

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

Submitted by: **JCOMM-4/Doc. 12.1**
WMO Secretary-General
and UNESCO/IOC
Executive Secretary

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WMO AND IOC STRATEGIC PLANNING AND THE JCOMM STRATEGY

SUMMARY

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. A strategy for JCOMM aligned with WMO and IOC strategic planning

DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:

The Commission is requested to:

- (a) Decide to continue the Commission's work with the scope and responsibilities described in the current Terms of Reference (ToRs),
- (b) Adopt the Executive Summary for the JCOMM Strategy for 2013-2016, with revision if necessary,
- (c) Request the Co-Presidents and Management Committee to finalize the Strategy document based on decisions taken during the session and to keep it under review and revise it as necessary,
- (d) Request the Secretariats to publish the revised JCOMM Strategy Document in electronic form on the JCOMM Website (<http://www.jcomm.info/Strategy>);,
- (e) Approve the draft text for inclusion in the general summary of JCOMM-4 given in Appendix A.

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

12.1 WMO AND IOC STRATEGIC PLANNING AND THE JCOMM STRATEGY (*agenda item 12.1*)

12.1.1. The Commission recalled that the current Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Commission were approved, in conjunction with the establishment of JCOMM in 1999 by the Thirteenth WMO Congress and the Twentieth Session of the IOC Assembly, and revised at JCOMM-III (2009) through its Recommendation 14 (JCOMM-III) – Terms of reference for the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology, to align the Commission's programme and deliverables to the implementation of the WMO Strategic Plan and IOC Medium-term Strategy. The revised ToRs were submitted to the Sixty-second Session of the WMO Executive Council and the forty-third Session of the IOC Executive Council in 2010. The Commission reviewed the current ToRs and agreed to continue with the scope and responsibilities described at present.

12.1.2. The Commission recalled that, at its third session (JCOMM-III, Marrakesh, Morocco, November 2009), it reviewed and adopted the Executive Summary for the JCOMM Strategy for 2010-2013 and requested the Co-presidents and the Management Committee to finalize the Strategy. The Commission noted with satisfaction that a Strategy for JCOMM 2010-2013 had been compiled in conformity with the overall objectives, strategies and expected results of WMO and IOC, and published at <http://www.jcomm.info/Strategy>. A further revision to the strategy had subsequently been undertaken by the co-president and Management Committee. The Commission reviewed, revised and adopted the Executive Summary for this revised JCOMM Strategy for 2013-2016 as given in the annex to this paragraph.

12.1.3. The Commission requested the Co-presidents and Management Committee to finalize the Strategy document based on decisions taken during the session and to keep it under review and revise it as necessary during the intersessional period, and requested the Secretariats to publish the revised JCOMM Strategy Document in electronic form on the JCOMM Website.

REFERENCES FOR DOC.12.1 (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. Report of the Forty-third Session of the IOC Executive Council (IOC/EC-XLIII/3)
4. 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
5. Final Reports of the Eighth (JCOMM/MR-No.83) and Ninth (JCOMM/MR-No. 88) Sessions of the JCOMM Management Committee
6. A Strategy for JCOMM: <http://www.jcomm.info/Strategy>
7. **JCOMM-4/BM.12.1:** A Strategy for JCOMM 2013 - 2016

Annex to paragraph 12.1.2 of the general summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR A STRATEGY FOR JCOMM 2013 - 2016

The Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) was established by its parent Organizations, the World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO), in 1999, to coordinate worldwide marine meteorological and oceanographic services and their supporting observational, data management and capacity building programmes.

As expressed in the strategic planning documents of WMO and IOC, urgent social and economic drivers need targeted improvements in weather, climate, water, oceanic and related environmental information and services. At the same time, while the future state of the oceans remains uncertain, there is a need to ensure that society and policymakers are better informed of the impact of oceans on humankind and vice versa. JCOMM has developed a vision, objectives and work programme which respond directly to these considerations.

JCOMM coordinates, and develops and recommends standards and procedures for a fully integrated marine observing, data management and services system that uses state-of-the-art technologies and capabilities; is responsive to the evolving needs of all users of marine data and products; and includes an outreach programme to enhance the national capacity of all maritime countries. The long-term objectives for JCOMM are: (i) to enhance the provision of marine meteorological and oceanographic services; (ii) To coordinate the development, enhancement and delivery of climate services as a contribution to the Global Framework for Climate Services; (iii) to coordinate the enhancement and long-term maintenance of an integrated global marine meteorological and oceanographic observing and data management system, within the context of GOOS and WIGOS/WIS and as a contribution to the GEOSS; and (iv) to manage the evolution of an effective and efficient programme, embracing all maritime Members/Member States.

Fundamental to the Strategic Planning Documents of WMO and IOC are agreed Strategic Priorities, with associated sets of Expected Results and Actions, respectively. The work of JCOMM over the period 2013 to 2016 will contribute to WMO and IOC Strategic Priorities in several overlapping but complementary ways.

During the period 2013-2016, the Commission will leverage on its core competencies to address specific priority areas: GFCS implementation, disaster risk reduction, WIGOS implementation and capacity development. These correspond closely with the organizational priorities specified by WMO and IOC in their respective strategic plans.

The Commission will also give special attention to education and training, and technology transfer initiatives on marine meteorological and oceanographic data, products and services that respond to the needs of, and build capacity in, the developing countries with particular emphasis on the Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Additionally, the Commission will support cooperation among WMO, IOC and other UN Agencies that are members of UN-Oceans, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the International Council for Science (ICSU) and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector as well as user organizations, on matters related to marine meteorology and oceanography.

JCOMM's work will be accomplished through a Management Committee and three programme areas (Observations, Data Management, and Services and Forecasting Systems), and their subsidiary expert and task teams. The JCOMM strategy includes an increased emphasis on communications, both internal within JCOMM and external with marine users, partners and stakeholders. JCOMM Capacity Development requirements will not be addressed by any single

Programme Area but by each Programme Area individually, focussed on its own implementation needs and concerns.

Receiving feedback from marine users is fundamental to the successful implementation of the JCOMM work programme. Some mechanisms to evaluate programme performance and satisfaction of marine users and stakeholders already exist, and strengthened mechanisms will be essential to help provide regular feedback and guide the evolution of JCOMM.

JCOMM has an ambitious and complex work programme. It holds the prospect of considerable potential benefits to all Members/Member States in the long-term operation of a coordinated, integrated, global oceanographic and marine meteorological observing, data management, and forecasting and services system. The implementation of the Commission's work programme will be a long-term, complex process, necessitating a phased, iterative and cost-effective approach over the period.
