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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REVIEW OF COMMON ABBREVIATIONS LIST FOR NAVTEX MESSAGES RELATED TO SEA ICE

(submitted by Amund E. B. Lindberg and Torbjörn Grafström – Swedish Ice Service with input from Swedish Maritime Administration (SMA) – NAVTEX coordinator for the Baltic Sea)

This document contains abbreviations used by Canada for the MSI related to sea ice for use in NAVTEX messages. The abbrevetions are slightly modified by Swedish Ice Service.

ACTION PROPOSED

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

(a) Note and comment on the proposed amendments to the:
- abbreviations list for NAVTEX messages related to sea ice

(b) Approve these proposed amendments separately or together.

(c) Pass the approved amendments to the ETMSS with a request that they be incorporated into the Common Abbreviations for NAVTEX.

Appendix 1. Abbreviations List for NAVTEX Messages Related to Sea Ice

Appendix II 2. ANNEX 2 TO RECOMMENDATION 9/1 (JCOMM-II) - Common abbreviations for International NAVTEX Service

DISCUSSION

1. During the ETSI III meeting (Geneva 2007) the Team stressed some concerns regarding communications problems that generate omission of some characters, creating some difficulties in understanding messages that include abbreviations. In this context, the Team strongly endorsed the use of plain text.

2. However, the need for brevity and clarity for marine communications is

recognized. JCOMM-II noted (Recommendation 9/1) that there were external factors [related to communications], to which JCOMM would have little option but to adapt. Problems with the format of NAVTEX messages being too long had been addressed through the introduction of abbreviations. A list of common abbreviations for NAVTEX was recommended for use (Appendix 2). This list does not include specific terms related to sea ice.

3. In the course of reviewing the use of NAVTEX for sea ice information, Swedish Ice Services have made some amendments to the abbreviations related to sea ice for use in NAVTEX. It recommends that these abbreviations be adopted by the ETSI and pass them to the ETMSS for incorporation into the list of common NAVTEX abbreviations.

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Appendix I

ABBREVIATIONS FOR MSI RELATED TO SEA ICE FOR USE IN NAVTEX MESSAGES

Ice elements		
ice conc.	1 tenth	1
ice conc.	10 tenths	10
ice conc.	2 tenths	2
ice conc.	3 tenths	3
ice conc.	4 tenths	4
ice conc.	5 tenths	5
ice conc.	6 tenths	6
ice conc.	7 tenths	7
ice conc.	8 tenths	8
ice conc.	9 plus tenths	9+
ice conc.	9 tenths	9
ice conc.	9 to 10 tenths (lake ice)	9-10
ice conc.	bergy water	BEW
ice conc.	consolidated	CONS
ice conc.	ice free	IFR
ice conc.	open water	OPW
ice conc.	trace of	TR-
ice type	first year ice	FYI
ice type	grey ice	GRI
ice type	greywhite ice	GWI
ice type	medium ice	MEDI
ice type	new ice	NEI
ice type	old ice	OLI
ice type	thick ice	TKI
ice type	thin ice	THI
ice type	very thick ice	VTKI
ice qualifier	heavy	HVY
ice qualifier	light	LGT
ice qualifier	moderate	MOD
ice qualifier	pressure	PRESS
ice qualifier	strong	STRG
ice general	conditions	CDNS
ice general	edge	EDGE
ice general	estimated	EST
ice general	except	EXC
ice general	ice	ICE
ice general	including	INCL
ice general	possible	POSS
ice general	along the coast	ALNG CST
ice direction	eastward	EWD
ice direction	northeastward	NEWD
ice direction	northward	NWD
ice direction	northwestward	NWWD
ice direction	southeastward	SEWD

ice direction	southward	SWD
ice direction	southwestward	SWWD
ice direction	westward	WWD

APPENDIX 2
ANNEX 2 TO RECOMMENDATION 9/1 (JCOMM-II)

Common abbreviations for International NAVTEX Service

All wind directions to be abbreviated as indicated below.

Terminology in full	NAVTEX Abbreviations
North or Northerly	**N**
Northeast or Northeasterly	**NE**
East or Easterly	**E**
Southeast or Southeasterly	**SE**
South or Southerly	**S**
Southwest or Southwesterly	**SW**
West or Westerly	**W**
Northwest or Northwesterly	**NW**

Note: The use of the above abbreviations for wind direction could generate savings of the order of 6-8% in the length of bulletins drafted for the International NAVTEX Service.

Terminology in full	NAVTEX Abbreviations
Decreasing	**DECR**
Increasing	**INCR**
Variable	**VRB**
Becoming	**BECMG**
Locally	**LOC**
Moderate	**MOD**
Occasionally	**OCNL**
Scattered	**SCT**
Temporarily/Temporary	**TEMPO**
Isolated	**ISOL**
Frequent/Frequency	**FRQ**
Showers	**SHWRS or SH**
Cold Front	**C-FRONT or CFNT**
Warm Front	**W-FRONT or WFNT**
Occlusion Front	**O-FRONT or OFNT**
Weakening	**WKN**
Building	**BLDN**
Filling	**FLN**
Deepening	**DPN**
Intensifying/Intensify	**INTSF**
Improving/Improve	**IMPR**
Stationary	**STNR**
Quasi-Stationary	**Q-STNR**
Moving/Move	**MOV or MVG**
Veering	**VEER**
Backing	**BACK**
Slowly	**SLWY**
Quickly	**QCKY**
Rapidly	**RPDY**
Knots	**KT**

Km/h	**KMH**
Nautical miles	**NM**
Metres	**M**
HectoPascal	**HPA**
Meteo…	**MET**
Forecast	**FCST**
Further outlooks	**TEND**
Visibility	**VIS**
Slight	**SLGT or SLT**
Quadrant	**QUAD**
Possible	**POSS**
Probability/Probable	**PROB**
Significant	**SIG**
No change	**NC**
No significant change	**NOSIG**
Following	**FLW**
Next	**NXT**
Heavy	**HVY**
Severe	**SEV or SVR**
Strong	**STRG**
From	**FM**
Expected	**EXP**
Latitude/Longitude	**LAT/LONG**

Remarks:

The overall savings by the use of the abbreviations in the above lists in the meteorological content of the International NAVTEX Service broadcasts could, it is estimated, generate savings more than 20% in transmission time.

“Expected” and “Latitude/Longitude” should, when possible, be omitted in the messages.