

REPORT BY THE TASK TEAM ON CODING

(report submitted by Hester Viola on behalf of the Task Team)

1. The team's current membership of the Task Team includes the following:

Dr Craig DONLON (Chairperson)
Dr Elizabeth C. KENT
Dr Joaquin TRINANES
Dr. Charles SUN
Mr Colin PARRETT
Mr Etienne CHARPENTIER
Mr Frits KOEK
Mr Robert LUKE
Mr Scott WOODRUFF
Ms Hester VIOLA
Nicola SCOTT
Dr Gustavo J. GONI
Mr Graeme BALL
Ms Julie FLETCHER

2. Progress updates, relating to each of the team's Terms of Reference, are presented:

2.1 TOR 1. Compile table driven coding requirements for ship based observations, for all relevant applications, and submit them in a consolidated way to the DMPA Task Team on Table Driven Codes;

2.1.1 March 2008. Requirements for XBT data were documented

http://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=3246

2.1.2 May 2008. Changes required for the Master Table 10 were assessed and compiled.

2.1.3 September 2008 WMO, Geneva, Switzerland:

1. 2.1.3.1 Hester Viola attended the meeting of the WMO Expert Team on Data Representation and Codes (ET/DR&C) and presented a progress report and several proposals for BUFR templates on behalf of IOC and JCOMM. Contributed to discussions concerning JCOMM data.

2.

3. 2.1.3.2 She presented an update to definitions of the BUFR Master Table 10 – Oceanographic Data, on behalf of the JCOMM Data Management Programme Area.

4.

5. 2.1.3.3 She also presented the new XBT (only) template to the WMO ET/DR&C as well as some changes/additions to BUFR Tables and Code tables.

6.

7. 2.1.3.4 Some changes for VOS template were submitted to the ET/DR&C by the Czech Republic representative Eva Cervena, though these did not go via the SOT TT on Coding or the DMPA TT on TDCF.

8.

2.1.3.5 Meeting documents are available from

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ISS/Meetings/CT-MTDCF-ET-DRC_Geneva2008/DocPlan.html

2.1.3.6 The feedback from the ET/DR&C was documented and reviewed by the DMPA TT on TDCF Chair

2.1.3.7 The draft XBT template proposed needed to be resubmitted to the group, as it had some errors. Minor changes included updating all code tables, where, Missing was not the last element and clarify data widths (need to be converted to Bits for all character lengths given). Ordering needs to

change for certain qualifying elements (heights of sensors). The ET/DR&C suggested that the manufacture date should be at the end and could just be a string/numeric.

2.1.4 December 2008- February 2009

2.1.4.1 Reviewed and revised the XBT BUFR template proposal amongst the DMPA Task Team on Table Driven Code Forms and members of the SOT TT Coding. Documentation of reports relating to BUFR Template updates will appear on the JCOMM website, http://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDoclistRecord&doclistID=76, in future. It has been noted during the inter-sessional period that the management of BUFR templates and Table Driven Code Forms within JCOMM could be better coordinated across JCOMM and that if the various groups working on this area were merged (into a JCOMM Cross-cutting Task Team) there some efficiencies may be gained.

2.2 TOR 2. In collaboration with ocean forecasting system operators (GODAE) including ecosystem modellers, and other appropriate user communities, establish a core set of ship based bio-geo-chemical variable definitions for the BUFR Master Table No. 10 (MT10);

No Action noted.

2.3 TOR 3. Review and revise the draft MT10 BUFR code table

2.3.1 At the September meeting of the ET/DR&C, the team was happy that some progress had been made on Master Table 10. [Doc. 3.4\(1\)](#) Once the Master Table 10 definitions are finalised (minor changes needed to the document submitted, to be completed by the DMPA Task Team members), ECMWF volunteered to validate the table definitions, if data is provided and one JCOMM member data center can help. The ET/DR&C noted that there is a need for a clear process in managing alternative Master Tables (not just Master Table 10). There is a need for some official documentation on the mechanism for updates and storage – hosting and serving of the Master Table between responsible party/ies and the Organisation/s proposing updates and the ET/DR&C. JCOMM (on behalf of IOC) needs to decide where the official source of the Master Table 10 definitions should reside.

2.3.2 The final review of the Master Table 10 is nearly complete, but the DMPA Task Team members, in consultation with the SOT Task Team on Coding in February/March 2009, will compile a further revision. Documentation of the Master Table 10 will be the JCOMM website, [here](#), in future.

2.4 TOR 4. Review all relevant JCOMM Publications to make sure they are kept up to date and comply with Quality Management terminology;

No action noted

2.5 TOR 5. Report to SOT-V.

ANNEX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE JCOMM TASK TEAM ON TABLE DRIVEN CODES

Terms of Reference for the cross cutting Task Team on Table Driven Codes

The purpose of the TT is to coordinate the development and evolution of the use of table driven code forms (TDCs) within JCOMM, and to coordinate their implementation with WMO/CBS and its applicable Expert Teams, including on Data Representation and Codes (ET-DRC) and on the Assessment of Data Representation Systems (ET-ADRS). To do this, it requires membership representing each of the programme areas who have a requirement for exchanging data in such code forms and managing such data.

Specifically the TT will carry out the following tasks:

- 1) Liaise with appropriate representatives of groups using the TDCs to ensure their present and future needs are met.
- 2) Liaise with projects such as Meta-T and metadata repositories such as WMO Pub. 47 and ODAS to ensure international management of needed metadata.
- 3) Review and evolve existing templates or new forms, whether actively used or being proposed, to meet the objectives of:
 - a) Using the same form, as appropriate considering intrinsic characteristics of original data forms and reporting procedures, for data and metadata when reporting the same variable in different templates;
 - b) Ensuring metadata necessary to real-time interpretation of the observations are carried with the data;
 - c) Inserting the facility to handle new variables as they become necessary in a manner consistent with objectives a and b.
- 4) Maintain and evolve Master Table 10 as appropriate
- 5) Assess any proposed or enacted changes in TDCs for their impact on the climate record in consultation with the ETMC.
- 6) Coordinate with CBS and its ETs on TDC issues (including preparing documentation for presentation to the ET-DRC so as to get approval of the new or modified TDCs).
- 7) Report progress to chairs of the JCOMM PAs.

Membership:

Bob Keeley – DMPA (lead)
Fritz Koek -- SOT
Derrick Snowden -- Meta-T
Anh Tran -- Argo
Bruce Bradshaw - DBCP
Hester Viola - JCOMMOPS
Scott Woodruff – ETMC
Thomas Loubrieu – ADRS
Candyce Clark – OPA chair

Related Documents can be found [here](#).
