

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)**

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

JCOMM/DMPA/ETMC-4/ Doc. 4.2(3)
(19.11.2012)

EXPERT TEAM ON MARINE CLIMATOLOGY

ITEM: 4.2

FOURTH SESSION

Original: ENGLISH

OSTEND, BELGIUM,
26-28 NOVEMBER FEBRUARY 2012

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND ROLES OF ICSU WDS IN MCDS

(Submitted by Sissy Iona, DMPA Coordinator)

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

The document provides information on the potential contributions and roles of the ICSU World Data System (WDS) in the Marine Climate Data System (MCDS) taking into account recommendations, decisions, and guidance from JCOMM-4.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Meeting is invited to note the information contained in this document when considering its recommendations.

Appendix: None

DISCUSSION

The International Council of Science World Data System (ICSU/WDS) replaced the former ICSU World Data Centres and Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data analysis Services (FAGS) following the decision of the ICSU General Assembly in 2008.

The World Data Center for Oceanography-Silver Spring is a component of the ICSU World Data System. The WDC acts as an archive for oceanographic data from the international scientific community (originators' data) and distributes such data without restriction. In addition, the WDC produces a database product referred to as the "World Ocean Database" (WOD). WOD is the world's largest collection of ocean profile-plankton data available internationally without restriction with all data quality-controlled and in one common format. The WOD is available online at www.nodc.noaa.gov. WDC also produces other products (e.g., the "World Atlas" series) and also makes these products available online.

A key element in the IOC Strategy for oceanographic data and information exchange is the permanent long-term data archiving centre for all data. Thus, a major and long-term commitment of the IODE Programme is the long-term accessibility and archival of oceanographic data, meta-data and information to safeguard present and future holdings against loss or degradation.

A key element within the MCDS operation is the long term archive in support of the climatic archives and the production of value added marine climate data sets.

In March 2012, the Inter-sessional working group for updating the IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (2012-2015) of March 2012, noted that there will be now 3 data flows: one involves the IODE NODCs that used to contribute data to the WDCs, a second involving the MCDS and CMOCs, and a third involving the new WDS (where WDC for Oceanography has applied as WDC). It is not yet well clear how all these will interact with each other, while it was noted that IODE had been accepted as a network member of the WDS.

The meeting will discuss the contribution of the ICSU/WDS as a global long-term oceanographic data archival mechanism to the MCDS.
