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Agenda item 3.5

DMCG-I/8
Paris, 02 May 2002
English only

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

JOINT WMO-IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY

First Session of the Data Management Coordination Group
(Paris, 22-25 May 2002)

ARGO DATA MANAGEMENT

This document describes the Argo data management scheme as it stands presently.

The group will be invited to take this information into account when discussing relevant agenda items.

General Description and Status

The Argo data system is a distributed operation. In most cases, individual countries manage the data stream from the floats they have deployed. Data are relayed from the DACs to the GTS and to two global servers, GDACs, operated by France and the US. Data are available either from the GTS in TESAC code form, or through either ftp or www access from the GDACs. As the data pass through higher quality control assessments, the data on the GDACs are replaced by the higher quality versions. A long term archive has been established at the US NODC to ensure the accessibility of the data over time.

Most countries have established Data Assembly Centres (DACs) for their data or are collaborating with other countries or Service Argos to share resources. They receive the data stream through Service Argos, convert it to profiles, subject the data to standard real-time QC procedures, build the TESAC message and distribute the data to the GTS. The goal of Argo is to have data on the GTS within 24 hours of the float coming to the surface. At the present time, about 50% of the global submissions are meeting the target.

The two GDACs are in place and act as mirror sites. Mirroring software has been tested and now operates between the two sites. Each has an ftp sever operating. The ftp server organizes the data by observation date and time, by ocean basin and by contributor. Each intends to have a www server. The software for the server in France is closer to completion.

The data found on the GDACs at present derive from the GTS. This covers the period until individual DACs are able to process their data and deliver them in the agreed format. It is expected that a few countries will have automatic transfers to the global servers in operation soon.

There is the intention to establish regional data centres. These will be groups that will undertake to look at float data on basin scales to generate products and check data consistency. The formation of these groups is still under development. At the last Science Team Meeting, a number of groups expressed interest in becoming or partnering in a regional centre.

A tracking system to show the development of the data system has been established at the AIC. Each DAC and GDAC is encouraged to use this to report progress on their implementation.

Meetings

The first formal meeting of the Argo Data Management Team was held in Brest in November 2001. Participants from Canada, France, Germany, japan, Korea, Russia, USA, UK attended.

The agenda covered preparation of data system documentation, a data exchange format, standardization of quality control procedures, operations of data servers and data flow, the operations of the Argo Information Centre, products and other matters. The most intense discussion took place surrounding those components of the data system that would implement exchange of the data already appearing on the GTS.

A second meeting is planned for Ottawa from 18-20 September, 2002 and hosted by MEDS. Work will continue on implementing the various components of the data system.

Current activities

Current activities include:

- the completion of the first version of an Argo Data Handbook,
- making routine the exchange of real-time data with the GDACs,
- evaluating real-time quality control procedures

- establishing exchanges of delayed mode data between PIs, DACs and GDACs,
- establishing regional data centres and incorporating their activities into the data system,
- developing a suite of products to demonstrate the use of Argo data,
- proceed to test delayed mode quality control procedures with the goal of standardizing these.
- Ensure the AIC meets Argo needs,
- Establish the functions required of the long term archive relative to the GDACs.