



Responsive Ice Services: Innovating Science and Service for a Changing Environment

Secretariat Report

1. Prepared letter for co-chairs' signatures to Dr. Mauro Facchini, Head of the Copernicus Unit at the European Commission, expressing the IICWG support the three Polar High Priority Candidate Missions: L-Band SAR (Rose-L), Copernicus Imaging Microwave Radiometer (CIMR), and Polar Ice & Snow Topography (TOPO). Summarizing the IICWG-XIX discussions, the letter stated that the IICWG's top priority is ROSE-L, second priority is CIMR and TOPO is third. Quoting the letter: "The bottom line of the discussions at IICWG is that the ROSE-L mission would have the greatest positive impact on maritime safety while the CIMR mission would provide greater benefit for climate studies and ocean forecasting." Apparently the letter caused some discussion in Brussels but had little effect on the priorities. Acknowledging our letter, Dr. Facchini wrote that, "following the conclusions [of the Commission's Polar Experts Group], it has been agreed to proceed with the CIMR and TOPO missions. ROSE-L has been proposed by ESA as a Polar Mission".
2. Represented the IICWG at David Jackson's retirement celebration on October 18, 2018 and presented a plaque recognizing his "40 years' dedicated service to maritime safety in ice-
3. Supported the quarterly Co-Chairs' Coordinating Committee teleconferences of the Task Team Leads.
4. Provided presentation material for Wolfgang Dierking to represent the IICWG at a Mission Advisory Group meeting at ERTEC/ESA in November 2018.
5. Revised the material on the IICWG website to reflect the new organization of the IICWG. Information and status reports on each of the Task Teams replaced the material on the standing committees. The latter has been archived on the site. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work that NSIDC (Ann Windnagel) has done to re-design the website and modernize its appearance.
6. Provided presentation material for David Jackson to represent the IICWG at the WMO Ocean Safe Workshop held in Geneva February 5-6, 2019.
7. Wrote to Canada's Senior Arctic Official on the Arctic Council seeking support for recognition of the IICWG in the Rovaniemi Meeting Declaration. This effort failed because the Arctic Council does not mention specific groups unless they have been tasked to work on an activity.
8. Provided a report to the March 2019 WMO EC-PHORS meeting on the activities of the IICWG over the previous year.
9. Following concerns raised by some IICWG members and ensuing e-mail discussions, prepared a "Statement from the IICWG concerning the proposed CMEMS product "New Arctic Iceberg NRT observation products". The statement was sent to Mauro Facchini on April 24, 2019 as well as to several members of the Copernicus User Forum. The IICWG-XX Session on Automated Products is a direct of the Statement.

John Falkingham
September 23, 2019