

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)

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

SHIP OBSERVATIONS TEAM (SOT)

EIGHTH SESSION

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 20-24 APRIL 2015

SOT-8 / Doc. 3.3 Rev. 1
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ITEM: 3.3

Original: ENGLISH

REPORT FROM THE SOT CHAIRPERSON

(Submitted by Graeme Ball (SOT Chair, Australia))

Summary and purpose of the document

This document contains a brief report by Mr Graeme Ball, Chairperson of the SOT, regarding his activities in support of the SOT during the past intersessional period. The document also provides a status on action items requiring attention by the Chairperson of the SOT.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Team will review the information contained in this report, and comment and make decisions or recommendations as appropriate. See part A for the details of recommended actions.

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- Appendices:**
- A.** Inter-sessional activities of the Chair
 - B.** Action Items for the Chair from SOT-7

- A - DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL REPORT

3.3.1. Mr Johan Stander (South Africa) reported on behalf of the SOT Chair, Mr Graeme Ball (BOM, Australia) on the Chair's activities in support of the Team during the last inter-sessional period, including a review of the action items assigned to him at SOT-7.

3.3.2. Mr Ball provided an extensive list of publications that he was involved in either preparing or reviewing on behalf of the Team, including the SOT Implementation Strategy, the VOS Framework Document, numerous WMO publications and reports commissioned by the OCG.

3.3.3. Mr Ball attended the OCG Meeting (Washington, USA, September 2013) as the SOT Chair. He is a member of the DBCP and attended DBCP-29 (Paris, France, September 2013) and DBCP-30 (Wendeng, China, October 2014) where he represented the SOT as required.

3.3.4. Mr Ball was unable to participate in the two JCOMMOPS teleconferences due to the scheduling difficulties and appointed Ms Sarah North (VOSP Chair) and Mr Chris Marshall (SOT Vice Chair) as his proxies.

3.3.5. Mr Ball worked closely with Mr Johan Stander (SAWS, South Africa) to specify the requirements for SOT-8. He also worked closely with Mr Etienne Charpentier (WMO Secretariat), Mr Chris Marshall (SOT Vice-Chair, Canada), Ms Sarah North (VOSP Chair, United Kingdom) and Mr Gustavo Goni (SOOPIP Chair, USA) to prepare the timetable and agenda for SOT-8.

3.3.6 Mr Ball noted his continued involvement in numerous Task Teams and also continued as the VOS Webmaster during the inter-sessional period. On the latter matter he initiated discussion with JCOMMOPS about a relocation of the VOS Website from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to JCOMMOPS. This is discussed further under item 8.5.3.

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- Appendices: A. Inter-sessional activities of the Chair
B. Action Items for the Chair from SOT-7

APPENDIX A

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIR

1. Review and approve the SOT-7 Final Report

The SOT Chair reviewed and approved the Final Report from SOT-7 prepared by the Secretariat.

2. SOT Implementation Strategy

The SOT Chair, in conjunction with the Secretariat, finalized the SOT Implementation Strategy. The SOT Chair kept this document under review during the inter-sessional period.

3. JCOMMOPS Teleconference

Whilst unavailable to participate in the JCOMMOPS Teleconference in December 2014 and again in January 2015, the SOT Chair briefed Ms Sarah North as the SOT representative in reviewing the workload and priorities of JCOMMOPS and the Technical Coordinators.

4. SOT Annual Report

The SOT Chair, in consultation with the SOOPIP and VOSP Chairs, developed the document templates for the 2013 and 2014 SOT National Reports on behalf of WMO.

5. Find-a-PMO

The SOT Chair maintained the contact details of the Port Meteorological Officers in the Google Earth application **Find-a-PMO**¹ from the submitted 2013 SOT National Reports and other communication received during 2013 and 2014.

The contact details in **Find-a-PMO** will be reviewed on the basis of the submitted 2014 SOT National Reports at the earliest opportunity following SOT-8.

6. VOS Website

The SOT Chair, on behalf of the Task Team on VOS Recruitment and Programme Promotion, maintained the VOS website. Details of the changes are documented on the website and will be further discussed under agenda item 12.2.

7. Consultation with GHRSSST

The SOT Chair liaised with Mrs Helen Beggs (GHRSSST) with regards to an action item arising from SOT-7.

¹ http://www.bom.gov.au/jcomm/vos/find_pmo.html

8. CIMO Guide

The SOT Chair reviewed the CIMO Guide, Part II, Chapter 4, In Situ Marine Observations.

9. Data Systems Relevant to JCOMM Activities (Keeley analysis)

The SOT Chair contributed to the analysis of JCOMM Data Systems prepared by Robert Keeley and reviewed the draft report.

10. Status of RT in situ observing system (Freeland)

The SOT Chair, in conjunction with the Chairs of VOSP and SOOPIP, contributed to the Status of Real-Time observing systems prepared by Howard Freeland on behalf of the OCG Chair and then reviewed the draft report.

11. US PMO Workshop

The SOT Chair provided past PMO Workshop presentations to the US VOS Program Manager in preparation for the US PMO Workshop.

12. SOT-8 Planning

The SOT Chair played a key role in the planning of SOT-8. This included an active role in preparing the draft program and approving the final program, assisting the South African Weather Service with a list of meeting requirements and appointing the session Chairs for the Science and Technical Workshop and the National Reports.

