

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION



[T2/A/5.02]

IMCO

SN/Circ.30
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WORLD WEATHER WATCH

Meteorological Information and Forecast Products

1. The World Meteorological Organization, in planning the World Weather Watch, has prepared a list of meteorological information and forecast products intended to help shipping, marine industries and related activities in the safe and efficient conduct of their operations. This list is attached hereto.
2. WMO is conducting an inquiry as to the degree to which these services are needed and where they are needed, e.g. by shipping and/or fishing interests, port operations etc., and has invited the Organization's comments. Member Governments are therefore requested to express their views at an early date. These will be conveyed to WMO.
3. This subject will also be considered by the Maritime Safety Committee at its fourteenth session and the Committee has also been invited to comment.

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LIST OF PRODUCTS

| PRODUCTS | DETAIL REQUIRED | V A L I D I T Y | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | | ANALYSIS | FORECAST | | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | Short range (4) | Medium (5) | Extended (6) |
| 1. Storm warnings | Location and movement of pressure systems, gale force and higher winds, including tropical storms and hurricanes and other significant hazards | + | + | + | |
| 2. Marine weather analysis | Fronts, pressure centres and isobars, wind pattern, sea surface temperature pattern (including anomalies) where required for fishing purposes. Selected ocean station and moving ship observations including reports of wind, weather, visibility, temperature, sea temperature, humidity | + | | | |
| 3. Wave analysis | Wave pattern, etc. Selected reports from ocean stations and moving ships concerning wave height, period and direction | + | | | |

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
|----------------------------|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 4. Marine weather forecast | | Prognostic charts depicting the expected position of fronts and pressure centres at specific time intervals. Isobars to indicate intensity of centres and forecast wind patterns. Forecast data concerning wind, temperature, sea temperature (including anomalies), visibility and weather which causes visibility reduction as well as sky cover if required for fishing purposes | | + | + | + |
| 5. Wave forecast | | Prognostic charts depicting the expected positions of fronts and tropical storms and forecast waves patterns | | + | + | + |
| 6. Superstructure icing | | Areas of probable superstructure icing due to freezing rain or seaspray | + | + | + | |
| 7. Mixed layer depth | | Thermocline information and information on ocean surface currents where required for fishing purposes | + | + | + | + |
| 8. Sea Ice | | Description of areas of ice, identifying locations where ice is impassable or requires icebreaker assistance | + | + | + | + |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Specialized warnings | (2) Significant changes in wind, wave or precipitation conditions, abnormal tidal conditions or heavy breakers and surf | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
|--------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|

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NOTES: (1) FORECASTS

Short range forecast refers to periods up to 24 hours.
 Medium range forecast refers to periods up to 72 hours. It is appreciated that
 Extended range forecast refers to periods exceeding 72 hours. It is appreciated that
 enormous economic benefits arise from the application of forecasts for weekly, monthly
 and even longer periods. However, in view of the state of development of Long Range
 Forecasting, it is not possible to detail, at this stage, forecast periods.

(2) COLLABORATION BETWEEN METEOROLOGY AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES.

In drawing up this list of products it was realized that the preparation of some of
 these products will require the collaboration of Meteorology with other scientific
 disciplines, both at the national and international level. The conference stressed
 the importance of such collaboration.