

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)

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

SOT-IV/Doc. V-2.2
(15.II.2007)

FOURTH SESSION

ITEM V-2.2

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 16 TO 21 APRIL 2007

Original: ENGLISH

**SOOPIP-VII
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

JCOMM/SOT Pool of XBT Probes

(Submitted by the Secretariats)

Summary and purpose of document

At its Second Session, JCOMM (JCOMM-II, Halifax, Canada, September 2005) agreed to establish a common fund for ship consumables. This common fund will provide Member States with a mechanism to pool financial resources for international programmes, therefore being able to take advantage of increased purchasing power to deliver (i.) better price for consumables, and (ii.) increased quantity of consumables, thus enabling developing programmes to take advantage of any surplus consumables. Whilst the Trust Fund will initially focus on XBT probes, other expendables could be added in the future. This document provides information regarding the latest developments regarding said issue.

ACTION PROPOSED

The SOOP Implementation Panel is invited to:

- (a) Discuss the issues and invite Panel Members to contribute to the Trust Fund;
- (b) Define priorities and a workplan for the use of such resources;
- (c) Make specific recommendations on the line(s) that should be targeted first.

Appendix: Recommendation 3 (JCOMM-II), Consumables for Ship-Based Observations

DISCUSSION

1. At its Second Session, JCOMM (JCOMM-II, Halifax, Canada, September 2005), noted that the OPA had suggested a special project to help finance the expansion of the ocean system. The establishment of a common fund for consumables would initially be focused on XBTs, but other expendables could be added in due time. The Commission noted that the provision of ship-time, as well as expendables, was necessary to build contributions to the global observing system by developing countries. The need for countries to support the SOOP XBT programme was a concern of JCOMM-I (Akureyri, Iceland, June 2001), and included the concern that countries were beginning to divert resources from the XBT programme to pay for other new programmes such as Argo. JCOMM-II recalled Recommendation 2, (JCOMM-I), that strongly recommended Members/Member States to, “increase the resources committed to supplying expendables for ship observations in support of international implementation plans.”
2. As a result, JCOMM-II adopted Recommendation 3 (JCOMM-II), *Consumables for Ship-Based Observations*, for the establishment and management of a JCOMM Trust Fund to provide a simple mechanism to help more countries contribute to the international observing system as well as complete the global XBT network. Said Recommendation has been provided in the Appendix to this document. Based on similar previous experiences with purchasing radio-sounding equipment on behalf of Member countries, the WMO has agreed to manage the Trust Fund on behalf of the SOT, as soon as Member Countries are willing to make commitments.
3. During the Fifth Session of the JCOMM Management Committee (MAN-IV, Geneva, Switzerland, 5 to 7 October 2006), it was agreed that any proposed expenditure(s) should be authorized by way of an official letter from the Chairperson of the SOT to the WMO. Expenditures would then be made by the WMO, provided that sufficient funds existed in the Trust Fund. It was further agreed upon that the WMO would report on the use of the Trust Fund to the SOT at its regularly scheduled meetings.
4. The SOOPIP is invited to explore possible contributions from JCOMM Members/Member States, and to make specific recommendations on the line(s) that should be prioritized first. The SOOPIP is invited to define priorities and a workplan for the use of such resources.
5. The Panel will be invited to discuss the operation of the Trust Fund under Agenda Item I-8.5.

APPENDIX

RECOMMENDATION 3 (JCOMM-II) CONSUMABLES FOR SHIP-BASED OBSERVATIONS

THE JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY,

Noting:

- (1) Recommendation 2 (JCOMM-I) - Resources for Ship-Based Observations,
- (2) Final report of the third session of the Ship Observations Team, JCOMM Meeting Report No. 35,
- (3) The report of the Observations Programme Area Coordinator to JCOMM-II,

Recognizing:

- (1) That many components of the operational, in situ ocean observing system coordinated by JCOMM are currently well short of requirements, including in particular the XBT network coordinated by the Ship Observations Team,
- (2) That currently only a small number of Members/Member States contribute to the maintenance of the observing system,
- (3) That the cost of the purchase and supply of consumables (such as XBTs) represents a major obstacle to the enhanced involvement of maritime countries in the system;

Considering:

- (1) That the implementation of the observing system could be enhanced through the establishment of a simple mechanism to encourage more countries to contribute to the system and complete the global XBT and other networks,
- (2) That considerable cost savings could be achieved through the bulk purchase and supply of consumables for ship-based observations, including in particular XBTs,
- (3) That the provision of consumables from a common pool would greatly assist maritime countries wishing to contribute to the implementation and maintenance of the observing system, in support of national, regional and global interests and programmes;

Recommends:

- (1) That a scheme for the bulk purchase and supply of consumables for ship-based observations be developed, and a special trust fund be established for that purpose;
- (2) That Members/Member States which are in a position to do so, contribute to this trust fund, in support of the full implementation and maintenance of the ocean observing system coordinated by JCOMM, and the enhanced involvement of maritime countries in this work;
- (3) That at the same time, Members/Member States continue to procure and supply consumables for ship-based observations through their existing national procedures;

Requests:

- (1) The Observations Programme Area Coordinator, in consultation with the chairman of the Ship Observations Team, the co-presidents of JCOMM, the JCOMM Secretariat and relevant Members/Member States, develop a plan for the bulk purchase and supply of consumables for ship-based observations, for consideration and approval by the Management Committee;
- (2) The Secretary-General of WMO and the Executive Secretary IOC to support the implementation of this plan through the establishment of a special trust fund for this purpose.