

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

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Submitted by: WMO Secretary-General
and UNESCO/IOC
Executive Secretary

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INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS OF OBSERVATION

SUMMARY

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Legacy recommendations of the JCOMM Pilot Project for WIGOS;
2. Establishment of Regional Marine Instrumentation Centres (RMICs) in all regions.

DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:

The Commission is requested to:

- (a) Approve:
 - actions proposed regarding the instrument practices related legacy recommendations of the JCOMM Pilot Project for WIGOS;
 - initiating a consultation of the Commission by correspondence for the establishment of the RMIC for RA-I in Casablanca;
- (b) Invite Members/Member States to assist in the development of technology through deployment, testing of prototypes, and evaluation of wave measuring instruments;
- (c) Urge Members / Member States to offer RMIC facilities in RAIII, RAV, and RAVI;
- (d) Approve the draft text for inclusion in the general summary of JCOMM-IV given in the Appendix;

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APPENDIX: DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY OF JCOMM-4

6.2 INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS OF OBSERVATION *(agenda item 6.2)*

6.2.1 The Commission recalled that the now completed Pilot Project for the Integration of Marine Meteorological and other appropriate oceanographic Observations into the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) – also referred to as the “JCOMM Pilot Project for WIGOS” – had called for a better integration of ocean instrument practices in order to harmonize instrument standards across ocean observing system components and achieve traceability of the observations to international standards. The Commission concurred with the legacy recommendations of the Pilot Project, and particularly those related to instrument practices. In particular, the Commission:

- (i) Urged the Secretariats to promote resource mobilization to achieve a regular review of the WMO and IOC Publications dealing with instrument standards and practices;
- (ii) Urged Members/Member States to proactively facilitate the collection, sharing, distribution (including in real-time and through appropriate archives), and discovery of instrument/platform metadata. In particular, the depth of the SST (Sea Surface Temperature) and SSS (Sea Surface Salinity) measurements should be reported as accurately as possible to assist in the generation of satellite products;
- (iii) Requested the Observations Programme Area (OPA) to develop guidelines for marine instrument intercomparison, publish them as a JCOMM Technical Report, and provide input to the CIMO Guide accordingly;
- (iv) Invited the IOC to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association for Hydro-Meteorological Equipment Industry (HMEI) in order to strengthen co-operation with manufacturers and also invited the HMEI to review its Terms of Reference in order to fully incorporate ocean instrumentation in its mandate;
- (v) Requested Members/Member States to promote the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)/JCOMM Standards process, seek harmonization of standards between WMO and IOC, and ensure that such processes are fully documented.

6.2.2 The Commission was pleased to note the progress, through joint efforts of the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP) and the Expert Team on Wind Waves and Storm Surges (ETWS), on the evaluation of wave measurement systems, in support of a wide range of applications, including the monitoring of extreme wave events for disaster risk reduction, wave modelling, and the calibration and validation of satellite wave measurements [see <http://www.jcomm.info/wet>]. The Commission noted that there were presently eight participants in the Pilot Project, and invited additional Members/Member States to assist in the development of technology through deployment, testing of prototypes, and evaluation of wave measuring instruments.

6.2.3 The Commission, recalling with appreciation that two Regional Marine Instrumentation Centres (RMICs) have already been established in USA (for Regional Association IV) and in China (for the Asia Pacific region), noted an offer made by Morocco during JCOMM-III to host an RMIC for WMO Regional Association I at the National Meteorological Service in Casablanca. The Commission noted that good progress was being made according to the formal procedure for formal adoption of the RMICs as per Resolution 9 (Cg-XVI) and IOC Resolution XXVI-9, including a workshop on marine instrumentation to be held in Casablanca in late 2012. Noting that Morocco was now almost ready for submitting its statement of compliance for the RMIC to be hosted in Casablanca, the Commission asked the Secretariat to initiate a consultation amongst JCOMM

members by correspondence during the next intersessional period in order to have the RMIC established by the WMO and IOC Executive Bodies as early as possible.

6.2.4 The Commission thanked Morocco for its commitments to the RMIC, and urged Members/Member States to offer RMIC facilities in other regions, especially within Regional Association III (South America), Regional Association V (Southwest Pacific), and Regional Association VI (Europe), and to collaborate with the existing RMICs.

REFERENCES FOR DOC. 8.3 (Not to be included in the final Meeting Report):

1. Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress (WMO-No. 1077)
2. Abridged Final Reports with Resolutions of the Sixty-second (WMO-No. 1059) and Sixty-third Sessions (WMO-No. 1078) of the WMO Executive Council
3. Abridged Final Report with Resolutions and Recommendations of the First (WMO-No. 931), Second (WMO-No. 995) and Third (WMO-No. 1049) Sessions of JCOMM
4. Summary Report of the Forty-third (IOC/EC-XLIII) Session of the UNESCO/IOC Executive Council
5. Summary Report of the Twenty-sixth (IOC-XXVI) Session of the UNESCO/IOC Assembly
6. Final Reports of the Eighth (JCOMM/MR-No.83) and Ninth (JCOMM/MR-No. 88) Sessions of the JCOMM Management Committee
7. Final Report of the Fourth Session of the JCOMM Observations Coordination Group (JCOMM/MR-No. 85)
8. Final Report, JCOMM Marine Instrumentation Workshop for the Asia Pacific Region (JCOMM/MR-No. 87)
9. **JCOMM-IV/BM. 6.2:** Global/Regional Coordination for Instrument Issues: WMO-IOC Regional Marine Instrument Centres (RMICs)