

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)

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

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FOURTH SESSION

ITEM V-1.1

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 16 TO 21 APRIL 2007

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**SOOPIP-VII
REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SOOPIP**

*(Submitted by Mr Steve Cook, Chairperson of the JCOMM SOOP Implementation
Panel (SOOPIP))*

Summary and purpose of document

This document summarizes the Ship Of Opportunity Programme Implementation Panel (SOOPIP) activities for 2005 and 2006.

ACTION PROPOSED

The SOOP Implementation Panel is invited to:

- (a) Review the information contained in this report, as necessary and/or appropriate.
 - (b) To provide comments and suggestions when discussing relevant agenda items, as appropriate.
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DISCUSSION

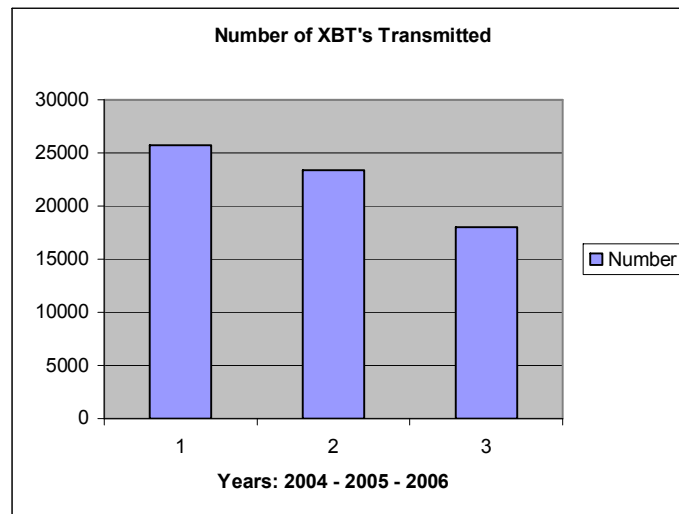
Introduction:

The Ship-of-Opportunity Programme Implementation Panel (SOOPIP) reviews, recommends, and, as necessary, coordinates the implementation of ship of opportunity observations as well as the exchange of technical information and surveys new developments. Additionally the Panel is responsible for monitoring the distribution of resources to ships, transmission of data, and analyzes line activity through the Technical Coordinator.

The scientific objective of the XBT program is based on the recommendations from the Upper Ocean Thermal Review that were presented at the Ocean Observations for Climate Conference (St. Raphael, France, 1999). The SOOP continues to provide complimentary data to the TAO/TRITON/PIRATA moored and ARGO Float arrays.

Implementation:

Between the periods of 2004 to 2006, there has been a gradual decrease in the annual number of XBT observations transmitted in real-time to the national data centers.



This gradual decline is not unexpected, due to the successful implementation of the ARGO Float Program. As expected, the Float temperature and salinity data are designed to supplant a significant portion of the Low Density XBT (LDX) network. At the same time, some LDX SOOP resources would be reallocated to Frequently Sampled (FRX) and High Density (HDX) line modes as agreed at the Third Session of the Ship Observations Team (SOT III, Brest, France, 7-12 March 2005)(See Table 3: Agreed upon SOOP line responsibilities).

It should be noted that the past traditional difficulty areas to sample with the SOOP (southern ocean, Gulf of Guinea and western South American Bight) appear now to be sampled more efficiently with the implementation (2800 active Floats or 93%) of the ARGO Float Program.

The continuing goal of the SOOPIP (as stated from the SOT-II under climate requirements) is to continue to improve the quality of the XBT observations, the real-time transmission of those XBT observations, as well as develop plans to concentrate the XBT observations along FRX and HDX lines. Significant progress has been made in most of the above-mentioned areas. The quality of the XBT observations has improved with the increased use of automated systems (i.e., CSIRO – Devil and NOAA AMVER/SEAS Systems) at sea that utilize Std. C, Mini C and Argos satellite systems, as well as improved software Quality Control procedures before data transmission. The NOAA has also implemented improved quality control procedures for reviewing the XBT data after transmission, and

before insertion onto the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) and the Cyclical Redundancy Check (CRC) for AMVER/SEAS data.

In reviewing the Upper Ocean Thermal Lines that describe the FRX and HDX routes, the Technical Coordinators Draft Semestrial Report for 2005 (Table 3) noted that 11 of the 45 FRX and HDX routes (or 24%) were not sampled, and 15 of the 45 (or 33%) were under sampled. The SOOPIP community is invited to discuss the possibilities of resurrecting or improving these under sampled lines. It should be further noted that a subset of Table 3, indicated the following lines were not sampled at all.

Line Number	Route	Comments
AX-15	Europe - Cape of Good Hope	Not sampled
AX-25	Cape of Good Hope - Antarctica	Not sampled
IX-06	La Reunion / Mauritius - Malacca Straits	Not sampled
IX-07	Cape of Good Hope - Persian Gulf	Not sampled
IX-08	Bombay - Mauritius	Not sampled
IX-09S	Fremantle - Sri Lanka	Not sampled
PX-11	Flores Sea - Japan	Not sampled
PX-21	California - Chile	Not sampled
PX-35	Melbourne - Dunedin	Not sampled
PX-36	Christchurch - McMurdo	Not sampled
PX-81	Honolulu - Coronel (Chile)	Not sampled
