

COMMISSION FOR THE MARINE METEOROLOGY
ABRIDGED FINAL REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION
Geneva, 1-12 October 1984
WMO – No. 640

GENERAL SUMMARY

7. MARINE CLIMATOLOGY (agenda item 7)

7.2 Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme

7.2.1 The Commission recalled that, at its eighth session (1981), it had recommended (inter alia):

- (a) A new plan for the Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme;
- (b) A regular inventory service for marine climatological data and summaries;
- (c) New formats for data exchange – the international maritime meteorological punch card and tape (IMMPC and IMMT).

It noted with appreciation, therefore, the action so far undertaken and planned with respect to these recommendations by the Working Group on Marine Climatology.

7.2.2 With respect to the Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme, the Commission noted with approval the work so far undertaken by members of the working group in preparing a revised text for the Manual on Marine Meteorological Services and hoped that this revised text would soon be completed and submitted for approval to the Executive Council. It expressed its pleasure that the new data-exchange formats had been included in the revised Guide to Marine Meteorological Services and hoped that these also could be shortly included in the Manual. In emphasizing the importance of the Marine Climatological Summary Scheme, the Commission strongly urged all Members not already doing so to participate actively in the

Scheme, particularly through the submission of data to the appropriate Responsible Members.

7.2.3 In considering the contents of the IMMPC and IMMT formats the Commission felt that a need existed to differentiate between the following two conditions in the formats:

- (a) Past and present weather not observed;
- (b) Past and present weather omitted because of no significant weather to report.

Existing practice meant that present weather summaries could be biased, particularly if the present weather code "02" (omitted (no significant weather to report)) was used in observations from 1982 onward which contained a blank in the present weather field thus helping to increase the fair-weather bias already intrinsic in marine observations. It felt that inclusion of weather-data indicator (i_x) in the IMMPC/IMMT format would solve this problem and should be implemented as a matter of urgency. Recommendation 5 (CMM-IX) was therefore adopted.

Rec. 5 (CMM-IX) – INTERNATIONAL MARITIME METEOROLOGICAL PUNCH CARD (IMMPC)/
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME METEOROLOGICAL TAPE (IMMT)

THE COMMISSION FOR MARINE METEOROLOGY,
NOTING Recommendation 8 (CMM-VIII) – International maritime meteorological punch card (IMMPC) /
international maritime meteorological tape (IMMT),

CONSIDERING:

- (1) That the ship synoptic code FM 13-VII was revised in 1982 to include the weather data indicator (i_x),
- (2) That the IMMPC/IMMT formats were designed on the assumption that ships and platforms would always observe past and present weather,
- (3) That some countries have practiced placing a present weather code of “02” (omitted (no significant phenomenon to report)) in those observations from 1982 onward that contain a blank present weather field,
- (4) That this practice introduces a fair-weather bias in marine observations,

RECOMMENDS:

- (1) The inclusion of weather data indicator (i_x) in the IMMPC/IMMT format for all data observed on or after 1 March 1985,
- (2) That the indicator (i_x) should appear in column 79 of Parts A and B and in column 91 of Part C of the approved layouts.

REQUESTS the Secretary-General to bring this recommendation to the attention of all concerned.