The Summaries (charts) are / could be used in our institution for the purposes outlined below:

—

—

—

—

The Summaries in the current form:

- are of benefit and should not be modified
- should be modified according to the suggestions outlined below

III Suggested modifications to the MCSS System

In our view the benefit of the Summaries could be enhanced. We suggest the following modifications:

- Method of data display (charts, statistics (data tables), graphs, other):

- Changes to the list of calculated climate parameters (e.g. temperatures, wind, msl pressure); additional parameters such as:

- New products, based on different statistical methods (analyses, grid point data, other):

Areal coverage (areas of responsibility only, global coverage additionally, other):

Averaging periods; frequency of publication (every 10 years, every 5 years, every year, other):

Ways and means of distribution (print out, CD-ROM, web page, other):

Other suggestions:

Thank you for your cooperation !

