



JCOMM Newsletter

In this issue

1. Co-President's Editorial and Activities
2. JCOMM in Action: Three Programme Areas Coordination
3. Key Developments Relevant to JCOMM: Fifth Climate Change Assessment Report and Second International Indian Ocean Expedition
4. In Focus: African Summer School
5. List of new JCOMM leaders
6. Calendar of Upcoming Events

CO-PRESIDENTS' EDITORIAL & ACTIVITIES

In the past year JCOMM activities have developed according to the work plan. The WMO Executive Council recognized JCOMM contributions with frequent praise to such an extent that marine components become one of the strategies of WMO for the new strategic period. The IOC Executive Council recognized JCOMM contributions to its new Medium Term Strategy, and endorsed the move of JCOMMOPS office to Brest, France.

Nadia Pinardi, Co-President for Oceanography contributed to the organization of an OceanTeacher/MyOcean event, "Discovery and Use of Operational Ocean Data Products and Services" where for the first time students were exposed to the state-of-the-art operational forecasting products in hydrodynamics and marine biochemistry. Other Capacity Development activities were

carried out for [satellite data utilization by the storm surge community](#) (20-21 February 2014, Cork, Ireland).

Johan Stander, Co-President for Meteorology contributed to a series of events, such as the Fifth Session of the JCOMM Observations Coordination Group (OCG-5, 5-7 September 16, 2013 in Silver Spring, USA), 29th Session of JCOMM Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP-29, 30 Sep – 2 October 2013 Paris, France), and others.

On behalf of JCOMM Johan Stander presented future training/Capacity building on Marine competencies during the Twelfth (XII) WMO Education and Training Symposium in Toulouse, France. In addition, Johan contributed to the Fifth in-region Western Indian Ocean Capacity Building Workshop for long term ocean monitoring in the region. During the 11th EUMETSAT user forum for Africa, Johan presented JCOMM Capacity building initiatives and general programmes for Africa. JCOMM received favourable feedback directly linked to its Programme Areas and to the benefit not only for Africa but for JCOMM in general.

The Co-Presidents would like to thank all experts, secretariat and Management Committee for their continuous support. A productive year awaits JCOMM community especially knowing that marine competencies would be approved at the upcoming WMO Congress in 2015.

Issue No. 12, **September 2014**

*The Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for
Oceanography and Marine Meteorology*

JCOMM IN ACTION

Coordination for Observations

I. OCG-5

The Fifth Session of Observations Coordination Group (OCG-5) took place from 7-9 September 2013 in Washington, D.C. of USA.

The OCG reviewed a proposed architecture of data streams from observation platforms to end users, with a view to identify best practices and recommendations to improve observing systems. It also agreed to document two non-regulatory JCOMM Guides in oceanographic and marine meteorological observations for best practices, training and capacity development. Follow up activities will be decided and conducted with the other Programme Areas.



Two new observing networks joined the OCG meeting as observers: the Global Alliance of Continuous Plankton Recorder Surveys (GACS), and European Gliding Observatories (EGO). EGO has been documenting cost evaluation and feasibility of comparison with other observing networks. EGO will work with OOPC (Ocean Observations Panel for Climate) to assess boundary currents/upwelling zones to determine whether gliders can be part of global mix.

The OCG reviewed management structure of JCOMMOPS and proposal of moving to Brest. The OCG also decided to facilitate a Task Team on scientific and strategic aspects of engaging shipping industry on ocean observations.

Full details of OCG-5, please see: <http://jcomm.info/ocg-5>

II. Satcom Forum

The ad hoc international forum for users of satellite data telecommunication systems (SatCom) was held at the IOC Headquarters, Paris, France, from 3 to 4 October 2013.

The meeting reviewed WMO and IOC user requirements for meteorological data from remote areas, capacity and tariff schemes in satellite data telecommunication systems, and also reviewed draft Terms of Reference of SatCom Forum and established an interim Executive Committee for to drive the workplan for the formal establishment of the Forum by the governing bodies, expected by mid-2015. Noting that the development of the Forum is lead on the WMO side by the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS), it was recommended that the Forum eventually becomes a joint JCOMM-CBS body. Meanwhile, CBS Ext. (2014), Asunción, Paraguay, 8-12 September 2014, adopted Resolution 2.3(1)/6 - Establishment of a Satcom Users Forum, including its Terms of Reference.



Full story of the Forum can be found at:

<http://www.jcomm.info/SatCom1> .

III. TPOS-2020

The Tropical Pacific Observing System (TPOS) was the legacy of Tropical Ocean Global Atmosphere (TOGA) experiment completed 1994.

