



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE  
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL  
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MÉTÉOROLOGIQUE MONDIALE  
ORGANIZACIÓN METEOROLÓGICA MUNDIAL  
ВСЕМИРНАЯ МЕТЕОРОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ

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

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**OceanObs'09 Conference  
JCOMM Statement**

Let me first remind you that JCOMM, the Joint WMO/IOC Commission on Oceanography and Marine Meteorology, was established, by WMO Congress and the IOC Assembly, formally in 1999, i.e., that same year as the preceding conference OceanObs'99, through a merger of the former CMM and a number of previously independent groups within both organizations. JCOMM vision was to address a number of output activities and societal benefit areas, which all required an integrated approach to the delivery of oceanographic and marine meteorological data and products, through combining the expertise and resources of two sister communities, and their respective intergovernmental organizations. In addressing this vision, JCOMM has adopted a user-oriented, integrated approach, and in doing so is now clearly recognized as the primary implementation mechanism for the Global Ocean Observing System, as well as providing the marine component of the WWW global observing system.

This Conference has amply demonstrated the immense progress made over the past 10 years, the actual lifetime of JCOMM, and the immense work still to be accomplished. My co-president Peter Dexter and myself, our predecessors Johannes Guddal and Savi Narayanan, and the numerous members of JCOMM Expert teams, can be proud of the achievements so far, as we feel modest in view of the steep road still to go.

The coming ten years contains as many challenges as the years before: sustain and refine that part of the ocean observing system that has been built mostly on research funding; maintain and improve free, timely access to quality-controlled ocean data worldwide as well as enhancing data integration and archiving; ensure and improve international coordination involving a wealth of institutions, agencies and programmes of very different nature, goals and mode of operation; expand the ocean observing system to respond to society and research needs in coastal areas, particularly as regards those measurements of interest for the marine ecosystem, biogeochemistry and fisheries communities; develop capacity building and education in global ocean data use in order to extend the participation and benefit to research and user communities worldwide.

JCOMM will obviously be an active partner, in conformance with its mandate, in pursuing these ambitious objectives, and is more than willing to work with other institutions, agencies and programmes to that effect. JCOMM recognizes the important role of GEO, as the overarching framework for the development of a comprehensive, sustained, global observing system of systems, of which the ocean observing system is a key component for virtually all societal benefit areas.

We have considered carefully the idea of “establishing a Working Group” to that end (which we would prefer to appear in the Conference statement as “convening an *ad hoc* or consultative working group”). We think that implementation of OceanObs'09 outcomes should be envisioned through existing mechanisms (where they exist), such as JCOMM, the GOOS Regional Alliances, as well as coordinating bodies such as POGO and CEOS. We think that the ocean community should continue its interaction with, and input to, GEO through established pathways. We fully concur with the issues to be addressed. In order to fulfill its goal this consultative

working group should embrace all potential partners and be co-sponsored by IOC and GEO. It should be instructed to report as early as possible, preferably by end-April 2010 in order for its expected recommendations to be useful to trigger implementation at the next IOC Executive Council.

These recommendations should first and foremost be directed at the existing, established mechanisms for governance and technical implementation, wherever possible and appropriate, namely GSSC, its subsidiary bodies the OOPC and PICO, the JCOMM and the GRAs. All those bodies will certainly need revised, broadened mandates and membership to reflect new priorities put on integration of physical and climate needs with coastal, ecosystem and biogeochemistry needs. Some specific charges should be put on the implementation bodies, in accordance with their revised Terms of Reference. The issues related to intergovernmental process and funding, and the inclusion of the corresponding tasks within GEO will also need to be addressed.

Again JCOMM is warmly supportive of the proposed avenue as a result of this extremely successful Symposium and feels committed to pursue its efforts towards implementing its recommendations. Let us thank all the organizers and ESA for having led this overall endeavor in such a productive manner.