Second Ice Analysts Workshop

15-19 June 2009
Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Tromsø, Norway

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, 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 Ice Analysts Workshop* (Rostock, Germany, June 2008), the Baltic Sea Ice Meeting, at its twenty-third session (Helsinki, Finland, September 2008), and the International Ice Chart Working Group (IICWG), at its ninth session (Lullee, Sweden, October 2008), proposed to convene a *Second Ice Analysts Workshop* to assess the differences in current practices of ice analysis and charting at the national ice services, and estimate accuracies of ice charts for operational needs. The JCOMM Services Programme Area Coordination Group further endorsed this Workshop, at its fourth session (Geneva, Switzerland, March 2009). In this regard, the *Second Ice Analysts Workshop* will take place at the Norwegian Meteorological Institute (met.no), in Tromsø, Norway, from 15 to 19 June 2009. The major outcome from this workshop would be the development of guidelines for standard sea-ice services response practices, including coding and presentation schemes.

Objectives of the Workshop

The primary objective of the *Second Ice Analysts Workshop* is the assessment 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 practices from different Ice Services; and

2. breakout expert groups by region (Arctic, Antarctic and Baltic Sea) 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:

- online comparison of case studies results carried out by national analysts before and during the workshop. Two sets of scenarios based on SAR/visible/IR images covering typical ice conditions In the Arctic (FY/MY ice during freeze-up, winter and summer melt), Baltic Sea ice and Antarctic ice will be prepared by the participating experts, hence the first set can be distributed and analyzed by the ice analysts before the workshop and the second set will be distributed and analyzed at the beginning of the

workshop; results of analysis of identical imagery but by different analysts in a form of ice charts will be the background information for intercomparison (deadline – mid-May 2009);

- online comparison of the differences in presentation of ice parameters on selected series of daily/weekly/bi-weekly ice charts, routinely compiled by the national ice services during the past winter season 2008-2009 (diagnosis of ice conditions in Canadian Arctic CIS/NIC, Eurasian Arctic by AARI/met.no/EIS//NIC, Greenland waters by NIC/DMI, Baltic Sea by BSIS, Antarctic by AARI/NIC/SMARA); series will be selected by the ETSI and IICWG experts (deadline – mid-May 2009);

- Round-table discussions on:
  - uncertainties of sea ice parameters for routine ice charts by region/season/Service;
  - user requirements to sea ice products;
  - ice Services requirements from the satellite data providers and observational systems;
  - best practices and harmonization, including that for the formats, in particular the implementation of SIGRID-3 and Ice Objects Catalogue for Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC).

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 2009. 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 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: http://www.jcomm-services.org/Ice-Analysts-Workshop-June-2009.html. Updated information regarding the workshop, including case studies, ice charts and imagery, will also be available on this web site. You are encouraged to regularly, visit the web sites for further information concerning the workshop.

Organizing Committee

Mr Helge Tangen, hosting ice service representative, Regional Director, Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Tromsø, Norway
Dr Vasily Smolyanitsky, Chairperson of the JCOMM Expert Team on Sea Ice (ETSI), Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI), Russian Federation
Dr. Jürgen Holfort, BSIM representative, Bundesamt für Seechifffahrt und Hydrographie (BSH), Germany
Ms Marie-France Gauthier, IICWG representative, Chief of Forecast Operations of the Canadian Ice Service, Environment Canada, Canada
Ms Alice Soares, Scientific Officer, Marine Meteorology and Ocean Affairs Division, WMO