

Ship Observations Team

~ integrating & coordinating international ship-based observing programmes for JCOMM ~



Role of the PMO

PMO-IV and Support to Global Ocean Observations using Ship Logistics
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Outline

- Role of the PMO
- Responsibilities of the PMO
- Functions of the PMO

Role of the PMO

- To ensure the success and viability of the JCOMM VOS Scheme by helping to maintain:
 - » The size of the international VOF (VOS Fleet); and
 - » The quality and frequency of ship's weather reports.
- The PMO is the NMS's focal point for liaison with the local maritime authorities & the marine community at large.

Responsibilities of the PMO

- Broadly defined in numerous WMO publications:
 - » WMO Technical Regulations (WMO No. 49);
 - » Guide to Marine Met. Services (WMO No. 471); and
 - » Manual on Marine Met. Services (WMO No. 558).
- Each NMS may specifically define the functions of the PMO in national guides, manuals and instructions:
 - » Dependent on the port being serviced, and the type and volume of marine traffic visiting the port.

Specific Functions of the PMO

- Recruit ships of any nationality into and maintain the national VOF.
- Maintain accurate records of the ships recruited into the national VOF, including:
 - » Full ship details, as required for WMO No. 47;
 - » All supplied and recovered instrumentation; and
 - » All instrument checks and calibrations dates

Specific Functions of the PMO (cont)

- Regularly visit ships recruited to the national VOF to:
 - » Maintain contact with the Observers;
 - » Provide ongoing training to Observers;
 - » Maintain and inspect the meteorological and selected oceanographic instruments;
 - » Check the presence and condition of supplied handbooks, meteorological tables and charts;
 - » Maintain the ship's supply of logbooks, autographic charts, muslin, wicks and other mandatory consumables; and
 - » Recover and inspect completed logbooks, autographic charts and electronic logbook data.

Specific Functions of the PMO (cont)

- To provide the following services to a VOS, regardless of the ship's nationality and its country of recruitment:
 - » Perform a barometer check;
 - » Check meteorological code tables;
 - » Check instructions for Observers; and
 - » Provide advice on bulletins, including a list of areas for which forecasts are issued and to update the relevant facsimile broadcast schedules.

Specific Functions of the PMO (cont)

- At the request of the Master of a VOS, regardless of its country of recruitment, perform these services:
 - » Check other meteorological and selected oceanographic instruments; and
 - » Provide advice or assistance on meteorological matters.
- Promote and maintain liaison with:
 - » National colleagues, i.e. other PMOs & Programme Managers;
 - » Harbour authorities and shipping companies;
 - » Merchant marine schools and yacht clubs; and
 - » International PMOs as necessary.

Specific Functions of the PMO (cont)

- To enquire with the ship's officers about any problems that maybe experienced with regard to:
 - » The transmission of meteorological and oceanographic observations to a Land Earth Stations or other facility; and
 - » The reception and adequacy of forecasts, bulletins and facsimile broadcasts, and to bring this information to the attention of the national meteorological service.
- Support complementary national, international and regional marine meteorological and oceanographic programmes, such as:
 - » The deployment of drifting buoys and profiling floats; and
 - » The SOOP and ASAP.

