



In reply please quote 45/512

Ms Sarah North
Chair of ASAPP
Marine Networks Manager
Met Office
FitzRoy Road
Exeter Devon
EX1 3PB
United Kingdom

Dear Sarah

WITHDRAWAL OF PARTICIPATION IN WRAP

As foreshadowed in previous emails, the Bureau has decided to withdraw from the Worldwide Recurring ASAP Project (WRAP).

This decision, which was made in consultation with a range of potential WRAP data users across the Bureau, including Dr. Peter Dexter, was not made lightly. At the end of the day however, I could not build a reasonable business case to convince my managers to continue our financial commitment and human resource involvement in WRAP.

The WRAP concept is sound and when functioning did provide high-quality data, and the cooperation between the WRAP Coordinator and the participating agencies (Bureau, Met Office and NOAA) was efficient. For everybody involved however, it has been a huge challenge to attempt to maintain a single WRAP ship operating over the four years of the project.

It is also regrettable that WRAP did not attract additional funding from other Southern Hemisphere countries and, in the case of MSC Corinna, from Mediterranean countries to enable WRAP to become fully worldwide, instead of the seven days of observations every one hundred days across the Indian Ocean.

Please confirm the Bureau's withdrawal from WRAP with the WRAP Coordinator and WMO.

Yours sincerely

Graeme S. Ball
Manager, Marine Operations Group
Chair, JCOMM Ship Observations Team

25 May 2005