CGMS-XXXI
WMO WP-16
Prepared by WMO
Agenda item: E.2

JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY (JCOMM)

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and purpose of document

This document provides an update on the status of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), including its interactions with satellite operators and CBS concerning oceanographic satellites.

ACTION PROPOSED

Note the information given and advise on CGMS/ JCOMM interactions, as appropriate.

Appendix: Extract from the Final Report of the Second Session of the JCOMM Management Committee

DISCUSSION

1. The first session of the new WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) took place in Akureyri, Iceland, June 2001, and the results of this session and relevant activities since JCOMM-I were presented to CGMS-XXIX and CGMS-XXX. The technical work of JCOMM is undertaken largely by the various Expert Teams, Task Teams and specialist rapporteurs within the four Programme Areas (Services, Data Management, Observations and Capacity Building). Within each Programme Area, this work is coordinated by a small Coordination Group, chaired by the respective PA Coordinator, while strategic guidance and oversight for the overall work of JCOMM is provided by the Management Committee. Dr Hiroshi Kawamura (Japan) has been designated as satellite rapporteur within the Observations PA. This document reports on the relevant activities since CGMS-XXX.

2. The satellite rapporteur participated in CGMS-XXX and reported to the session on the present status of JCOMM. Dr Kawamura submitted a report to the second session of the Management Committee (MAN-II) (Paris, February 2003) on the status of the JCOMM, including its interactions with satellite operators and CBS, concerning oceanographic satellite. MAN-II noted that massive increases were likely in the near future in the flow of space-based data and that this would require significant adaptation of present systems for managing data, developing products, and training staff. To ensure that its requirements were fed to the satellite operators, MAN-II recognized that JCOMM needed to refine the Statements of Guidance in the JCOMM applications area, for the benefit of the several groups that had an active interest in global ocean observations from satellites - including CMGS, CEOS and the IGOS Partnership. The Committee noted that the CGMS had an increasing interest in operational oceanographic measurements from space. The full text of the final report of MAN-II on this agenda is given in the Appendix to this document for information.

3. The Expert Team on Wind Wave and Storm Surges in the JCOMM Services Programme Area held its first session in Halifax, Canada, June 2003. The session noted that during the last decade, the number of reliable wave/wind observations had improved drastically with the advent of earth-observing satellites including ERS-1, ERS-2, ENVISAT, TOPEX and JASON. Noting the importance of the progress in assimilation of remotely sensed wave and marine surface data, the session agreed to publish a JCOMM technical report on techniques and benefits of satellite data in wind and wave models and assimilation of observations in wave forecasting by the end of 2004, as well as three other technical reports (on wave model verification activities; on review of boundary layer wind fields; on variations of long return period caused by long-term climate trends.

4. The JCOMM Ship Observations Team (SOT), which is composed of the VOS Panel, SOOP Implementation Panel and the ASAP Panel, held its second session in London in July 2003, where the participation of and input from a representative of EUMETSAT was very valuable. The first session of the SOT (Goa, India, February-March 2002) discussed the cost of observational data collection among other issues and established a task team to study the whole question of the cost of data collection, with a view to making recommendations to operators. The second session of SOT reviewed a report by the task team and recognized again that data transmission costs were now borne by a small number of NMSs whose countries host participating Land Earth Stations. The session agreed that that it was now becoming critical to address the problem of unequal sharing of the costs of collecting ship-based observational data if potentially disastrous reductions in the real time availability of such data were to be avoided. The session also agreed that some form of global cost-sharing was essential. The session re-established the task team to prepare a formal submission to prepare a formal submission on the issue for consideration by the WMO Executive Council.

5. The fourth session of the VOS Climate Project Planning meeting and the second International Port Meteorological Officer Workshop took place in conjunction with the second session of the SOT. The PMO workshop was attended by more than 40 participants from 20

countries and representatives from other related organizations such as the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Participants found the workshop useful in many aspects, including especially the exchange of views and experiences between the various national PMO networks. Presentations are to be published on CD-ROM. Participants recognized the importance of their activities to assure the quality of ship data, which support meteorological services, global climate studies, and the calibration of satellite based ocean observations. At the communication session of the workshop, a presentation on Inmarsat Maritime Communication Services was given by a representative of Inmarsat. Ltd.

6. Based on proposals of the Expert Team on Maritime Safety Services, a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) weather information website (http://weather.gmdss.org) has been established, hosted by Météo-France. The site provides, in real time and simple text format, the marine weather information broadcast via Inmarsat-C SafetyNET by all NMSs appointed as Issuing Services within the framework of the WMO Marine Broadcast System for the GMDSS.

7. For the further promotion of JCOMM activities, a JCOMM booklet has been published in four languages and distributed to Members, and a special JCOMM logo prepared for inclusion on all future JCOMM publications and web sites. The official JCOMM web site can now be found at http://www.jcommweb.net.

APPENDIX

Extract from the Final Report of the Second Session of the JCOMM Management Committee

4.1.2 Satellite data

4.1.2.1 The Committee reviewed a document that had been prepared by the JCOMM rapporteur for satellites, Hiroshi Kawamura. The report noted that massive increases were likely in the near future in the flow of space-based data. This would require significant adaptation of present systems for managing data, developing products, and training staff.

4.1.2.2 To ensure that its requirements were fed to the satellite operators, JCOMM needed to refine the Statements of Guidance in the JCOMM applications area, for the benefit of the several groups that had an active interest in global ocean observations from satellites - including the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) Partnership, and the Coordinating Group on Meteorological Satellites (CGMS), which despite its name had an increasing interest in operational oceanographic measurements from space. (Action: Services and Observations PAs and Secretariat). The IGOS Partners were focusing initially on an Ocean Theme, were developing a Carbon Theme that would include an ocean component, and had begun working towards the development of a Coastal Theme. The Ocean Theme was three years old and would this year be subject to a rolling review of requirements (Action: Secretariat to ensure that the updated requirements are coordinated with this process.) (See also paragraph 3.1.9 above.)

4.1.2.3 Requirements for ocean observations were currently being determined and fed through to the WMO data base by COOP and the OOPC and other bodies. Key requirements were identified at OceanObs99, and reinforced through publication of the Ocean Theme. JCOMM needed to decide what kinds of products and services it wanted from the space community and how it wished these to be distributed globally and regionally, and to make its requirements known. JCOMM also needed to consider what new products may be developed by merging space-based and in situ data – e.g. for new SST products. (Action: Rapporteur for satellites with SPA). (See also paragraphs 3.1.11 above & 4.2.1.6 below.)

4.1.2.4 The Committee noted that WMO considered that the Global Observing System (GOS) of the World Weather Watch (WWW) would in the future include not only operational satellites but also selected R & D satellites that would provide critical information about key parameters. Thus, both the in situ observing system and the remote sensing observing system were quasi-operational – being a mix of operational research measuring components. JCOMM requirements would be taken into consideration in redesigning the GOS.

4.1.2.5 The Committee agreed to request the appropriate scientific advisory groups (COOP and OOPC) and Programme Areas to refine their requirements for space-based data and products and services, for communication to the WMO data base (Action: co-presidents and Secretariat; deadline: ASAP).