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| WEATHER CLIMATE WATER | **World Meteorological Organization****COMMISSION FOR WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND APPLICATIONS****Second Session**17 to 21 October 2022, Geneva | **SERCOM-2/INF. 5.1(7)** |
| Submitted by:Chair/SC-MMO15.IX.2022 |

SUMMARY STATUS: WMO-IMO SYMPOSIUM ON
EXTREME MARITIME WEATHER

Regarding amendments to regulatory and guidance material on marine meteorological services, WMO continues to work in partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to ensure the mandatory marine meteorological information is available for use by mariners at sea, as per the Safety of Life at Sea Convention. In support of this, the First WMO/IMO International Symposium “Extreme Maritime Weather: Towards Safety of Life at Sea and a Sustainable Blue Economy” was held in October 2019 with over 200 participants from over 40 different countries in attendance. The Symposium strengthened the connection between the metocean and mariner stakeholder communities to discuss areas of attention required to improve the safety of life at sea during extreme weather events.

All information related to the First Symposium, including the Final Report is at <https://community.wmo.int/activity-areas/Marine/Meetings/WMO-IMO-Symposium-extreme-maritime-weather>.

The key recommended actions from the First Symposium were to:

(1) Improve educational training for both mariners and metocean forecasters to increase awareness between mariners and forecasters of each community’s needs and operational constraints resulting in improved requirements for marine services;

(2) Tighten connections in the value chain between the collection of metocean data, metocean data assimilation, marine weather forecasting, and the dissemination of marine forecasts and services to users and stakeholders;

(3) Increase metocean data collection through the extant WMO Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) programme as well as private industry (e.g. oil and gas);

(4) Identify authoritative data sources officially endorsed to increase confidence within the product users community and a review of data management and dissemination to be undertaken to promote the exchange of relevant data;

(5) Increase marine services (coverage and access) to meet the growing demand for impact-based weather forecasts as well as ancillary support in decision making;

(6) Improve communication between metocean forecasters and the maritime industry is urgently needed to ensure the safety of life and property at sea while increasing the efficiency of maritime operations.

In partnership with the IMO, the WMO has commenced addressing these recommendations, with the Standing Committee for Marine Meteorology and Oceanographic Services (SC-MMO) leading the work so that progress can be reported and discussed at the Second Symposium. Regarding Recommendation 1, details are provided in [SERCOM-2/INF 5.1(4)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx) relating to capacity development for the metocean community, and improved training for mariners. The Global Pandemic has meant that some progress has been slower than desired, however, the intention, pandemic permitting, is to continue the work for discussion and feedback at a Second Symposium, as agreed during the seventy-second session of the Executive Council ([Resolution 4 (EC-72)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10504#page=17) - Strengthening Marine Services).

A Second Symposium, hosted by the Republic of Indonesia, is anticipated to be held in late 2023. Practical preparations for this event are underway and, once confirmed, will be announced. The participation and engagement of National and Intergovernmental Authorities, Marine Industry, Port Administrations, and Marine Weather Centres and Forecasters among other key partners is vital to the success of the Symposium. Members are encouraged to participate, especially those in the Asia Pacific region who will be near to the venue.

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