

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

**JCOMM-4/Doc. 6.3**  
Submitted by: WMO Secretary-General  
and UNESCO/IOC  
Executive Secretary

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**COORDINATED TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR  
OBSERVING SYSTEM PROGRAMMES (JCOMMOPS)**

**SUMMARY**

**ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:**

Progress and issues in the JCOMM in situ Observing Platform Support Centre (JCOMMOPS)

**DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:**

The Commission is requested to:

- (a) Ask the Observations Coordination Group (OCG) to provide overall guidance of the JCOMMOPS workplan and budget;
- (b) Urge Members / Member States to examine whether their contributions to the joint technical support provided to operators of observing programmes through JCOMMOPS could be initiated or increased; and
- (c) Approve the draft text for inclusion in the general summary of JCOMM-4 given in the Appendix.

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

### **6. IN SITU AND SATELITE OBSERVING SYSTEMS** (*agenda item 6*)

#### **6.3 Coordinated technical support for observing programmes (JCOMMOPS)** (*agenda item 6.3*)

**6.3.1** The Commission noted with appreciation the activities of the JCOMM in situ Observing Platform Support Centre (JCOMMOPS) during the intersessional period, and the progress that the Technical Coordinators and JCOMMOPS have made towards integrating technical coordination of the observing networks. It commended the efficiencies made possible by co-locating and harmonizing technical functions in support of multiple observing networks. The Commission commended the efforts of the Observations Coordination Group (OCG), the IOC and WMO secretariats, the host country and institution and the JCOMMOPS technical coordinators in developing a strategy for JCOMMOPS. The Commission asked the OCG to work in concert with the individual panels, and to provide overall guidance of the JCOMMOPS workplan and budget.

**6.3.2** The Commission acknowledged that the SOT had been without a dedicated Technical Coordinator since 2010. The Commission applauded a pilot project that would combine this function with activities dedicated to securing and coordinating vessels for deployment of multi-platform observing system activities. It noted that this "Ship Logistics Coordinator" would be an international focal point for ship logistics for the implementation of global observing networks, and would focus on:

- deployment opportunities,
- technical support and expertise on platforms, technology, and deployment methods,
- collection of metadata and information on ship based observation, including cruise plans,
- coordination for the SOT, and
- development of international cooperative arrangements.

The Commission noted that this would proceed as a pilot experiment in 2012 and 2013 based on existing funds, and it urged Members / Member States to additionally support this effort.

**6.3.3** The Commission noted the potential usefulness of JCOMMOPS to extend technical coordination support to other observing systems that are capable of providing financial resources, with likely candidates being the emerging glider community, polar observations and the IOCCP. Working more closely with the satellite community was also being envisaged. The Commission fully realized that these developments, and indeed the continued support to the existing observing programmes, could only be achieved through enhanced and broadened support to JCOMMOPS, and it asked the OCG to initiate contact with these communities.

**6.3.4** The Commission agreed on the need to increase and diversify Members / Member State contributions to the technical coordination to operators provided at JCOMMOPS, and urged its Members / Member States to examine whether contributions might be initiated or increased.

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### **REFERENCES for Doc. 6 (Not to be included in the final Meeting Report):**

1. Final Reports of the Eighth (JCOMM/MR-No.83) and Ninth (JCOMM/MR-No. 88) Sessions of the JCOMM Management Committee
2. Final Report of the Fourth Session of the JCOMM Observations Coordination Group (JCOMM/MR-No. 85)
3. **JCOMM-4/BM 6:** Progress and activity report – Observations Programme Area