

WMO Liaison Report

Submitted by WMO secretariat & vice-Chair of JCOMM ETMSS

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This report provides a summary of the current issues being addressed by the World Meteorological Organization and its actions and activities since WWNWS Meeting 3, particularly related to the 4th Session of the Joint WMO/IOC technical Commission on Oceanography & Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)

Action to be taken: Paragraph 5

Related documents: None

1. Major Outcomes of JCOMM-4:

The fourth Session of the Joint WMO/IOC technical Commission on Oceanography & Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) took place in Yeosu, Korea, in May 2012. The full report will be available online in due course at: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/mmop/meeting_reports.html. The major outcomes in connection with the provision of MSI were:

- 1.1 The Commission adopted the specifications for ice information in SafetyNET bulletins, including the definition of ice-edge and the common set of Sub-Areas agreed by Preparation Services. It requested that the Secretariat update the Manual on Marine Meteorological Services (WMO-No. 558) accordingly. The Commission requested Members/Member States providing MSI in the other METAREAs concerned, especially those covering the Southern Ocean, to follow the agreement of METAREAs XVII-XXI on the exchange and preparation of GMDSS sea ice information. The Commission adopted the list of abbreviations for ice information to be used in NAVTEX bulletins and requested the Secretariat to include it in the list of abbreviations in the Guide on Marine Meteorological Services (WMO-No.471).
- 1.2 The Commission requested that the Secretariat keep the appropriate references to the Worldwide Met-ocean Information and Warning Service (WWMIWS) and to the METAREA Co-ordinators including all the publications on the JCOMM website (<http://www.jcomm.info/GMDSS>). It requested the Expert Team on Maritime Safety Services (ETMSS) to continue working with IHO and IMO to update the joint Manual on MSI and IMO Resolution A.705(17). To facilitate the work of the METAREA Co-ordinators, the Commission urged Members/Member States to disseminate all MSI prepared for GMDSS (i.e. to be broadcast on SafetyNET or International NAVTEX) on the Global Telecommunication System (GTS), and adopted the appropriate amendment to be included in the Manual on Marine Meteorological Services (WMO-No. 558). The Commission requested that JCOMM Management Committee work with IMO and relevant national authorities to encourage greater responsiveness to marine meteorological warnings.

- 1.3 The Commission noted that updated versions of both the Manual on Marine Meteorological Services (WMO-No. 558) and the Guide on Marine Meteorological Services (WMO-No. 471) have been prepared to be available online. The Commission adopted several additional changes for the Manual, including the provision of sea ice information, the availability of MSI prepared for the GMDSS on the GTS, and references to the WWMIWS and METAREA Coordinators and the volume II (Regional Aspects). It adopted a change for the Guide in order to include the NAVTEX Ice abbreviations
- 1.4 The Commission anticipated new demands for sea ice standards from the end-users, in connection with the potential International Polar Initiative (IPI) and in the framework of the Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW). It therefore requested ETSI, in cooperation with the International Ice Charting Working Group as a technical forum of ice services, to continue to maintain and extend as appropriate WMO sea ice technical documentation. In particular, this should include “Sea Ice Nomenclature” as the main WMO sea-ice standard, “Sea-Ice Information Services in the World” as extension for Polar Regions of WMO-No. 9, Volume D, “Ice Objects Catalogue” as a joint WMO/IHO standard for ice in the Electronic Chart Display Information System (ECDIS), and new publications such as “Format for Sea Ice Data Assimilation”, “Understanding and Identifying Old Ice in Summer” and “Manual for Ice Experts – Ice Observers”.
- 1.5 The Commission also noted with appreciation the development of the online version of the questionnaire (<http://www.jcomm.info/MMMS>). by the Secretariat, which should enable the dissemination of surveys more frequently to assess the level of satisfaction of end-users. It therefore requested the ETMSS and Secretariat to conduct surveys more often (2 years) with the support of the Issuing Services, and to use these surveys to gather additional user requirements.
- 1.6 The Commission noted the enrichment of the GMDSS-Weather website (<http://weather.gmdss.org>) including operational and archival SafetyNET ice bulletins in textual and binary (WMO SIGRID-3 format) (<http://gmdss.aari.ru/bull>), the Ice Logistic Portal (<http://www.bsis-ice.de/IcePortal/index.html>), and some of the products prepared for the dissemination by the International NAVTEX service.
- 1.7 The Commission re-emphasized the usefulness of graphical products for mariners, and noted that the ETSI have been developing the Ice Objects Catalogue and is engaged in developing the S-1xx version (latest IHO standards) of this catalogue, which includes descriptions of extended set classes, attributes and presentation libraries. The Commission also noted that the ETMSS has initiated the development of a catalogue of Met-Ocean Object Classes and Attributes. The Commission requested that these Teams continue working on the definition of Object Catalogues for the provision of numerical information for mariners, as a set of IHO S-1xx formats. As not all the SOLAS vessels are equipped with ENC, the Commission requested the continuing broadcast of MSI in text format. The Commission recognized concerns of the Issuing Services on the high telecommunication cost of providing both text and graphical products. Therefore, it encouraged ETMSS to explore issuing MSI in text format that can be displayed on ENC systems.
- 1.8 The Commission noted that severe solar magnetic storms can disrupt positioning systems, satellite communications and HF radio communications, and therefore might cause severe disturbance in receiving navigation and marine weather information. The Commission noted with concern that the next peak solar activity period (2012-2013) is approaching, and requested ETMSS to interact with IHO to identify possible measures to provide appropriate navigational warnings for mariners.

