

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. 9.2
(08.04.2015)

ITEM: 9.2

Original: ENGLISH

SOOP PROGRAMME STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION

(Submitted by Martin Kramp (SOT Technical Coordinator, JCOMMOPS))

Summary and purpose of the document

This document provides information on the status of the SOOP implementation, including XBT sampling line occupation, and identified gaps. Some suggestions on trends and future developments with regard to the SOOP programme are also provided in this document.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Team will review the information contained in this report, and comment and make decisions or recommendations as appropriate.

- A - DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL REPORT**9.2.1 Status of SOOP implementation**

9.2.1.1 The Technical Coordinator of the SOT, Mr Martin Kramp, reported on the results of the SOOP Semestrial Surveys and on the timely submission of data by SOOP participants for the survey (see also agenda item 10.4).

9.2.1.2 Mr Kramp reported that the Australian SOOP operators, the BOM¹, the CSIRO² and the RAN³ have continuously provided metadata on their SOOP activities in a timely manner and in appropriate format. NOAA-AOML gathers and processes data from a number of different sources and creates global statistics. These already processed data have gratefully been submitted to the SOT-TC.

9.2.1.3 The Team recalled that differences had been observed at SOT-7 between the 2012 NOAA-AOML dataset, and statistics presented in national 2012 SOT reports, with more deployments in the latter. This was in the meantime reconfirmed for 2013. Mr Kramp thanked NOAA-AOML for the performed analysis support in this matter.

9.2.1.4 In the lack of sufficient and appropriate metadata from the individual operators, the SOOP implementation could only be estimated through the data gathered and processed by NOAA-AOML, and was thus submitted by the TC to JCOMM in form of the NOAA-AOML SOOP operations report⁴ without any modification.

9.2.1.5 Regarding vessel recruitment, Mr. Kramp reported on activities requested by NOAA-AOML, particularly for AX18. Ships operating for Hamburg Süd had been identified on the direct line, which had been the main driver for the TC to successfully establish a deeper, cross-programme and company-wide cooperation with the long-time partner Hamburg Süd. Unfortunately, by the time this was set up, the direct AX18 line had been taken out of the Hamburg Süd portfolio.

9.2.1.6 The Team appreciated the cross-cutting approach with Hamburg Süd and encouraged the TC to continue likewise with other big shipping companies.

9.2.1.7 Mr Kramp reminded the Team that in absence of volunteer vessels on crucial lines, JCOMMOPS has developed capacities to set up cost-effective and cross-cutting charter solutions, given that density issues in such sea areas are mostly shared by several Panels, and combined SOOP-VOS-Argo-DBCP missions seem conceivable. E.g. Lady Amber, on stand-by in Cape Town, could establish such a mission on short notice.

9.2.1.8 The Panel identified the following gaps with regard to programme implementation with the view to achieve optimal sampling using available resources and taking into account other sources of upper ocean thermal data:

- [Gap 1]
- [Gap 2]
- ...

1 Bureau of Meteorology

2 Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

3 Royal Australian Navy

4 <ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Documents/PublicWeb/amp/mmop/documents/JCOMM-TR/J-TR-77-SOT-ANN-2013/monitoring/soopip/SOOP-2013.pdf>

9.2.2 XBT sampling line occupation

9.2.2.1 The Panel reviewed the status of the current sampling programme. Due to the complementary nature of the XBT SOOP, Argo, Tropical Moorings, and OceanSITES, and considering the outcome of the OceanOBS'09 Conference, and the development of the Tropical Pacific Observing System 2020 (TPOS-2020) and the recommendations from the XBT Science Team, the Panel discussed possible adjustments to the global sampling scheme. The Panel agreed on the following:

- (i) [TBD]
 - (ii) [TBD]
 - (iii) ...
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