

**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)**

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

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

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ITEM 2.6.2

ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
1 TO 5 MARCH 2010

Original: ENGLISH

**PRACTICAL USE OF SEA ICE NOMENCLATURE IN NATIONAL ICE SERVICES**

*(Submitted by Keld Qvistgaard)*

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**Summary and Purpose of Document**

This document contains information about the practical use of the Sea Ice Nomenclature terms “old ice” and “ice edge” in various national ice services.

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**ACTION PROPOSED**

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

- (a) Discuss the information contained in this document; and,
- (b) Recommend mechanisms to standardize the use of sea ice terminology in the ice services of the world.

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**Appendix:** Current practise for using some sea ice definitions at international ice centres, with reference to WMO Ice Nomenclature

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**DISCUSSION**

1. There are minor differences in how various national ice services use Sea Ice Nomenclature in daily practice. Particularly important are the terms “old ice” and “ice edge”.
2. Shipping is a global industry and more and more ships are encroaching into ice frequented waters. It is becoming more important for the safety of mariners to have definitions for these important sea ice terms that are universally understood.
3. These definitions are also important from a climatological perspective when integrating and comparing ice charts from various services.
4. This issue was first raised at the International Ice Charting Working Group where the Data, Information and Customer Support Standing Committee were asked to canvass the ice services for their practices in preparation for this ETSI meeting.