2. JCOMM’s role in Marine Environmental Accident Responses

The Commission recalled that one of its essential tasks is coordinating the Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPERSS) as well as maritime search and rescue (SAR)

operations, supported by the ETMSS and the Expert Team on Operational Ocean Forecast System (ETOofs). It also recalled that the current MPerSS capability and framework of the Area Meteorological and Oceanographic Coordinators (AMOCs) focuses on providing tracking for objects adrift (e.g. containers, ships, persons at sea) and forecasts for dispersion of hazardous material spills.

- 2.1 Considering recent events of marine environmental incidents, the Commission noted a capability and service gap in MPerSS. The Commission therefore agreed that it should take a proactive role in supporting Members/Member States to respond to marine environmental emergencies. This should include supporting responsible centres to extend their technical capabilities, exchange diagnostic and forecast data, as well as provide enhanced coordination for services and information provision in a way that meets requirements as defined by the IAEA and IMO. The Commission noted the potential advantage of having oceanic dispersion modelling activities for radioactive hazards in operational NWP centres, operated in conjunction with atmospheric dispersion modelling infrastructures and expertise so as to leverage the existing capabilities.
- 2.2 The Commission endorsed the outline for the JCOMM strategy on developing its work related to a wider range of marine pollution emergencies. It adopted Recommendation 8.3/1 (JCOMM-4) – Enhancement of Capability for Marine Environmental Emergencies. The Commission requested ETMSS, ETOofs and the Secretariat to develop a full strategy for JCOMM activities in cooperation with IMO, IAEA and other relevant bodies, and to identify and implement actions as appropriate.

3. IMO/WMO Worldwide Met-ocean Information and Warning Service

Following its adoption by the WMO Executive Council at its 62nd session in June 2010, WWMIWS was submitted to IMO/MSc, at the end of 2010. Formal adoption by IMO Assembly took place in November 2011, and the WWMIWS will now be included in the regulatory publications as an IMO resolution, coming into force in 2012. Proposed amendments shall be evaluated by the JCOMM Expert Team on Maritime Safety Services (ETMSS), which includes an *ex-officio* representative of the IMO Secretariat, prior to any extensive WMO and IMO consideration.

4. Other activities

The ETMSS has received a number of requests from National Met Services wishing to become Issuing or Preparation Services under the GMDSS; in particular, VietNam & Peru have both expressed a wish to undertake the role of a Preparation Service. In the context of the introduction of a formal Quality Management Framework for the preparation of Maritime Safety information, processes are being developed to ensure that new Preparation (or Issuing) Services have robust capabilities in place before undertaking such safety-related work.

5. Action requested

- (a) Note and comment on the information provided as appropriate; and
- (b) Provide additional recommendations and suggestions as appropriate.