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JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR
OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY (JCOMM)
SHIP OBSERVATIONS TEAM

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FOURTH SESSION

ITEM IV-4.3

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 16 TO 21 APRIL 2007

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**VOSP-V
ISSUES FOR THE VOS**

Multiple Ship Recruitment

(Submitted by Mr Pierre Blouch, E-SURFMAR Programme Manager)

Summary and purpose of document

This document provides information on actions undertaken since the Third Session of the Ship Observations Team (SOT-III, Brest, France, 7-12 March 2005), regarding multiple VOS recruitment issues (i.e., vessels recruited by more than one country).

ACTION PROPOSED

The VOS Panel is invited to:

- (a) Review the information contained in this report, and to provide comments or suggestions, as appropriate.
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DISCUSSION

During the Third Session of the Ship Observations Team (SOT-III, Brest, France, 7-12 March 2005), the Meeting agreed that it is strongly desirable that each respective VOS has only one responsible country. This would prevent duplicate quality monitoring and ensures that only one set of metadata is prepared for the WMO Publication 47 per vessel.

Being concerned by the issue under the framework of E-SURFMAR, Météo-France proposed to publish a list of multi-recruited ships on a website. One month later, an application was developed to automatically update such a list according to WMO Pub. 47(1).

The list identifies the VOS ships, which appear as 'recruited' on more than one National VOS list. The VOS operators are invited to attempt to reach an agreement to determine which country should be assigned future responsibility for the indicated ships on the 'multiple recruitment' list.

It should be noted that the list is only updated when changes or updates to the WMO Publication 47 has/have been made. By the end of February 2007, both lists were dated 30 June 2006, and 75 VOS were declared as being recruited by at least two countries.

Please see the below indicated websites for further information regarding said issue:

<http://www.meteo.shom.fr/vos-monitoring/multi-recruit.html> and

<http://www.wmo.ch/web/www/ois/pub47/pub47-home.htm>.
