

International Ice Services – The Next Five Years

Introduction

At IICWG VI we will spend a significant portion of the agenda reflecting on the IICWG and what type of organization it should be over the next five years.

It is important for the participating organizations to come prepared to discuss where IICWG has met their expectations and where it has not been effective. A key outcome of this meeting will be to understand the challenges facing our members over the next five years and what type of organization IICWG needs to be to help us meet them effectively.

The Co-Chairs request that you review and reflect on the questions below, in consultation with your organization, before we assemble in Ottawa at the end of the month. Your observations and comments will be a valued contribution to the discussion.

Looking forward to your participation in shaping the future IICWG.

Context and Considerations

- Evolving client groups, for example:
 - increased polar navigation, including Southern Hemisphere
 - climate change impacts, possible diminished ice cover in marginal regions
 - increased support to numerical weather prediction
- Client demand for integrated ice and marine products
- Regionalization of ice services, 'borderless ice services'– e.g. Baltic Sea Ice Meeting, North American Ice Service
- Inter-operable electronic charting and display formats (ENC)
- International Polar Year requirements
- Improved modeling capability (from analysis to prediction)
- Relationships and Roles
 - IICWG as a formal (versus ad-hoc) working group
 - JCOMM and JCOMM Expert Team on Sea
 - GEOS
 - GMES Polar View
- Others ???

Questions – Reflection - the First Five Years :

- Why does your organization participate in IICWG?
- How has IICWG helped your organization fulfill its mandate?

- What aspects/activities of IICWG have contributed most to your service?
- What are the strengths of IICWG? Where has IICWG met your expectations?
- What are the weaknesses of IICWG? Where has IICWG failed to meet your expectations?
- What relationship does IICWG have to other related groups in your country
 - E.g., WMO/JCOMM, marine weather services, GEO, other, ...

Questions - Looking Forward – the Next Five Years:

- What are the critical issues facing your organization?
- How could IICWG help address these?
- Is the current IICWG structure appropriate to manage these issues?
 - e.g. 'Science' and 'Clients, Services and Data' Committees
- Should IICWG formalize itself, or remain an ad-hoc group? Why? How? Advantages ? Disadvantages ?
- Who should participate in IICWG?
 - National Ice/Met Services only?
 - Any interested participant/agency?
 - Other geographic regions?
- What is the role of the private sector in IICWG?
- What should IICWG's relationship to JCOMM and ETSI be?