INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Seventeenth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-XVII)
Paris, France, 3-7 March 2003

IODE NATIONAL REPORT FOR GERMANY
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Version: 28 February 2003

1. Name of Data Centre:
   Deutsches Ozeanographisches Datenzentrum (DOD)

2. National IODE Coordinator:
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3. Data Centre Address:
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4. Data Centre URL:
   http://www.bsh.de/Meereskunde/DOD/index.htm

5. IODE Data Centre Designation Date:
   1967

6. Brief History:
   Since 1967 the "Deutsches Ozeanographisches Datenzentrum" (DOD) has served as the National Oceanographic Data Center of Germany. It continued to operate as a branch of the marine research department of the "Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie" (BSH) in Hamburg.

7. Roles and Responsibilities of the Data Centre:
   The DOD operates as the National Oceanographic Data Center for Germany within the framework of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). It serves as a focal point for the national and international exchange of oceanographic data.
   The objectives of DOD are
   - to acquire the marine data sampled by German institutes and agencies, archive it and maximize its utilisation by promoting data exchange on a national and international level,
   - to maintain Germany's national oceanographic database,
   - to meet Germany's international data exchange obligations according to the IOC resolutions, and under the Oslo/Paris and Helsinki Conventions regarding monitoring of the North Sea/North-East Atlantic and Baltic Sea environment.

8. Description of national data and information management coordination
   The NODC of Germany has the national responsibility to acquire and archive
   - the Cruise Summary Reports (CSR) by German Research Vessels cruises
   - Marine Data sets Inventory (EDMED)
   - Marine physical, chemical and biological data from German Research Vessels cruises and marine monitoring programmes
   - Submission of national marine environmental data due to the obligations of the Oslo/Paris and Helcom commissions
   - Provide data, information and products to the marine community.
DOD is recognized within the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)’s system of International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) as Germany’s National Oceanographic Data Centre.

DOD works together with other oceanographic data centers in Europe. It is the German Partner in the EU Sea-Search Network (www.sea-search.net), and within a project, it co-ordinates the development and implementation of an Internet version of the Cruise Summary Reports (CSR/ROSCOP) data catalogue.

9. Data Centre Projects and Activities during the Intersessional Period:

Recent CTD data are handled now on a routine basis after finalizing a backlog of CTDs of the last twenty years. Following the data submissions to WDCs and ICES, the CTD data were loaded into our data bank, and thus can be retrieved by the common data bank tools. A total of more than 600 cruises with CTD data is thus at hand, about the same amount of cruises with CTD data are book depts due to ROSCOP information.

Subsequently, data sets of the old light vessels were converted from sequential files into the data bank system, and are now in the process of quality control. Besides temperature and salinity values, wind, waves and current data from these time series are increasingly requested due to offshore windpark activities. Some of the 14 light vessels cover more than 50 years of observations, e.g. LV Fehmarnbelt lasted from 1924 - 1984, and is continued by an unmanned system.

As a new data source, oceanographic data from the towed, undulating CTD-system “Delphin” was taken on, an example from one cruise is given below. Also thermostalinograph data were taken on, of which the first 5 x 10⁶ data was loaded into our data bank.
New data bank modules such as one for contaminant data in fish and shellfish and one for quality assurance went into operation as well as different data bank report functions, optimizing data flow both in quality and rapidity.

The satisfactory returns of Cruise Summary Reports continued in Germany, resulting in a DOD-submission of CSRs to WDCs and ICES of 237 CSRs in December 2001 and 181 CSRs in December 2002, bringing CSRs to a total of 6282 CSRs in our data centre.

CSR inventories are updated quarterly and are provided under [http://www.bsh.de/Meereskunde/DOD/1380.htm](http://www.bsh.de/Meereskunde/DOD/1380.htm) on the web. An internet entry system as well as a retrieval system for CSR information is currently developed by DOD within the EU-funded Sea-Search project, which started in December 2002. The Sea Search partnership brings together a unique group of 33 institutes/centres from 30 different European coastal states: NODCs from the EU Member States, Mediterranean and Black Sea NODCs and Marine institutes of non-EU countries in Europe will develop and operate a pan-European infrastructure for ocean and marine data management, see at [http://www.sea-search.net](http://www.sea-search.net). DOD took leadership in developing and installing a new infrastructure for entering, searching and presenting the CSR/ROSCOP database by means of the internet (CSRONLINE). This will overcome the paper age of CSRs, and more acceptance of this online version is anticipated.

DOD is represented in the new established Group of Experts on Biological and Chemical Data Management and Exchange Practice (GE-BCDMEP) with an expertise of 16 years' work with Marine Environmental and Biological Data, and also participated in the “Colour of the Ocean data” symposium in Brussels last year.

10. Data Centre Products and Services Developed and/or Made Available during the Intersessional Period:

Main services are the submission of data on request as well as the preparation of statistics and the visualisation for ministerial reports and documents, both regularly and on special request by the ministries. In 2002, an amount of 120 data requests with special service work was recorded.

During the intersessional period, the set of standard national formats was completed by developing a format for reporting phytoplankton data on Excel spread sheets.

Further products are listed and may be looked up at our web site, as e.g. maps of oil spillages within the Baltic Sea Area observed by aerial surveillance. DOD has helped in building a new HELCOM-Website by providing thematic maps for the project called "HELCOM atlas".

11. Comments

During the last intersessional period preparatory work was enhanced to access metadata and some data holdings on-line ([http://www.bsh.de/Meereskunde/DOD/aktuelle_daten.htm](http://www.bsh.de/Meereskunde/DOD/aktuelle_daten.htm)). The development of online visualization was given high priority. This vision was echoed by reorganizing DOD, which was linked to the cross section/environmental branch, and is now with a branch called “Data and Interpretation Systems”.