

COMMISSION FOR MARITIME METEOROLOGY  
ABRIDGED FINAL REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION  
Hamburg, 16 October – 1 November 1956  
WMO – No. 59.RP.23

GENERAL SUMMARY

The descriptive terms for wave heights (Agenda item 5.1.1)

13. This item arose from a request by the president of the Commission for Synoptic Meteorology that the Commission for Maritime Meteorology should reconsider during its second session the descriptive terms for wave heights with a view to improving the correspondence between these terms and the relevant wave heights, on the one hand, and between the English and the equivalent metric units, on the other hand. Recommendation 10 was adopted with this end in view.

Proposals re amendments to the sea ice groups of code forms FM 21.A, 22.A and 23.A as a result of the New International Ice Nomenclature (Agenda item 5.1.6)

18. This item merely involved a factual amendment to certain specifications, but the commission took the opportunity of making a further minor amendment to one specification (recommendation 11 refers).

Reporting of precipitation group 7RRjj by ships (Agenda item 6.5)

39. This item arose as a consequence of increasing interest and experimentation in obtaining measurements of precipitation from oceans. At present provision is made for reporting precipitation from stationary ships in accordance with regional instructions, but no provision has yet been made for reporting precipitation aboard mobile ship stations. In view of the experiments on precipitation measurements aboard mobile weather stations being carried out by Members, it was not considered premature to provide for a uniform international procedure

for reporting precipitation against the time when a satisfactory raingauge will be developed for use on mobile voluntary observing ships. Recommendation 7 (and annex) refers to this subject and makes a suggestion about code specifications.

A general consideration of the code forms (FM 21.A, 22.A and 23.A) at present in use for the transmission of radio weather messages from ships (Agenda item 6.11)

46. As the original code forms which had been introduced by IMO resolution 161 (CD Washington, 1947) were slightly modified by the first session of CSM, it seemed appropriate that these should be given some consideration by the second session of CMM, bearing in mind the obvious objections to frequent change in codes.

The Commission, at the request of Australia and Netherlands, considered the desirability of recommending some amendments to the wave group ( $1d_w d_w P_w H_w$ ) with the object of ensuring that both sea and swell waves would be invariably reported. The session decided against any amendment, but recommendation 9 (and annex) suggested a clarification of the observing and reporting procedure.

## Rec.7 (CMM-II) - CODE FOR REPORTING PRECIPITATION FROM MOBILE SHIP STATIONS

The COMMISSION FOR MARITIME METEOROLOGY,  
NOTING,

- (1) That there is a great need for obtaining measurements of precipitation from oceanic areas;
- (2) That such observations are already being made regularly on some fixed ship stations;
- (3) That experiments are being carried out to introduce these observations on mobile ship stations;

CONSIDERING that there is a need for providing a uniform worldwide procedure for making and reporting precipitation observations especially from mobile ship stations;

RECOMMENDS,

- (1) That the use of the code group 7RRjj be extended to include mobile ship stations reporting in code form FM 21.A;
- (2) That the specifications for this group should be as given in the annex to this recommendation.

## ANNEX

### Suggested specifications for the code group 7RRjj

1. 7 Indicator figure
2. RR Amount of precipitation using WMO code 74
3. jj Duration of precipitation in the code  $T_R T_R$  as follows :

Code figure	Hours	Minutes	Code figure	Hours	Minutes
00	No precipitation		50	4	10
01	0	5	51	4	15
02	0	10		etc.	
03	0	15	83	6	55
04	0	20	84	7	0
05	0	25			
06	0	30	90	RR refers to a period of approximately 12 hours	
07	0	35			
08	0	40	91	RR refers to a period of approximately 18 hours	
09	0	45			
10	0	50	92	RR refers to a period of approximately 24 hours	
11	0	55			
12	1	0			
13	1	5			

## Rec.9 (CMM-II) - OBSERVING AND REPORTING SEA WAVES

The COMMISSION FOR MARITIME METEOROLOGY,

NOTING that the existing instructions in WMO publication No. 9, volume B, for reporting waves do not always provide for distinguishing between sea and swell;

CONSIDERING the importance of information on the direction and characteristics of swell, as distinct from wind waves;

RECOMMENDS,

- (1) That the instructions on reporting waves, given in WMO publication No. 9, volume B, chapter A-1 c, paragraph (7)(v), under FM 21.A, should be altered to read as in the annex to this recommendation;
- (2) That Members concerned should encourage their marine observers to adhere to these instructions.

