

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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SOOPIP-VII

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Review of the XBT Line Responsibilities

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

Summary and purpose of document

This document reviews all XBT lines and assigns points of contact to support those lines.

ACTION PROPOSED

The SOOP Implementation Panel is invited to:

- (a) Review all lines to identify the lines that can be reasonably maintained;
- (b) Identify said lines currently under "sampled" to determine what resources are required to increase the sampling;
- (c) Review the line responsibilities and provide comments and suggest changes as necessary and/or appropriate.

Appendix: A. Line responsibilities as agreed upon at SOT-III

DISCUSSION

Since 1990, the global Low Density XBT network has been monitored and coordinated in an effort to more effectively utilize resources and improve sampling, data transmission and processing. The National XBT programs evolved over the years to adapt to a changing maritime industry. Today, maritime shipping has evolved to the point that it now emulates the airline industry. To be competitive, they must endeavour to keep their ships fully loaded and underway. As the maritime industry becomes more competitive, larger companies are buying up smaller companies in an effort to become more efficient in dealing with their cargo demands.

The SOOPIP community finds itself burdened with vessels coming and going offline at ever increasing frequency and usually with very little notice. Ships are staffed by fewer and fewer people and the time spent in port is becoming less and less. This means that there is fewer opportunities for the SOOPIP programs to interact with shipboard personnel, install equipment and train operators.

Additionally, while at sea, ships personnel have less time to devote to our sampling requirements. Placing ship riders on board to collect quality data is becoming more the norm than in the past when we depended almost totally on ships personnel.

The burden is on the national programmes to continually recruit new vessels and shore side support assistance with the shipping of our equipment and with the installing and de-installing of equipment. There is an enormous amount of scientific/maritime industry experience in the SOOPIP community. Therefore, the SOOPIP is invited to discuss these problems and express their collective thoughts concerning just what routes can be realistically maintained.

The Ship Observations Team (SOT) is invited to review all lines to identify those lines that can be reasonably maintained, to identify those lines currently under sampled to determine what resources are required to increase sampling, and to review the line responsibilities and suggest changes. Line responsibilities, as agreed upon at Third Session of the SOT (SOT-III, Brest, France, 7-12 March 2005) are listed in Appendix A to this document.

Appendix: 1

APPENDIX A

LINE RESPONSIBILITIES AS AGREED UPON AT THE SOT-III

Line		UOT type	Responsible Agency or country	Also participating	Comment & national requirements
AX03	Europe - New York	HDX	BSH	IRD - Nouméa	
AX07	Florida Straits - Gibraltar	HDX	US-GOOS		US - GOOS LDX=347
AX08	New York - Cape Town	FHD	US-GOOS		US - GOOS LDX=640
AX10	New York - Puerto Rico	FHD	US-GOOS		US - GOOS LDX=133
AX11	Europe - Brazil	FRX	BSH	IRD - Brest	Could be part of Brazilian effort
AX15	Europe - Cape of Good Hope	FRX	IRD-Brest		
AX18	Buenos Aires - Cape of Good Hope	HDX	US-GOOS		US - GOOS HDX=700
AX20	Europe - French Guyana	FRX	IRD-Brest		Forced to N/S line
AX22	Drake Passage	HDX	SIO	US - GOOS	US - GOOS HDX=200
AX25	Cape of Good Hope - Antarctica	HDX	US-GOOS		US - GOOS HDX=440
AX29	Antigua - Cabo de Sao Roque, Brazil	FRX	US-GOOS		US - GOOS FRX=540
AX34	Gulf of Guinea - Caribbean	FRX	IRD + US		Investigation needed, South Africa?
IX01	Fremantle - Sunda Straits	FHD	BOM	IRD - Nouméa	BOM to sample in FRX+ mode only
IX06	Mauritius / La Réunion - Malacca Strait	FRX	Japan + Kenya		Japan? Forced to N/S line
IX07	Cape of Good Hope - Persian Gulf	FRX	IRD-Brest		Red Sea - La Reunion ship, Kuwait oil tanking company (Rotherdam: 6 months rotation, Le Havre: 6 months, Japan: 6 months), Iran?
IX08	Mauritius - Bombay	FRX	NIO		Kenya?
IX09S	Fremantle - Sri Lanka	FRX	UKMO		No ship, may not be possible; Japan: IX09N
IX10	Red Sea - Malacca Strait/Singapore	HDX	UKMO, JMA	JAMSTEC, IRD - Nouméa	Japan=> Eastern part; South Africa
IX12	Fremantle - Red Sea	FRX	BOM		Considered E/W, 4-hourly sampling
IX15	Mauritius - Fremantle	HDX	CSIRO/SIO		
IX21	Cape of Good Hope - Mauritius	HDX	Kenya		

Line		UOT type	Responsible Agency or country	Also participating	Comment & national requirements
IX22	Shark Bay - Timor Strait/Banda Sea	FRX	BOM		
IX28	Hobart, Tasmania - Dumont d'Urville	HDX	CSIRO		
PX02	Flores Sea - Torres Strait	FRX	BOM		BOM aiming FRX; 4-hourly sampling (=>oversampled)
PX04	Japan - Kiribati - Fiji / Samoa	FRX	IRD - Nouméa		
PX05	Japan - New Zealand	FHD	JMA	JAMSTEC, IRD - Nouméa	
PX06	Suva, Fiji - Auckland, New Zealand	HDX	SIO	US - GOOS	US - GOOS LDX=107
PX08	Auckland, New Zealand - Panama	FRX	US-GOOS		Forced N/S, US - GOOS FRX=1050
PX09	Hawaii - Fiji / Auckland	FHD	SIO	US - GOOS	US - GOOS LDX=293
PX10	Hawaii - Guam/Saipan	HDX	SIO	US - GOOS	US - GOOS LDX=293
PX11	Flores Sea - Japan	FRX	BOM		BOM stopped in 06/2003, might be re-instated in future
PX13	New Zealand - California	FRX	US-GOOS		US - GOOS LDX=770
PX17	Tahiti / Maruroa - Panama	FRX	IRD - Nouméa		Forced to N/S line, 795 FRX?
PX18	Tahiti - California	FRX	US-GOOS		US - GOOS FRX=660
PX21	California - Chile	FRX	???		Might not be possible; ask OOPC for alternatives; Shipping turned coastal. Has to be done through R/V
PX30	Brisbane/Sydney - Noumea - Fiji	HDX	CSIRO	IRD - Nouméa	
PX31	Nouméa / Suva, Fiji - California	FHD	IRD - Noumea		
PX34	Sydney - Wellington	HDX	CSIRO		
PX36	Christchurch - McMurdo	HDX	US-GOOS		
PX37	Hawaii - California	HDX	SIO	US - GOOS	US - GOOS LDX=227
PX38	Hawaii - Alaska	HDX	SIO		
PX40	Hawaii - Japan	HDX	SIO	US - GOOS, TOHOKU - U	US - GOOS LDX=148
PX44	Guam - Hong Kong / Taiwan	HDX	SIO	US - GOOS	372 HDX?, US - GOOS LDX=107
PX50	Valparaiso - Auckland	HDX	MSNZ, SIO		768 HDX?
PX81	Honolulu - Coronel (Chile)	HDX	US-GOOS	SIO	US - GOOS LDX=272