

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

IPET-SUP-1/INF 2.1  
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COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS  
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

INTER-PROGRAMME EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND  
PRODUCTS

ITEM: INF 2.1

FIRST SESSION

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## **JCOMM Matters**

*(Submitted by Jean-Louis Fellous)*

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### **Summary and Purpose of Document**

The present document provides information on current activities led by the JCOMM Cross-cutting Task Team on Satellite Data Requirements (TT-SAT) aimed at developing a strategy document addressing the "*Marine meteorology and oceanographic forecasting service requirements for integrated satellite products*".

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### **ACTION PROPOSED**

The first session is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the present information document;
  - (b) Make any appropriate recommendation that may help JCOMM and the TT-SAT achieve their goals.
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## DISCUSSION

### Introduction

1. The Eleventh Session of the Management Committee of the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (MAN-11) took place on 20-23 October 2014, at the Headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, jointly chaired by the two Co-Presidents of JCOMM, Mr Johan Stander and Professor Nadia Pinardi<sup>1</sup>. The present document focuses on JCOMM matters relevant to the IPET-SUP-1 session.

### JCOMM Programmes and Strategy

2. JCOMM, the Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology, is an intergovernmental body of technical experts that provides a mechanism for international coordination of oceanographic and marine meteorological observing, data management and services, combining the expertise, technologies and capacity building capabilities of the meteorological and oceanographic communities. The creation of this Joint Technical Commission results from a general recognition that worldwide improvements in coordination and efficiency may be achieved by combining the expertise and technological capabilities of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

JCOMM coordinates, and develops and recommends standards and procedures for, a fully integrated marine observing, data management and services system that:

- uses state-of-the-art technologies and capabilities;
- is responsive to the evolving needs of all users of marine data and products; and,
- includes an outreach programme to enhance the national capacity of all maritime countries.

JCOMM aims to maximize the benefits for its Members/Member States in the projects, programmes and activities that it undertakes in their interest and that of the global community in general.

### Key Ocean Variables

3. To support its strategy and actions addressing the global oceans including coastal zones, JCOMM has identified the key variables of interest and the need to utilize space- and surface-based observations in an integrated manner. These Essential Ocean Variables include sea surface temperature, ocean surface topography, ocean biology, sea surface salinity, ocean surface waves, ocean surface vector winds, and sea ice. In order to consider, define and coordinate its satellite interests, JCOMM has established a Cross-cutting Task Team on Satellite Data Requirements (TT-SAT).

### Task Team on Satellite Data Requirements (TT-SAT)

4. The JCOMM Cross-cutting Task Team on Satellite Data Requirements was formed in March 2014. TT-SAT members are M. Bourassa (Florida State University, USA), J. Dorandeu (chair, Mercator-Océan, France), J.-L. Fellous (COSPAR), S. Guinehut (CLS, France), D. Halpern (NASA/JPL, USA), N. Kroese (NWS, South Africa) and S. Sathyendranath (Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK). The Team was tasked to develop a strategy document addressing the "*Marine meteorology and oceanographic forecasting service requirements for integrated satellite products*".

5. At MAN-11, the TT-SAT chair reported on progress with this Team. A first video conference took place on 25 June 2014, with the aim of more specifically defining the Team's objectives in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

6. An outline of the strategy document was proposed by J. Dorandeu and M. Bourassa and discussed by the Team during the videoconference. A first draft is planned for early 2015, and it will focus on the current status for each type of satellite sensor, starting from existing documents, and identifying key gaps in the observing system.

7. Key topics to be covered in the document include: Current status for each type of sensor, starting from existing documents; and, identification of gaps in the space-based ocean observing

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<sup>1</sup> MAN-11 documents are available from [http://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com\\_oe&task=viewEventDocs&eventID=1409](http://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventDocs&eventID=1409)

system.

8. The JCOMM Management Committee welcomed the work of the Team. The Committee emphasized the importance of taking an integrated look at satellite and *in situ* data and product requirements for JCOMM applications, a point perhaps not well-captured in the Terms of Reference of the Team. The chair of the TT-SAT noted that while the report would specifically address coastal areas, it was difficult to many satellite data products to fully extend into the coastal zone. The Committee also welcomed the link with the WMO Space Programme and the work of the CBS Expert Team on Satellite Utilization and Products (ET-SUP), now IPET-SUP.

### **Capacity building**

9. Another area highlighted in JCOMM MAN-11 includes developing the skills needed to apply available ocean satellite products for essential services at the national and regional level.

### **Conclusion**

10. JCOMM is certainly interested in the work of the CBS IPET-SUP and in seeing its programme needs identified in, and addressed through, the Rolling Review of Requirements.

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