13. Meetings Attended

- a. OCG-5, Washington, USA, September 2013
- b. DBCP-29, Paris, France, September 2013 (informal SOT representation)
- c. DBCP-28, Fremantle Australia, September 2012 (informal SOT representation)

14. VOS Framework Document

The SOT Chair reviewed the VOS Framework Document, JCOMM TR 4, to update the map of monthly VOS observations and extend the table of VOS Fleet figures.

15. Task Team Participation

- a. Chair of Task Team on Metadata for WMO No. 41 (Pub41)
- b. Chair of Task Team on Callsign Masking and Encoding
- c. Member of Task Team on VOS Recruitment and Programme Promotion
- d. Member of Task Team on Instrument Standards
- e. Member of Task Team on Satellite Communications

APPENDIX B

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE CHAIR FROM SOT-7

No	Ref	Action item	Deadline	Status	% completed
1	2.2(6-3)	The Team agreed that the roles of JCOMM and OceanScope with regard to the WOC had to be clarified relatively quickly	June 2011	Done. Completed in preparation for WOC sponsored meeting attended by Sarah North for SOT.	100
10	5.2.5.2	The Team noted the positive energy of the OceanScope Working Group, but stressed that it was important to build a future program also based on existing infrastructure and institutions, including the work of the Team. It was desirable to present a unified voice of all actors in ocean observations from commercial ships to the shipping industry. The Team decided to comment along these lines when the OceanScope report was made public for comment	by OceanScope comment deadline presumed mid-2011	No action. No recollection of the Oceanscope report being provided.	0
11	6.4.7	TT-Pub47, the ETMC, and the DBCP TT on Moored Buoys to coordinate between themselves in liaison with the DMCG and make sure that the requirements for Rigs and Platforms metadata, and for automated systems installed on offshore platforms in particular are well considered	SOT-7	No action. No request from DBCP for assistance.	0

3	3.1.3..4	To include SOT perspectives detailed in paragraph 3.1.3 regarding the JCOMM Observations (OPA) and Data Management (DMPA) Programme Area priority activities for this JCOMM inter-sessional period (2012-2016) into the SOT Implementation Strategy.	asap	Done. SOT Implementation Strategy updated in conjunction with WMO.	100
23	6.3.3(iii)	To include a link to the E-SURFMAR articles on the VOS website	asap	Not done. The link provided was to a password protected page and it wasn't considered appropriate therefore to link to these documents.	0
26	6.3.3(vii)	To update the SOT recruitment presentation on the VOS website when a list of the required changes is available.	asap	No action. No requests for changes.	0
32	6.3.3(xiii)	To review the content of the Quick Reference Guides and to send copies of the revised text to the Task Team for approval	end 2013	No action. No changes necessary at this stage.	0
42	6.3.3(xxiii)	To undertake minor revision to the VOS Framework Document so that it includes links to latest JCOMMOPS global maps and information on VOS numbers	end 2013	Done.	100
43	6.3.3(xxiv)	To add links to the WMO Publications listed in this report to the VOS Website	end 2013	No action. A concise list of the documents needs to be provided, rather than scouring the Final Report looking for such documents.	0
51	6.4.3(ii)	To update the Pub47 XML Generator Tool to Pub47 version 04 specifications	1 June 2013	Done. A further update was made ahead of SOT-8 in anticipation of the relocation of the VOS website to JCOMMOPS	100
54	6.5.6(i)	To update the templates for national reports for the SOT annual report to allow the reporting of instrumentation	end 2013	Done.	100

56	6.5.6(iii)	To complete the review of relevant sections of the WMO No. 8 Guide, and to submit those changes to CIMO as needed	asap	Done.	100
57	6.6.3	Members implementing SHIP masking schemes to review the proposed governance for the management of encryption keys, and provide feedback to the TT-Masking	15 May 2013	Not done. No feedback received from members.	0
58	6.6.3	To submit part of the ENCODE proposal to the CBS Inter-Programme Expert Team on Data Representation Maintenance and Monitoring (IPET-DRMM) through the Task Team on Table Driven Codes (TT-TDC)	asap	Done. Refer to TT-Masking Report.	100
60	6.6.7	To take stock of the current situation with regard to the increasing amount of ship data now available publicly, and report this situation back to CBS, via the OCG, for a review of its decisions in this regard	Sep. 2013	Not done. No recollection of this action.	0
65	7.1.1.7.	To revise the VOS annual report in readiness for the 2013 SOT annual Report	Nov. 2013	Done.	100
69	7.1.1.15(i)	To revise the template for VOS national annual reports to include PMO activity information and other metrics that will be helpful in monitoring VOS performance and formulating future SOT decisions	Nov. 2013	Done.	100
91	7.2.6.7	To give consideration to developing new 'Shipborne AWS – VOS' inspection, and site inspection forms	SOT-8	No action.	0

117	9.1.7.6(i)	To assist the IODE in identifying a second co-Chair of the GOSUD Steering Group Chair	June 2013	No action. No contact with IODE after SOT-7.	0
131	10.6	To finalize the Strategy on behalf of the Team in consultation with the VOSP and SOOPIP chairs, the OPA Coordinator, the Task Team Chair, and the Secretariat. The goal is to post the first version of the strategy on the SOT and JCOMM websites by mid-2013	31 July 2013	Done.	100
135	12.1.3	To comment and provide feedback to the SOT Chairperson regarding the format of the National Report	asap	Done.	100