### ANNEX

#### Instructions on observing and reporting waves

( $1d_w d_w P_w H_w$ ) - This group should be included in the report. It is mandatory for Ocean weather stations. As a rule, when wave observations are reported and when swell is present, at least two ( $1d_w d_w P_w H_w$ ) groups should be included, the first group relating to wind waves, the second to waves of the predominant swell system. When more than one swell system is present, more ( $1d_w d_w P_w H_w$ ) groups may be included in the report.

## Rec.10 (CMM-II) – DESCRIPTIVE TERMS FOR WAVE HEIGHT

The COMMISSION FOR MARITIME METEOROLOGY,  
NOTING resolution 1 (CSM-I); and  
CONSIDERING,

- (1) That in the present code for the state of sea (WMO code 75), the equivalents for metric and English units could be made more accurate;
  - (2) That the correspondence between the descriptive terms and the height of waves could be improved;
  - (3) That the term “mean maximum height” in columns (3) and (4) of code 75 is ambiguous and probably misleading;
  - (4) That the waves in the centre of a hurricane are not necessarily phenomenal;
- RECOMMENDS that WMO code 75 – State of sea – should be amended in accordance with the annex to this recommendation.

## ANNEX

Code figure	Descriptive terms	Height*	
		Metres	Feet (approximately)
0	Calm (glassy)	0	0
1	Calm (rippled)	0 – 0.1	0 – 1/3
2	Smooth (wavelets)	0.1 – 0.5	1/3 – 1 2/3
3	Slight	0.5 – 1.25	1 2/3 – 4
4	Moderate	1.25 – 2.5	4 – 8
5	Rough	2.5 – 4	8 – 13
6	Very rough	4 – 6	13 – 20
7	High	6 – 9	20 – 30
8	Very high	9 – 14	30 – 45
9	Phenomenal	over 14	over 45

\* The average wave height as obtained from the larger well-formed waves of the wave system being observed.

Note: The exact bounding height is to be assigned for the lower code figure, e.g. a height of 4 metres is coded as 5.

Rec.11 (CMM-II) – DESCRIPTIVE TERMS FOR ICE

The COMMISSION FOR MARITIME METEOROLOGY,  
NOTING,

- (1) That the new Abridged International Ice Nomenclature adopted by the World Meteorological Organization introduces terms which differ from the corresponding terms in the present ice code (WMO code table 19);
- (2) That this ice code does not provide the means of reporting the presence of icebergs;

CONSIDERING,

- (1) That it is not desirable to make radical changes in codes which would make existing national code-books and log-books obsolete;
- (2) That nevertheless uniformity in the terms used in the Ice Nomenclature and in the ice code is desirable;
- (3) That the ice code should permit reporting the presence of icebergs;

RECOMMENDS that WMO code table 19 should be amended to read as in the annex to this recommendation.



## ANNEX

### c<sub>2</sub> – Description of kind of ice

#### Code figure

- 0 No ice (0 may be used to report ice blink and the a direction must be reported)
- 1 New ice
- 2 Fast ice
- 3 Pack ice/drift ice
- 4 Packed (compact) slush or sludge

#### Code figure

- 5 Shore lead
- 6 Heavy fast ice
- 7 Heavy pack ice/drift ice
- 8 Hummocked ice
- 9 Icebergs

Note: BERGS can be reported in the above code or in plain language.