

**OTHER PROGRAMMES
JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION**

(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

- (1) Note the information given and advise on CGMS/JCOMM interactions, as appropriate;
- (2) Consider the possibility to invite IOC to become a member of CGMS.

Appendix: Proposed JCOMM Structure

DISCUSSION

JCOMM

1. The Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) was formally established by WMO Congress and the IOC Assembly in mid-1999. A First Transition Planning Meeting for JCOMM took place in St Petersburg, Russian Federation, in July 1999. Amongst other issues, this meeting proposed a number of transitional arrangements (including for the interim co-presidency and interim Management Committee); established *ad hoc* groups to deal with structure and capacity building; and agreed that a second planning meeting would be required before JCOMM-I (scheduled to take place 19-29 June 2001 in Akureyri, Iceland). The interim arrangements were subsequently approved by the Executive Councils of WMO and IOC at their 2000 sessions. The Councils also agreed that JCOMM-I would take place according to WMO procedures for sessions of technical commissions, pending the development of a common WMO/IOC set of such procedures.

2. The Second Transition Planning Meeting of the interim Management Committee was hosted by the IOC in the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in June 2000. There were 21 participants in the meeting, including almost all members of the interim Management Committee, some observers and representatives of both Secretariats. The major discussion at the meeting revolved around the future sub-structure for JCOMM. The meeting reached agreement on a proposal to put before JCOMM-I, including draft terms of reference for all subsidiary bodies (primarily task teams, expert teams and rapporteurs). A diagram showing the proposed JCOMM structure is given in the Appendix. The structure includes in particular at least one ocean satellite expert, to be a member of the Observations Programme Area (PA) Coordination Group and provide the necessary liaison with and input to, *inter alia*, GOOS and CBS.

3. Capacity building was clearly recognized by the meeting as being another major issue, with the widespread availability of expertise and facilities in all JCOMM Member States being crucial to its future success. In this context, the meeting reviewed progress in the development of a capacity building strategy for JCOMM, in the context of the overall capacity building programmes of WMO and IOC and compatible with the GOOS capacity building principles and programme. An *ad hoc* group was re-established by the meeting, charged with finalizing a draft strategy to be presented to JCOMM-I for adoption.

4. Other substantive issues addressed and decisions reached at the meeting included:
 - (i) Agreement on the provisional agenda for JCOMM-I, which reflects both the ongoing work programme inherited from CMM and IGOSS, as well as the proposed new programme structure for JCOMM;
 - (ii) Agreement on a document plan for JCOMM-I, as well as other details relating to its preparation and conduct;
 - (iii) Agreement on a work programme for the new commission in the year remaining before the first formal session;
 - (iv) Strong support for the proposal for a JCOMM observing systems coordination centre (JCOMMOPS), to be based around the existing DBCP/SOOP/Argo coordination unit in Toulouse, France;
 - (v) Support for the proposals regarding both the interim and long term Argo Information Centre, as well as for the eventual integration of Argo into operational observing networks under JCOMM, to be coordinated through the proposed Observations Coordination Group;
 - (vi) Agreement that JCOMM should be directly involved in the implementation of the strategy for *in situ* ocean observations contained in the Ocean Theme Team Report of the IGOS-Partners;
 - (vii) Reconfirmation that JCOMM should participate fully in the CBS Rolling Requirements Review process and contribute to the maintenance of the requirements database.

5. The WMO Executive Council, at its fifty-second session (May 2000), noted that the topics for the Consultative Meetings on High Level Policy on Satellite Matters were germane to the needs of all WMO Programmes. In this regard, the Council suggested that the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) be invited to participate in the first Consultative Meeting, thus ensuring the direct consideration of the oceanographic and climate observational needs, including research aspects. JCOMM will certainly be represented.
6. JCOMM participated actively in the meeting of the CBS Expert Team on Observational Data Requirements and the Redesign of the GOS (June 2000). It provided status reports on existing *in situ* marine observing systems, and is using the meeting as a starting point in the development of a statement of guidance on how well marine data requirements are being met by existing and planned *in situ* and satellite marine observing systems.
7. Finally, the IOC Executive Council, at its 33rd session (Paris, June 2000), noted with interest the increasing involvement of CGMS in oceanographic satellites. It therefore requested the IOC Secretariat to consider the possibility that IOC might join WMO as a member of CGMS, and to report on this to the next IOC Assembly (July 2001).

PROPOSED JCOMM STRUCTURE