A workshop took place 27-30 January 2014 at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, USA, to revisit scientific and forecast requirements for tropical Pacific observations, and to see how to

advance observing systems to meet these requirements.



The workshops recommended establishing a TPOS 2020 project. Goals of TPOS 2020 are:

- To refine and adjust the TPOS to monitor, observe and predict the state of ENSO and advance scientific understanding of its causes.
- To determine the most efficient and effective method for sustained observations to support prediction systems for ocean, weather and climate services of high societal and economic utility, including underpinning research.
- To advance and refine the knowledge of the predictability horizon of the tropical Pacific variability (physical and biogeochemical), as well as its impacts in global climate.
- To determine how inter-annual to multi-decadal variability and human activities impact the relation between marine biogeochemistry and biology to carbon budgets, food security and biodiversity.

Details of the workshop and TPOS 2020 can be found at: <http://jcomm.info/TPOS2020>

IV. JCOMM pilot project for the intercomparison of seawater salinity measurements

Following OCG-5 recommendation, the Regional Marine Instrument Centre for the Asia Pacific Region (RMIC/AP) is leading the JCOMM Salinity Measurement Intercomparison Pilot Project. The purpose of this pilot project is to ascertain the overall proficiency of the agencies or institutes participating in the project for measuring seawater salinity. The pilot project is particularly targeting laboratories involved in JCOMM global marine/ocean observation programmes. It is also expected that experiences obtained from this activity will be

useful for establishing common JCOMM marine/ocean observation standards in the future. 22 laboratories from 17 countries and one manufacturer are participating in the pilot project which shall be completed by the end of 2014, and a report published.

Data Management

V. IODE Ocean Data Portal

On 10 September 2013, the Official Inauguration of the Partnership Centre for the Ocean Data Portal of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange Programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO was held in the Research Institute of Hydrometeorological Information – World Data Centre (RIHMI-WDC), Obninsk, Russian Federation.



The IODE Ocean Data Portal aims to provide seamless access to collections and inventories of marine data from the NODCs in the IODE network and will allow for the discovery, evaluation and access to data via web services. Please see: <http://jcomm.info/ODP-RU2013>.

VI. DMCG-5

The Fifth Session of the JCOMM Data Management Coordination Group (DMCG-5) was held on 29-31 January 2014, Geneva, Switzerland.

The extended coordination group reviewed priorities and guidance from JCOMM-4. The DMCG chairperson reported on activities of the group since JCOMM-4 session, in marine climatology, data management practices,

quality management, and cross-cutting issues like capacity development and collaborations with WMO Information System (WIS), Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), and GOOS, etc. The Group noted some progress with regard to the development of the Marine Climate Data System (MCDS), in particular the definition of evaluation process and criteria for MCDS candidate centres. The Group reviewed progress on the implementation details of the Data Management Plan (JCOMM TR No. 40, Rev. 1), as well as the future actions for the realization of the plan. The Group updated the DM Plan and its implementation details taking into account JCOMM-4 and IODE-22 guidance, and discussions during this DMCG Session.

Full details can be found at: <http://jcomm.info/dmcp-5>.

Services and Forecasting Systems

VII. GODAE OceanView Symposium

The GODAE OceanView Symposium 2013 took place from 4-6 November at the NOAA Centre for Climate and Weather Prediction. The Symposium reviewed key achievements and outcomes in the last years, and discussed the next steps for operational ocean analysis and forecasting and its international coordination.



It recognized that GOV is capable to define scientific priorities and has achieved its objectives to develop and improve models, etc. Organizational issues and activities of its four Task Teams were also presented for best practices and improvement.

The Review also recognized long-standing link between GOV and JCOMM Expert Team on

Operational Ocean Forecasting Systems (ETOOFS) has been strong and evolving. It was recommended to seek “separation of concerns” for GOV and ETOOFS. GOV provides scientific leadership and advice, and ETOOFS focuses on standards and operation of OFSs.

Full details of the Symposium, please see:

<http://jcomm.info/GOVRev2013>.

IN BRIEF

Key developments relevant to JCOMM

Fifth Climate Change Assessment Report (AR-5)

The Fifth Climate Change Assessment Report was published in April 2014. The Working Group I “The Physical Science basis” provide unequivocal evidence for climate warming... ocean has warmed, sea level rise and snow and ice have diminished. The report affirms that “Ocean warming dominates the increase in energy stored in the climate system, accounting for more than 90% of the energy accumulated between 1971 and 2010 (high confidence). It is virtually certain that the upper ocean (0–700 m) warmed from 1971 to 2010 and it likely warmed between the 1870s and 1971.

