

## SOT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006

### REPORT BY THE TASK TEAM ON METADATA FOR WMO PUBLICATION NO. 47

(report provided by Graeme Ball, TT Chairperson)

#### Background

WMO Publication No. 47 (Pub47), the *International List of Selected, Supplementary and Auxiliary Ships*, contains details about the names, call signs, vessel type, ship's dimensions, types of instrumentation, instrument location, instrument calibration dates and methods of observation used on VOS ships.

The Task Team on Metadata for WMO No. 47 (Pub 47) was established at SOT-II, London, 2003, with the stated objective to review the WMO No. 47 to ensure it continued to meet the requirements of all users. A comprehensive review was conducted and reported at SOT-III, Brest, 2005, where the recommendations of the Task Team were approved without change. The report by the Task Team also noted the need to greatly improve the level of documentation describing WMO No. 47, including the provision of guidance material to assist, in particular, Port Meteorological Officers to collect the metadata.

#### Tasks from SOT-III

1. Prepare a submission to JCOMM-II regarding the proposed changes to WMO No. 47 (Pub 47) metadata based on the recommendation from SOT-III.
2. (not recorded) Prepare documentation for WMO No. 47 Metadata version 3.
3. Prepare a consolidated list of ship routes in accordance with the submission to JCOMM-II for presentation at SOT-IV.
4. Regularly review the Pub. 47 metadata requirements and make recommendations as appropriate.
5. Monitor the receipt of regular Pub. 47 updates at WMO from participating VOS members.

#### Task 1: Submission to JCOMM-II

The Task Team submitted the proposed changes to JCOMM-II, Halifax, September 2005. The following is an extract from the Final Report from JCOMM-II.

The Commission:

- (a) Noted with approval the changes developed and implemented by SOT, in accordance with the authority provided by the former CMM through Recommendation 9 (CMM-XII) and after consultation with the Expert Team on Marine Climatology, to the contents of the existing code tables associated with the International List of Selected, Supplementary and Auxiliary Ships;
- (b) Adopted Recommendation II (JCOMM-II) to implement modifications to the definitions and details of the fields (and format), and to initiate the preparation, by SOT, of an XML version for the future exchange of the metadata for that publication;
- (c) Noted with approval the adoption by SOT of a semi-colon delimited format for the immediate current exchange of the metadata;

- (d) Agreed that SOT should be the subsidiary body of JCOMM of the International List of Selected, Supplementary and Auxiliary Ships, in consultation with the Expert Team on Marine Climatology and other relevant bodies, including user groups.

### **Task 2: Prepare documentation for WMO No. 47 Metadata version 3**

The Task Team issued documentation for WMO No. 47 Metadata version 3 on 1 June 2006, to provide NMS with ample lead-time before the introduction of WMO No. 47 Metadata version 3 on 1 July 2007.

The documentation was made available on the JCOMM VOS website, and reference to the new version was also included on the Pub. 47 page on the JCOMM via a link to the JCOMM VOS website.

The documentation developed by the Task Team, currently at version 3.1, is provided as Annex 1 to this document and includes:

1. Complete set of Code Tables;
2. Description and format of the semi-colon delimited metadata exchange format;
3. Description and format of the XML metadata exchange format;
4. Ship's layout diagram including a definition of the required dimensions;
5. Recommended minimum suite of digital images/photographs for VOS and VOSCLIM;
6. Suggested photograph descriptions;
7. Suggested ship's drawings and sketches; and
8. Summary of changes from WMO No. 47 Metadata version 2.

The Task Team also developed the XML Schema to be used in conjunction with the XML metadata exchange format.

### **Task 3: Consolidated list of ship routes**

The Task Team, after much deliberation and recognizing that one of the main operational uses of the ship routes is to help identify ships to deploy drifting buoys and profiling floats, developed a global VOS route scheme based on buoy deployment areas (WMO No. 306, Manual on Codes, Code Table 1601). The proposal is given in Annex 2.

VOS FPs and Port Meteorological Officers will be advised via their respective mailing lists when updated documentation incorporating the global VOS route scheme becomes available on the JCOMM VOS website.

### **Task 4: Regularly review the Pub. 47 metadata requirements and make recommendations as appropriate.**

Ongoing.

### **Task 5: Monitor the receipt of regular Pub. 47 updates at WMO from participating VOS**

**members.**

Through its ongoing efforts, the Task Team is pleased to report an increasing number of NMS regularly providing quarterly updates. Significantly, the past twelve months has seen both the USA and Canada commence regular Pub 47 submissions.

