Third Ice Analysts Workshop
14-18 June 2011
Danish Meteorological Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark

ANNOUNCEMENT

Background

The provision of marine meteorological and oceanographic services, including sea ice, to meet the requirements of marine users continued to be the highest priority for the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), since they contribute substantially to national economies, as well as being essential for the safety of life at sea, recognized by SOLAS Convention. Recognizing the increased use of the Polar Regions by all elements of the marine community (including commercial, military and scientific) gaps and problems with availability, harmonization and standardization of appropriate Maritime Safety Information (MSI) broadcasts within the new Arctic METAREAs XVII-XXI, including sea ice, for SOLAS and non-SOLAS ships, were expected to build up.

In order to enhance the capability of Members concerned to provide harmonized sea ice services and as a follow-up of the First and Second Ice Analysts Workshops (Rostock, Germany, June 2008, WMO Td. No. 1441, and Tromso, Norway, June 2009, WMO Td. No. 1517), the JCOMM Expert Team on Sea Ice (ETSI) at its fourth session (St.Petersburg, Russian Federation, March 2010), and the International Ice Chart Working Group (IICWG), at its eleventh session (Washington DC, USA, October 2010), proposed to convene a Third Ice Analysts Workshop. The JCOMM Services and Forecast Systems Programme Area Coordination Group endorsed the Workshop at its fifth session (Melbourne, Australia, May 2010) and confirmed its inclusion into JCOMM intersessional plan for 2010-2012. In this regard, the Third Ice Analysts Workshop (IAW-3) will take place at the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI), in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 14 to 18 June 2011.

The IAW-3 will be aimed on improvement of interoperability issues between the national ice services and development of reconciled operative ice analysis products, the latter including a series of products and bulletins to ensure marine safety and efficiency of ice navigation in the newly operative Arctic METAREAS XVII-XXI, in the Baltic Sea and Antarctic waters. The major outcome from this workshop would be the development of guidelines for reconciliation of the sea-ice services, including coding and presentation schemes for ice charts and imagery.

Objectives of the Workshop

The primary objective of the Third Ice Analysts Workshop remains the assessment and minimization of differences between current practices of ice analysis and charting at the national ice services to meet operational needs. To help achieve this goal, the workshop encompasses:

1. Case studies, presentation / discussion from different Ice Services on the techniques used in analyzing imagery and preparing ice charts in order to exchange views and techniques, learning diverse “philosophies” and practices of sea-ice analysis from different Ice Services; and

2. Breakout expert groups by region (Arctic West/East; potentially Baltic Sea and Antarctic) to analyze imagery and prepare ice charts during the workshop in order to develop a methodology to harmonize the analysis process.

Items of the workshop will cover:

Presentations: “Key facts of national ice information systems” (template to be provided by Organizing Committee) (15-20 minutes).

Case study #1: “Online analysis of routine dataset and ice charting for a single test region by 3-4 teams of ice analysts”. Dataset will be developed by a local host (DMI) and include SAR/VIS/IR imagery and weather stations (Greenland waters or/and Barents Sea is a proposal for the region). Similar case study on Antarctic is desirable but is highly dependent on a number of available participants during the workshop. (1 full working day)

Case study #2: “Assimilation of ice charts in SIGRID-3 format: interoperability of format implementation across the services, reconciliation of ice edge and adjacent polygons”. Plenary, proposed to be convened on 15/06 (Wednesday afternoon), with a goal for ice analysts to make a composite ice chart for the Arctic by importing the latest ice charts in SIGRID-3 format from CIS (14/06), NIC (14/06), AARI (15/06), met.no (15/06), DMI (15/06). Datasets for examination will be prepared and studied by at least all 3 Preparatory Services for METAREAs XVII-XXI. (1/2 full working day)

Case study #3: "Online composition of sea ice information for GMDSS and NAVTEX bulletins". Plenary, with a goal for ice analysts to make sample ice information sections for SavetyNET and NAVTEX bulletins for one or more METAREAs (METAREAs I, IV, XVII-XXI) using ice information from case studies 1 & 2.

Discussion #1: "Investigating philosophies for ice analysis and requirements from individual clients” (1/2 full working day)

Discussion #2: “Interoperability of ice charts: SIGRID-3 format implementation across the services, reconciliation of ice edge and adjacent polygons and possible implications on content of Arctic SafetyNET and NAVTEX bulletins" (1 full working day)

Discussion #3: "Exchange of practices for satellite imagery relay: georeference and annotation standards, validity times, means for provision to customers, imagery display”. (1/2 full working day)

Other workshop items may include articulation of necessity or development of proposals for the WMO sea ice and MSI technical documentation.

The working process including presentation of case studies, breakout, and plenary sessions will be coordinated by the ETSI chairperson, the head of the host ice service, chairpersons of the breakout expert groups (to be appointed), and the WMO Secretariat. Deadline for submission of documentation, case studies, ice charts, and imagery is 31 May 2011. The hosting ice service will provide access to an ftp server for the downloading and uploading of all required information.

Logistics

The Workshop will be conducted in English only. A JCOMM Technical Report will be produced, to include all case studies and necessary documentation, as well as recommendations

for standard sea-ice services response practices, including exchange of ice charting products, coding and presentation schemes.
According to established procedures, financial assistance by the WMO and IOC will not be available to support participation in this event.

All relevant information regarding the Workshop, including hotel accommodation and other logistics, are currently available and can be downloaded from the following web address:

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Updated information regarding the workshop, including case studies, ice charts and imagery, will also be available from JCOMM web site at http://www.jcomm.info/ with a copy of material posted at http://wdc.aari.ru/wmo/iaw3. You are encouraged to regularly, visit the web sites for further information concerning the workshop.

Organizing Committee

Dr Vasily Smolyanitsky, Chairperson of the JCOMM Expert Team on Sea Ice (ETSI), Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI), Russian Federation
Mr Keld Quistgaard (local host reesentative), Ice Service, Danish Meterological Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark
Mr Nick Hughes, Ice service, Norwegian Meterological Institute, Tromso, Norway
Dr. Jurgen Holfort, BSIM representative, Bundesamt fur Seechifffahrt und Hydrographie (BSH), Germany
Ms Darlene Langlois, Canadian Ice Service, Environment Canada, Canada
Mr John Falkingham, International Ice Charting Working Group, Secretariat
Mr Edgard Cabrera, Chief, Marine Meteorology and Ocean Affairs Division, Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services, WMO