

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. 3.1
(15.II.2007)

SECOND SESSION

ITEM 3.1

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 26 TO 27 MARCH 2007

Original: ENGLISH

DATA QUALITY AND EXCHANGE

New Task Team on Delayed-Mode VOS Data Exchange (TT-DMVOS)

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and purpose of document

This document provides information on the establishment of a new Task Team on Delayed-Mode VOS Data by the JCOMM Data Management Coordination Group.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Expert Team on Marine Climatology is invited to:

- (a) Review the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR);
- (b) Define its working relationships with, the new task team, whose membership is planned to include selected members of ETMC and SOT;
- (c) Take into account the establishment of the Task Team when discussing relevant agenda items;
- (d) Consider the proposed reporting mechanisms, including a schedule for completion of the project plan.

Appendix: A. Terms of Reference of the JCOMM DPMA Task Team on Delayed-Mode Voluntary Observing Ship Data (TT-DMVOS), (available in English only)

DISCUSSION

At its Second Session, the JCOMM Data Management Coordination Group (DMCG-II, Geneva, Switzerland, 10-12 October 2006), agreed that maintaining the Delayed-Mode VOS Data flow utilizing the International Maritime Meteorological Tape (IMMT) format was important, but also that the 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 (ToR) 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).

The Terms of Reference (ToR) and Membership for the Task Team are detailed in the Appendix of this document.

Appendix: 1

APPENDIX

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE JCOMM DMPA TASK TEAM ON DELAYED-MODE VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SHIP DATA (TT-DMVOS)

Background: The Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme (MCSS), established in 1963 (Resolution 35, Cg-IV), has as its primary objective the international exchange, quality control and archival of delayed-mode marine climatological data, in support of global climate studies and the provision of a range of marine climatological services. Eight countries (Germany, Hong Kong, China, India, Japan, Netherlands, Russian Federation; United Kingdom and USA) were designated as Responsible Members (RMs) to gather and process the data, including also data from other Contributing Members (CMs) worldwide; and to regularly publish Marine Climatological Summaries (MCS) for representative areas, in chart and/or tabular forms. Two Global Data Collecting Centres (GCCs) were established in 1993 in Germany and the United Kingdom to facilitate and enhance the flow and quality control of the data. Eventually all data are to be archived in the appropriate World Data Centres, such as the NOAA National Climatic Data Center (NCDC).

Scope: In practice, the delayed-mode marine climatological data, handled under the MCSS, and published in the MCS, have generally been limited to Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) data (i.e., excluding buoy or other non-ship data), in accordance with the original intent of the MCSS. The Task Team will focus primarily on modernizing the management and quality control of the delayed-mode VOS data, while at the same time exploring possible connections with the management of real-time VOS and other ship-based data (e.g., Shipboard Automated Meteorological and Oceanographic System (SAMOS) and GOSUD). So as to develop a clearer separation between data processing, and the preparation of climatological summaries, the team's scope will be limited to data management. Because the RMs and the GCCs have primary involvement in the data processing, they will be invited to contribute to the work. The review and modernization of the MCS is clearly also an important task, which will be considered separately by the ETMC, and to which the RMs will also be invited to contribute. In addition, as part of the collective modernization of the data management and the MCS, it is anticipated, in due course, that the "MCSS" terminology will be replaced by a new and more up-to-date terminology reflecting a separation between the two functions.

The self-funded Task Team will primarily work via email and shall:

- (i.) Examine current delayed-mode VOS data management practices, including those of the GCCs, and streamline them as possible to reduce redundancies (if any), standardize operations, and exploit appropriate modern technologies;
- (ii.) Examine possibilities for convergence of the data management of the delayed-mode data, with real-time VOS data;
- (iii.) Keep under review the International Maritime Meteorological Tape (IMMT) format, and suggest changes if necessary;
- (iv.) Keep under review the Minimum Quality Control Standards (MQCS), and suggest changes if necessary;
- (v.) Submit proposals to the JCOMM via the ETMC for revising technical publications, in particular the WMO *Manual* (No. 558) and *Guide* (No. 471) *on Marine Meteorological Services*, to incorporate possible changes in the IMMT and the MQCS, and to reinvent the MCSS terminology;
- (vi.) Review the International Maritime Meteorological Archive (IMMA) format, and suggest ways to reconcile the IMMT and IMMA formats;
- (vii.) Establish and maintain a website to share relevant information;
- (viii.) Collaborate and liaise with other groups (e.g., SAMOS and GOSUD), as needed, both to ensure access to expertise and appropriate coordination.

Tentative Membership (from ETMC; including both GCCs as Co-chairpersons, and all RMs presently

represented on the ETMC) include: Elanor Gowland (Co-chairperson), Elizabeth C. Kent, Frits B. Koek, Alexander Vorontsov, Wing-tak Wong, Takashi Yoshida, Scott D. Woodruff and Reinhard Zöllner (Co-chairperson).

Proposed additional members (not on the ETMC) include: A representative from US/NOAA/NCDC, Graeme Ball (Chairperson of the OPA/SOT) and Julie Fletcher (Chairperson of the OPA/SOT/VOS Panel).

Reporting mechanisms:

- (a.) The Team will produce a project plan to guide operations for the next three years. The plan should explain the linkages to other components of the JCOMM, including the SOT and other pertinent programs.
- (b.) The Team will establish an annual reporting mechanism to the ETMC and the SOT.
- (c.) The Team will report to the ETMC and the SOT at their regular meetings.