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**ANNEX 1**

**WMO-No. 47**

**International list of Selected, Supplementary and Auxiliary ships**

**Metadata fields & descriptions, exchange formats and code tables**

**Metadata Format Version 03**

**[Click here to access the Annex 1](#)**

Note: this annex contains version 3.1. A version 3.2 (routes renamed) was adopted by SOT-IV and can be obtained at:

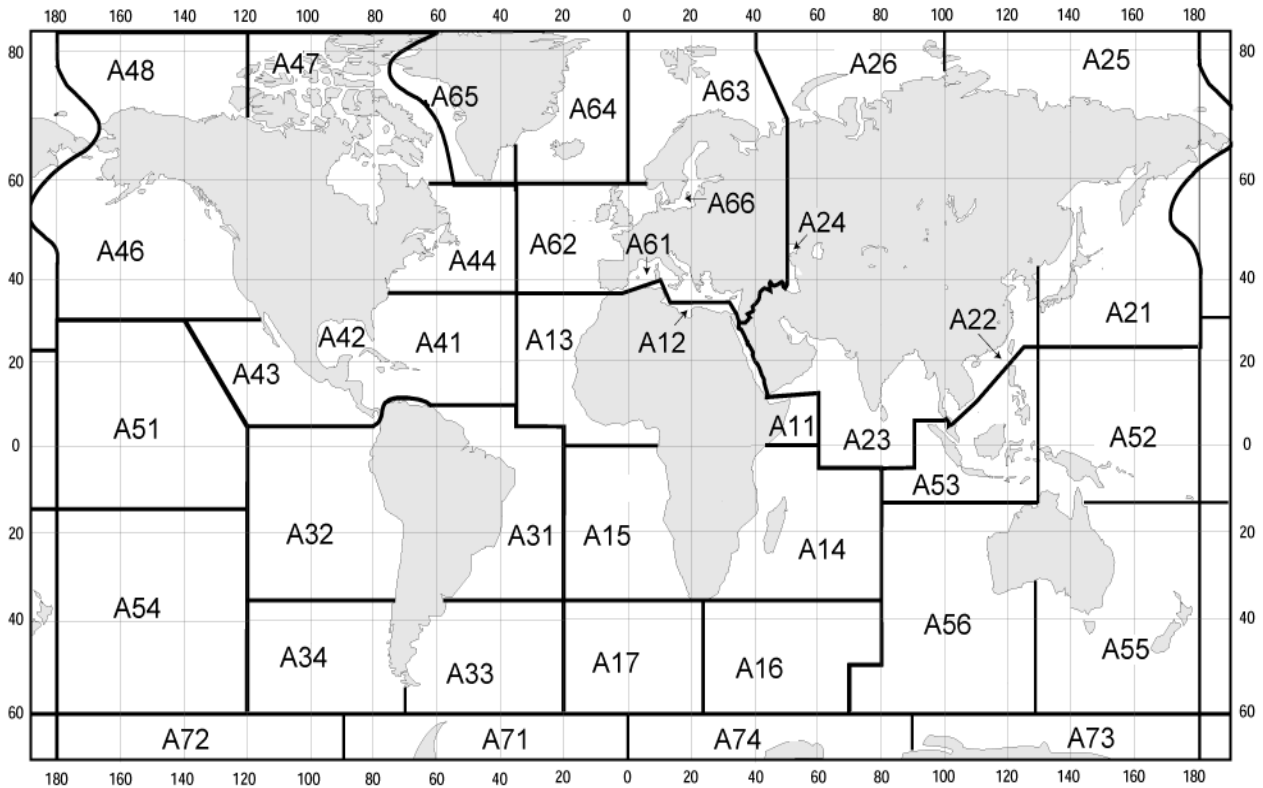
[http://www.bom.gov.au/jcomm/vos/documents/pub47\\_documentation\\_version3.pdf](http://www.bom.gov.au/jcomm/vos/documents/pub47_documentation_version3.pdf)

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**ANNEX 2**

**PROPOSED GLOBAL VOS ROUTE SCHEME**

(Table 1802, WMO No. 47 Metadata version 3)



- A90 More than 10 separate marine areas (see Note 2).
- A91 Inland sea or river (see Note 3).
- A92 Variable or no fixed route (see Note 2).

- Note 1** A maximum of 10 marine areas visited by the ship can be reported individually, otherwise use A90.
- Note 2** For A90 or A92, specify the most visited marine area(s) by the ship in the footnote if this can be determined, e.g. “most visited - A62, A41”.
- Note 3** For A91, specify the location in the footnote, e.g. “Black Sea”, “Mackenzie River”.
- Note 4** Use footnotes as necessary to provide more detail, e.g. “coastal service”, “fixed location”.
- Note 5** If using the semi-colon delimited metadata exchange format, include the relevant marine area in the footnote if more than one **rte** is defined, e.g. “A73 – Austral Summer only”, otherwise format the footnote as shown in the examples for Notes 2 – 4.

Note: These routes have been renamed from Ann to Rnn at SOT-IV.