NODC Report: Cyprus

1. Name of Data Centre:
Cyprus National Oceanographic Data Centre- CYNODC

2. National IODE Co-ordinator:
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3. Data Centre Address (if different from 1)

4. Data Centre URL:

5. IODE Data Centre Designation Date: 1997, NODC

6. Data Centre Description:
The CYNODC operates within the Oceanography Division of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (OD-DFMR). The latter institution, which is the main centre for marine research in Cyprus, has a long-term experience, more than 15 years, in oceanographic data management and archiving, bottles, XBTs and CTD data.

The CYNODC main hardware equipment consist of a Compaq Alfa Server RISC 64-bi processor, 2CPUs, > 70Mflops and other supporting hardware. The CYNODC software consist of a Tru64 UNIX operating system, oracle server and developer 2000, MATLAB for UNIX, Fortran and +C compilers.

7. Brief History:
In order to insure safeguarding of the increasing national oceanographic data flow, the Cyprus NODC (CYNODC) has established early 1997. Cyprus is a member of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO since June 1997.

8. Roles and Responsibilities of Data Centre:

Data management of the oceanographic data from: a) national activities of the OD/DFMR, main marine research institution in the country, b) European and other international activities in the Levantine Basin and the Mediterranean Sea, as for example the MEDAR/MEDATLAS II and CYCLOPS, both EU funded projects.

The CYNODC is a focus point for national and international oceanographic data exchange.

9. Data Centre Projects and Activities during the Intersessional Period

The CYNODC participates in the EC MEDAR/MEDATLAS-II concerted action (MAS3-CT98-0174 & ERBIC20-CT98-0103) to develop a quality database of oceanographic data in the Mediterranean Sea, through a wide co-operation of the bordering Mediterranean countries. This project started on December 1st 1998 for a three-year period. The MEDAR / MEDATLAS-II consortium involves 20 marine research organizations from 17 countries and scientific advisers from international organizations. Its is a European MAST/INCO concerted action and a regional contribution to UNESCO/IOC´s Global Ocean Data Archaeology and Rescue (GODAR) project.

The MEDAR/MEDATLAS-II project main objectives is to rescue, safeguard and make available a new comprehensive data set of oceanographic parameters collected in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, through a wide co-operation of the Mediterranean and Black Sea oceanographic institutions and NODCs.

10. Data Centre Products and Services Developed and/or Made Available during the intersessional period:

In order to make the archived national oceanographic data sets comparable and compatible with the existing format of the MEDATLAS 1997 database, common MEDATLAS protocol for formatting and data quality checking were used, in accordance with the internationally agreed standards published by UNESCO/IOC, ICES and MAST.

The following deliveries were done towards the realisation of the MEDAR/MEDATLAS-II objectives:
1. The available oceanographic data were subject to quality control before were archived in national format.
2. A contribution of the MEDAR/MEDATLAS-II inventory has been insured by sending a corrected inventory to WDC-B.
3. A first benchmark of data have been delivered on regional QC centre in Athens (HNODC), to check the compatibility of the data reformatting and organization with the MEDAR/MEDATLAS system.
4. All the data sets were transcoded in the common MEDATLAS format.
5. The data were checked for quality (QC) by implementing automatic (objective), QC-MEDAR and SCOOP software, and visual (subjective) checks.
Moreover, within the framework of the MEDAR/MEDATLAS -II project two software programs in Fortran code were developed for transcoding the national data format into the MEDATLAS one. The initial code of the software was based on a previous code from HNODC. After substantial modifications, the first software is suitable for transcoding any oceanographic cruise by persons not familiar with programming in Fortran. The second one is useful for persons that have the base knowledge in Fortran programming. Both software programs were used to transcode the oceanographic data from Egypt, during the workshop in Athens, December 1999. Scientists from Turkey and Lebanon were informed during the above-mentioned MEDATLAS workshop, about the implementation of these software programs.

A national Web site for MEDAR/MEDATLAS-II needs is under construction.

11. Comments

The updated oceanographic database, the climatological statistics and the methodology implemented to process and exchange these data will constitute a basic capacity of the CYNODC and of the other Mediterranean NODCs/DNAs to meet the requirements of the forthcoming operational oceanography. The new data set of the MEDAR/MEDATLAS-II will serve as the database for the prognosis of the circulation, particularly for the needs of the national, regional and European efforts for the protection of the marine environment in the Levantine Basin.

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