

## WMO Liaison Report 2019

Submitted by World Meteorological Organization

### SUMMARY

#### Executive Summary:

This document provides a brief report on the activities of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) since WWNWS-10, mainly enacted through the work of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) in providing marine weather information for the GMDSS, and focusing on improving the resilience and reliability of the WMO/IMO Worldwide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service (WMIWS).

Significant work has been undertaken to: establish marine forecaster competencies; begin development on training materials; and to prepare for the Iridium service provider transition for meteorological Maritime Safety Information. The WMO and the JCOMM Services Coordination Group (which includes the WMIWS – Committee Chair and Vice-Chair) are working together with the IMO on delivering an extreme maritime weather symposium in October 2019.

Action to be taken:

- 1) Note and comment on the information provided

#### WMO Congress - 18th Session

The Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress (WMO Cg-18), held in June 2019, decided on the reform of WMO, including creation of two new Technical Commissions (one for Services, the other for Infrastructure/Observations). JCOMM will cease at the end of 2019, and its activities will continue but be absorbed into the new structure. The two new Technical Commissions are expected to meet for the first time in April 2020. See media release: <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/world-meteorological-congress-approves-sweeping-reforms>.

There were a number of issues discussed during Congress that focused on strengthening marine and coastal services generally, and which included the decision for an investigation into cost options of delivering these services, capacity development, coastal inundation integrated into MHEWS, Polar services (sea-ice) and JCOMM Reform.

The WMIWS-Committee is expected to report under the new service Technical Commission that is being established.

## **Support and guidance for countries undergoing the IMO Member State Audit Scheme**

WMO has developed a set of guidelines to assist the IMO Audit team when they are conducting audits in respect to SOLAS obligations. SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation V, outlines the meteorological and ice service responsibilities within each country. The guidelines were introduced at IMO's 99th meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC). Several Members have submitted to the audit and support and advice is being provided to Members for the upcoming audits.

## **Marine-related GDPFS RSMC's**

To provide a common foundation for all Members to provide marine meteorological services from, a framework of marine-related centres was established including RSMCs for wave, ocean, and marine environment emergency response modelling, to complement existing RSMC's for tropical cyclones and atmospheric modelling. A number of Members are going through the process of self-identification and certification.

## **Marine Forecaster Competency implementation**

JCOMM-5 endorsed a renewed commitment to roll out the marine competencies in line with the Quality Management Framework development and publication of the (new) *Guide to Competency (WMO-No. 1205)*. Related to this, a JCOMM Task Team is in the process of being established to develop specific guidance in the context of supporting Members to attain competencies for marine forecasting staff. This team may be assembled in a different way during the transition period, however the focus on competencies remain. In addition (and related) to this, a training project is underway at the WMO to facilitate Members to strengthen their delivery of marine and coastal services. This includes helping Members to understand and develop best practices for maritime safety and ice services.

## **National Marine Services Focal Points**

JCOMM-5 approved the establishment of National Marine Services Focal Points (in process now – one Focal Point per WMO Member). These Focal Points will provide a direct and focused contact point within each Member, for communication and dissemination of marine and coastal service delivery information. The WMO are continuing to establish the valuable list of contact since JCOMM-5 with 45% of eligible Members now with a Focal Point (see [https://jcomm.info/index.php?option=com\\_oa&task=viewGroupRecord&groupID=385](https://jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_oa&task=viewGroupRecord&groupID=385)). The global network is already enabling Members to share best practices and facilitate a community of practice on marine and coastal service delivery.

## **WMO Marine Services Survey 2018**

*On-line Survey Assessment of National Marine and Coastal Services* was carried out between November 5 to December 31 2018, to collate the status of WMO Members' capabilities in the provision of marine and coastal services. Forty-seven per cent of Members with marine responsibility (and in some cases over lakes) responded, of which more than 80% of these had a *National Marine Services Focal Point*. Gaps in marine and coastal services were evident from the Survey, particularly related to lack of human resources, capacity development and training, funding and equipment. See:

[https://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=372:wmo-survey-assessment-of-national-marine-and-coastal-services&catid=7:services](https://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=372:wmo-survey-assessment-of-national-marine-and-coastal-services&catid=7:services)

This will be published on the WMO Online Library soon.

### **Preparation for the Iridium Service Provider transition for MSI**

The WWMIWS-C has been coordinating with the METAREA Coordinators and Iridium, with the needs for the transition to the operational promulgation of meteorological MSI through the new Service Provider, Iridium. WMO, IHO, IMO and Iridium are communicating regarding the addition of this new service.

### **Coordination with INMARSAT on SafetyNet II implementation**

WWMIWS and the WMO are working with INMARSAT on the METAREA requirements for SafetyNet II. While the new web interface has shown benefit from a backup potential to a number of MSI Issuing Services, for the METAREAs Issuing Services a machine to machine API ids required due to the regular nature and volume of met. MSI messages. No METAREA Issuing Service is planning on transition until an API in place. Work is ongoing for formally establishing user requirements to align with a project being initiated within INMARSAT to meet this requirement.

### **S-412 Specifications progress**

As a WWMIWS project and with strong support of the NOAA/NWS the marine meteorological product specifications were successfully split (during HSSC11) to now include: S-412 – *Weather and Wave Hazards*; S-413 – *Weather and Wave Conditions*; and; S-414 - *Weather and Wave Observations*. The project has advanced with work on the Production Specification, UML Schema, Feature Catalogue and Metadata this past year by the WWMIWS-C and NOAA.

### **METAREA Coordinator Handbook**

The WWMIWS Committee have drafted a *Handbook for METAREA Coordinators*, which summarises the requirements and procedures from a number of official documents related to the IMO/WMO WWMIWS. It will serve as guide for METAREA Coordinators to perform their duties. The document is in process of being finalised.

### **WMO and IMO to co-host an Extreme Maritime Weather Symposium**

The WMO and IMO will co-host a Symposium in London, in October 2019: “*Extreme Maritime Weather: Focusing on Safety of Life at Sea and the Blue Economies*”. This Symposium will cover topics including: meteorological maritime safety information services; impacts of extreme weather at sea; and industry perspective on impacts and decision making. More detail is available at:

[https://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com\\_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=2455](https://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=2455)

WMO and IMO encourages the IHO, METAREA and NAVAREA communities to participate.