

# *Development of the IMMA Format (Doc. 4.1)*

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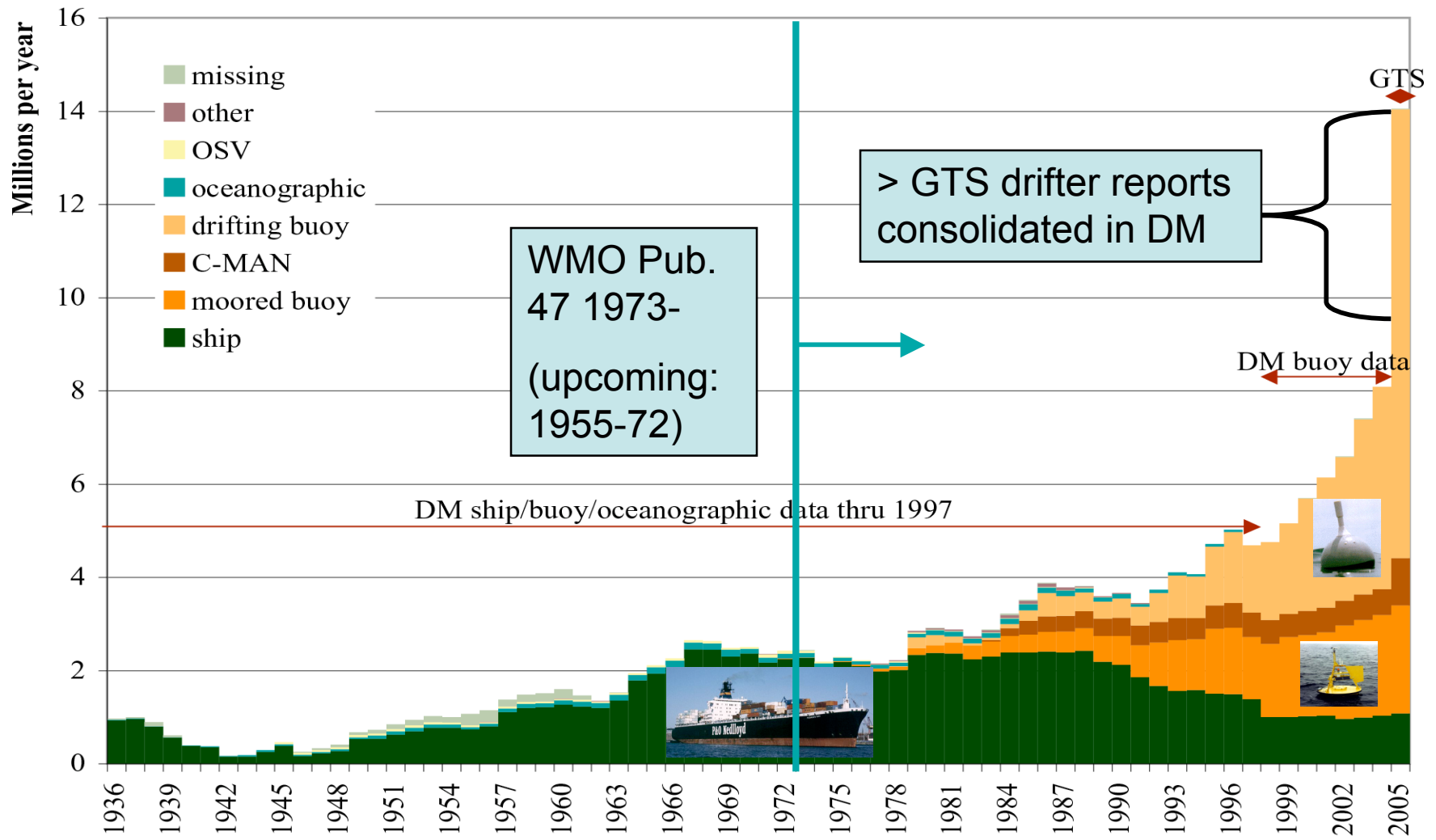


# *Key Format Design Requirements*

- Simplicity: so that Member countries can implement and manipulate
- Use **ASCII** and eliminate encodings (e.g., numeric, “/”)
- Flexibility & extensibility (e.g., historical)
- Abbreviated (“core”) record type useful
- BUFR physical format **not** appropriate
  - ✓ However consider convergence w/ BUFR tables

# IMMA data/metadata mix: 1936-2005

## Delayed-mode (DM) v. GTS (RT) data



# *IMMA record types*



Key for archival: attm of complete original (suppl.) data:



- Experience has demonstrated that translations of data **frequently** contain small (or >) errors, or are incomplete
- E.g., NCEP BUFR: kts/constant = m/s (unconfirmed):  
1.9425 (NCEP) vs. 1.943844 (ICOADS): some  $\Delta 0.1$ m/s  
(Doc. 3.3, Appendix M) (ICOADS uses International Nautical Mile)