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| **World Meteorological Organization**  **JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY (JCOMM)**  **EXPERT TEAM ON SEA ICE (ETSI)**  **Sixth Session**  **STEERING GROUP FOR THE PROJECT GLOBAL DIGITAL SEA ICE DATA BANK (GDSIDB)**  **Fourteenth Session** Helsinki, 28 February to 3 March 2017 | **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)**  **ETSI-6/GDSIDB-14/Doc. 7.1**  Submitted by:  ETSI  24.I.2017  **DRAFT** |

**Polar Code and implications for ice services**

***(Submitted by ETSI Chair)***

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| Summary and Purpose of Document |

**ACTION PROPOSED**

The Expert Team on Sea Ice is invited to:

* Review presented material on the Polar Code
* Identify and address gaps
* Propose improvements to ice services
* Propose standards for long term development and later approval by Polar Code

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**References:**

**Appendices**: IMO Polar Code

**DISCUSSION**

The IMO Polar Code recognizes and addresses the risk of ship based operations in Polar Waters. The presence and variability of sea ice and iceberg is considered a major risk and hazard to managed by the crew on-board for safe operations in ice infested waters.

Formal implementation of the Polar Code is now ongoing globally. The ice services have over the past couple of years, individually and jointly in International Ice Charting Working Group reviewed and addressed potential implications for ice products and services to shipping.

The Polar Code does not specify specific products or formats to ships but assumes necessary products and are available and can be received routinely on-board.

This agenda item will start with a brief presentation on the Polar Code and interface to ice services operational production which will lead to discussion and ETSI recommendations.

As ice services globally already disseminate a suite of ice products to shipping the team is invited to identify, discuss and address gaps, needs for new standard products, new technology advances and international joint efforts. Potentially this may lead to additional or revised standards for sea ice and icebergs, for formal approval by JCOMM ETSI.