WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY (JCOMM)
EXPERT TEAM ON SEA ICE – FOURTH SESSION

STEERING GROUP FOR THE PROJECT GLOBAL DIGITAL SEA ICE DATA BANK (GDSIDB) – TWELTH SESSION

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)

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RELATIONS TO OTHER JCOMM BODIES

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document contains information concerning the relations of the ETSI to other JCOMM Expert Teams and bodies.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Expert Team on Sea Ice (ETSI) is invited to:

(a) Note and comment on the information in this document

(b) Discuss and propose mechanisms to strengthen the ETSI relations to other JCOMM bodies.

DISCUSSION

1. At JCOMM-III, The Commission recognized the need to improve coordination amongst, and integration of, the different Programme Areas in response to crosscutting requirements, and requested that this be a priority issue for the Management Committee during the coming intersessional period. It recommended that the Coordination Groups explore better and more frequent mechanisms for communication and coordination within the PA, including alternative methods of communication such as tele- and videoconferences. It also recommended that a specific responsibility for crosscutting activities within the Programme Areas be assigned to a member of the Management Committee, who would then be responsible for identifying and communicating relevant actions across PAs as well as to the Management Committee.

2. JCOMM comprises a number of Expert Teams among its four Programme Areas. Of particular note to ETSI are the following:

2.1. Expert Team on Maritime Safety Services (ETMSS) of the SFSPA is responsible for issues concerning maritime safety, search and rescue and marine pollution issues, including the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). Noting the remarks at JCOMM-III, and in the context of expanding Arctic shipping, it is important for the ETSI to recognize the important role it has in collaborating with the ETMSS with respect to the implementation of Marine Safety Information in the Arctic METAREAS. In particular, the ETSI has important responsibilities with respect to sea ice in:

- The implementation of maritime safety services in the Arctic and Antarctic regions and in particular the new Arctic METAREAs
- The implementation of the IMO/WMO Worldwide Met-ocean Information and Warning Service
- Amendments to the WMO technical regulations including the *Manual on Marine Meteorological Services* (WMO No. 558) and the *Guide to Marine Meteorological Services* (WMO No. 471).

2.2. ETMSS was tasked by JCOMM-III to undertake a review and update of the Manual on Marine Meteorological Services (WMO No. 558) and the Guide to Marine Meteorological Services (WMO No. 471). The ETSI should liaise closely with the ETMSS to ensure that these documents properly include sea ice information for mariners. The ETMSS Terms of Reference are found in the Annex to Resolution 4 of the JCOMM-III Final Report (p.76).

2.3. Expert Team on Operational Ocean Forecasting Systems of the SFSPA is responsible for activities to promote the development and maintenance of operational ocean forecasting systems and, during the next intersessional period, develop a *Guide to Operational Ocean Forecasting Systems*. Given the importance of sea ice in ocean forecasting systems, JCOMM-III requested that the ETSI cooperate closely with the ETOOFS to further develop coupled sea ice – ocean – atmosphere numerical models and sea ice forecasting and data assimilation techniques. The ETOOF Terms of Reference are found in the Annex to Resolution 4 of the JCOMM-III Final Report (p.79).

2.4. Expert Team on Marine Climatology of the Data Management Programme Area is responsible for issues related to marine climatology, including the development of procedures and standards for data assembly and the creation of climatological datasets. The GDSIDB is an important climatological dataset for sea ice and could benefit from the expertise of the ETMC.

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