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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)**

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

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EXPERT TEAM ON SEA ICE – FOURTH SESSION

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

ITEM 4

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RELATIONS TO OTHER WMO/IOC AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document contains information about the relations of JCOMM, the SFSPA and, in particular, the ETSI with programmes of other WMO, IOC and International Organizations.

ACTION PROPOSED

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

- (a) Note and comment on the information in this document; and,
- (b) Discuss ways by which ETSI collaboration with other programmes could be strengthened.

DISCUSSION

1. JCOMM works in collaboration with many other WMO/IOC and International programmes. JCOMM-III noted many of these relations and identified the nature of the relationship. The following paragraphs note the relationships that are of specific interest to the ETSI.

2. The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is an intergovernmental consultative and technical organization that was established in 1921 to support the safety in navigation and the protection of the marine environment. The object of the IHO is to bring about:

- The coordination of the activities of national hydrographic offices;
- The greatest possible uniformity in nautical charts and documents;
- The adoption of reliable and efficient methods of carrying out and exploiting hydrographic surveys;
- The development of the sciences in the field of hydrography and the techniques employed in descriptive oceanography.

2.1. The ETSI relationship with the IHO concerns the development of sea ice information

for Electronic Navigation Charts. In this context, the Transfer Standard Maintenance and Application Development Working Group (TSMAD) is the IHO body responsible for the S-57 and S-100 standards. The TSMAD is a working group of the IHO Hydrographic Service and Standards Committee (HSSC) which was formerly known as the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS). TSMAD is chaired by Mr. Barrie Greenslade of the UH Hydrographic Office. It is this body that has been assisting in the development of the ENC Ice Objects Catalogue.

2.2. The Harmonization Group on Marine Information Overlays (HGMIO) is a subsidiary of two committees:

- IHO HSSC; and,
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Technical Committee No. 80 – Maritime Navigation and Radiocommunications Equipment and Systems (TC80).

2.3. The objective of the HGMIO is to harmonize the activities of the IEC and the IHO related to Marine Information Overlays (MIO). Ice information is proposed to be contained in an MIO. The HGMIO is chaired by Dr. Lee Alexander and has been very helpful in the development of the Ice MIO Product Specification.

2.4. The ETSI point of contact with the IHO is through the Task Group on Electronic Navigation Chart Ice Objects (TG-ENCIO). The ETSI-III nominated Canada, Germany, Russian Federation and USA to be members of the TG-ENCIO with a leader to be elected by the TG itself. It is important that the TG-ENCIO maintain contact with IHO through these groups.

3. The WMO Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) has very broad responsibilities within WMO. Two of these are of immediate importance to the ETSI.

3.1. CBS is responsible for implementing the WMO Information System (WIS). At JCOMM-III, the Commission urged the WMO Commission for Basic Systems to give full consideration to the requirements of JCOMM for real-time data transmission, storage and access when implementing WIS plan, and to invite JCOMM experts to involve in the implementation of WIS plan. In expressing its appreciation to Members/Member States and the European Space for their contributions to and participation in the Ice Logistics Portal Website, the Commission urged Members/Member States to provide to the WMO Secretariat the appropriate metadata in order to ensure that this Portal is compliant with the WIS, and contributes to the Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW). In light of this, and the stated intention of the IICWG that the Portal should be integrated with the WIS within 5 years, the ETSI should develop and maintain a close collaboration with the CBS.

3.2. CBS is also leads the standardization of coded format documentation to ISO standards. The ETSI standards documents do not meet ISO standards at the present time and so ETSI should seek the CBS advice and expertise when revising its documentation.

4. JCOMM-III noted that the idea of an International Polar Decade had been met positively at several international forums, including the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting, and that the WMO Executive Council, at its sixty-first session (Geneva, June 2009), requested its Panel on Polar Observations, Research and Services (EC-PORS) to consider modalities and plans for the Decade, focusing on decadal needs and issues of long-term character, the Commission recommended that OPA provide a contribution to these activities, as required. The Commission called upon Members/Member States to be actively involved in the preparation of the International Polar Decade. The ETSI could have an important role in this preparation and should liaise with the EC-PORS as appropriate.