The Synthesis Report of the Fifth Assessment cycle integrates the key messages of the three working groups and it has been released. It will be finalized in Copenhagen on 27-31 October 2014.

For more information:

<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/index.shtml>

Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2)

The [Forty-seventh Session of the IOC Executive Council](#) decided to adopt the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) as a major initiative of the IOC in the coming years, to be undertaken jointly with the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research

(SCOR) and Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS).

It has been agreed that SCOR will take overall responsibility for preparing the research plan for IIOE-2. An Interim Planning Committee (Group of Experts) (IPC) for the IIOE-2 will be jointly established with SCOR and IOGOOS, to undertake initial planning work, based on this research plan, and to report on this work to the Assembly at its 28th session in 2015. JCOMM, along with other major IOC Subsidiary Bodies, has been requested to review and plan their support for IIOE-2, and also report on this to Assembly 28. The Management Committee will initiate this work at MAN 11 in October 2014.

Details of IIOE2 can be found at:

www.iocperth.org

<http://www.incois.gov.in/Incois/iioe/index.jsp>

IN FOCUS

*Success stories in oceanography
and marine meteorology*

African Summer School

The IOC Africa Sub-commission with support from GOOS project office and JCOMM organized two sessions of African Summer School on Application of Ocean and Coastal Data and Modelling Products. The Summer School took place at University of Ghana (AfriSS1, 9-13 June 2014) and Kenya Meteorological Service (AfriSS2, 18-22 August 2014) respectively.

The Summer School was designed to build African capacity to access and utilize ocean and coastal data (and relevant meteorological data) from in-situ and satellite observations (through GOOS and/or JCOMM observing platforms), and ocean models to produce useful services for local use, for a wide variety of human and economic benefit purposes.

This first Summer School by IOC with hands-on practical sessions attracted participants from ten African Member States. During the first Session, eighteen participants presented a project proposal each to serve the benefits of their country's coastal areas, such as for fishery, wave and surge forecasts. Fifteen of the participants were able to complete their

projects in two months and to present results in the second Session at KMS.

The active participatory workshop received positive feedback from participants. The draft *Guide to Operational Ocean Forecasting Systems* has contributed to the work of Summer School. On the basis of experience in the School, the IOC will seek further funding and possibility to conduct future Capacity Development activities to fit for needs of in the region and countries, especially increasing requirements of African Member States.

Full details of the Summer School can be found at <http://jcomm.info/AfriSS1> and

<http://jcomm.info/AfriSS2>.

LIST OF NEW JCOMM LEADERS

Leader for Capacity Development:
John Mungai (Kenya)

Co-chairs for Observations Programme Area:
David Legler (USA) and David Meldrum (UK)

JCOMM UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd review meeting of the JCOMM Coordinated Ocean Wave Climate Project (COWCLIP)	Paris, France	1-3 Oct 2014
Third Capacity Building Workshop of the WMO/IOC Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP) for the North Pacific Ocean and Its Marginal Seas (NPOMS-3) - Application of Regional Ocean Observations for Increasing Society's Understanding and Forecasting of Typhoons	Kyoto, Japan	6-8 Oct 2014
GODAE OceanView Science Team meeting 2014	Beijing, China	13-17 Oct 2014
11th session of the JCOMM Management Committee	Geneva, Switzerland	20-23 Oct 2014
Fourth JCOMM Marine Instrument Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region	Weihai, China	21-23 Oct 2014
Thirtieth Session of the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel	Weihai, China	27-31 Oct 2014
OceanSITES 2014: 10th Steering Committee and 7th Data Management Team Meetings	Recife, Brazil	3-7 Nov 2014
34th Session of the Argos Joint Tariff Agreement (JTA)	Weihai, China	3-5 Nov 2014
International Ocean Research Conference	Barcelona, Spain	17-21 Nov 2014
eSurge Training on Applying Earth Observation Data in Storm Surge Forecasting Systems	Geneva, Switzerland	2-4 Dec 2014
Second GODAE OceanView OSEval-TT Workshop	Toulouse, France	10- 12 Dec 2014
23 rd Session of the IODE Committee	Bruges, Belgium	16-20 March 2015

Please visit JCOMM website for full list of events: jcomm.info/calendar

JCOMM Newsletter is for communication and updates in JCOMM and relevant communities.

Please offer and share information for future issues to the WMO-IOC Joint Secretariat (L.jiang@unesco.org / ioc@jcomm.info).

Editor: JCOMM Joint Secretariat, Long JIANG (L.jiang@unesco.org), Albert FISCHER (a.fischer@unesco.org)

JCOMM newsletter online is available at: <http://www.jcomm.info/newsletter12>