

**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)**

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

SOT-V/Doc. IV-5.1  
(30.03.2009)

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SHIP OBSERVATIONS TEAM

ITEM IV-5.1

FIFTH SESSION

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 18-22 MAY 2009

Original: ENGLISH

**PARTNERSHIPS AND THE INTEGRATION OF OTHER PROGRAMMES WITH THE SOOP**

*(Submitted by Gustavo Goni, Chairperson, SOOPIP)*

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**Summary and purpose of the document**

This document is addressing how other programmes such as the Oleander Project, the IOCCP (pCO<sub>2</sub> transects), and Argo, could cooperate with the SOOP in terms of: (i.) information exchange on common issues such as satellite data telecommunication, GTS, instrumentation and best practices; and (ii.) programme implementation such as logistics, ship recruitment and assistance with deployment opportunities.

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**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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**Appendix: None**

**- A - DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL REPORT**

**IV-5.1.1 Information exchange on common issues such as satellite data telecommunication, GTS, instrumentation and best practices.**

IV-5.1.1.2 The Panel recalled that, a rich history of information exchange existed between different programs that utilize cargo ships. Different instrumentations are currently sharing the same data acquisition and transmission systems, such as SEAS for XBT and TSG operations. Making the data available to the operational community (real-time data) and scientific community (delayed-time, quality-controlled data) is the key to enhance the visibility of different platforms

**IV-5.1.2 Programme implementation, such as logistics, ship recruitment and assistance with deployment opportunities.**

IV-5.1.2.1 The Panel agreed that the Ship Of Opportunity Programme had been largely viewed as the backbone of the sustained ocean observing system, as cargo ships were not only used as platforms for the deployment of XBTs, but also to deploy XCTDs, surface drifters, profiling floats, and had installed instruments such as pCO<sub>2</sub> systems, Continuous Plankton Recorders (CPR).

IV-5.1.2.2 The installation of the pCO<sub>2</sub> and TSG systems in the same ships has become more common. TSGs will be also used for the validation of upcoming sea surface salinity satellite missions. Other ships are also used for the collection of automated climate quality meteorological observations (using the WHOI developed AutoIMET system).

IV-5.1.2.3 Improved communications between SOOPIP and VOS and ASAP Programs continues to be critical for the successful execution of all these programs. Interference between activities of these programs could be a problem, as scientists and technicians must be careful of not overloading the ship with too many different operations. Several boxes have been developed containing different instrumentations, such as Ferryboxes and SeaKeepers. The Oleander Project is probably the best example of a ship carrying different instrumentations along a repeat transect that allows investigating the variability of the Gulf Stream using different parameters.

**IV-5.1.3 The meeting made the following recommendations:**

- (i) Increase communications between SOOPIP and VOS and ASAP.
- (ii) Provide assistance in the submission of their data to real-time databases.
- (iii) Increase the partnership between SOOP and the GOSUD, SAMOS, and IOCCP communities.
- (iv) Aid in the recruitment of ships.
- (v) Results from these partnerships must be communicated in scientific and technical meetings.

**IV-5.1.4 The meeting decided on the following action items:**

- (vi) Evaluate the operational and scientific value of the current collaboration between the SOOPIP and other programs (**action, SOOPIP Chairperson, SOT-V**).
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