INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)
2010 Session of the IODE Officers Meeting
IOC Project Office for IODE, Oostende, Belgium, 8-11 March 2010

IODE/JCOMM Ocean Data Standards
Greg Reed, IODE Co-Chair

A joint IODE/JCOMM sponsored meeting was held in January 2008 to examine
the potential for the development and acceptance of community wide standards
for marine data and information management and exchange. The meeting
developed a process to accept, evaluate and recommend proposals for
community wide standards. This process is coordinated by the ETDMP.

To date only one submission has been received: Recommendation to Adopt ISO
3166-1 and 3166-3 Country Codes as the Standard for Identifying Countries in
Oceanographic Data Exchange. This submission has passed through the expert
review and community review and was subsequently published on 6 January
2010 as a recommended standard.

The IODE Committee (IODE-XX) adopted Recommendation IODE-XX.2 - The
Ocean Data Standards Pilot Project (Annex I) which encourages all IOC Member
States, Programmes and relevant organizations to submit standards for
consideration, to contribute to the evaluation process, and to adopt
recommended standards.

JCOMM-III (4-11 November 2009) endorsed a number of priorities for the DMPA
for the next intersessional period, including developing standards and best
practices in the marine community through the IODE/JCOMM Standards Process.
JCOMM-III also adopted Recommendation 7.3/1 (JCOMM-III) — Development of
Data Management Standards which recommends Members/Member States (i) to
submit their proposals to the JCOMM-IODE Ocean Data Standards Pilot Project
(ODS) for wide community adoption; and (ii) to implement the recommended
standards in agencies in their own countries at the earliest possible date.

Additional standards have been identified for submission to the standards
process. An invitation has been submitted to the SeaDataNet Technical Task
Team to consider the following data standard submissions:

1. Sea Level Quality Control
2. CDI profile
3. CSR (Cruise Summary Report)
4. SeaDataNet device categories -L05
   (http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/v_bdc_vocab/welcome.aspx/)
5. ODV4 in ASCII format

At the IODE Workshop on QC/QA of Chemical Oceanographic Data (8-11 February 2010) it was agreed to submit the following proposals to the ODS process:
   1. QC quality flag scheme
   2. A schema for five data processing levels for data management

The success of the Ocean Data Standards process is dependent on the submission of suitable standards for consideration. The ETDMP needs to follow up with SeaDataNet and GE-BICH to ensure these proposals are submitted. ETDMP could also play a more proactive role in soliciting standards submissions.
Annex I

Recommendation IODE-XX.2

THE OCEAN DATA STANDARDS PILOT PROJECT

The IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange,

Acknowledging that the issue of standards is one of the most critical elements for IODE and the consolidation of a set of standards will benefit every member of IODE as well as the broader oceanographic data community,

Recognizing that interoperability between NODCs will be achieved through the use of internationally endorsed standards to allow shared use of metadata, data and products, and is key to the successful development of the Ocean Data Portal,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the Ocean Data Standards Pilot Project in developing a standards process,

Encourages all IOC Member States, Programmes and relevant organizations to collaborate with the Ocean Data Standards Pilot Project, by submitting standards for consideration and contributing to the evaluation process.

Urges Member States to play an active role in the Ocean Data Standards Process and to adopt recommended standards at the earliest opportunity.