

# Resolution 4 (EC-72)

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## Executive Council

Abridged Final Report of the Seventy-second Session

Videoconference

28 September–2 October 2020



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## Resolution 4 (EC-72)

### STRENGTHENING MARINE SERVICES

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

**Recalling:**

- (1) Resolution 29 (Cg-18) - Strengthening marine and coastal services,
- (2) Resolution 73 (Cg-18) - Strengthening the capacity of Members in service delivery,
- (3) Resolution 30 (Cg-18) – Exploring cost options for marine services in the future,
- (4) *Technical Regulations (WMO-No. 49), Volume I, Part IV - Meteorological, Hydrological and Climatological Services,*

**Noting:**

- (1) That the fifteenth session of the Joint WMO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) Management Committee (2018) endorsed the recommendation for WMO to propose an international symposium on extreme maritime weather to initiate, for the first time, a dialogue between governments, shipping companies and other interested stakeholders on the critical issue of ships still transiting into hazardous conditions despite the availability of marine weather forecasts and to determine how the meteorological community can minimize the risks posed by extreme weather to ships at sea,
- (2) The recognized gaps in marine service delivery, as shown in the WMO Survey of National Marine and Coastal Services (2018) (see Resolution 29 (Cg-18)/INF. 8.2) and the need for implementation of marine weather competency standards in line with the *Compendium of WMO Competency Frameworks* (WMO-No. 1209),

**Acknowledging:**

- (1) The first joint 'WMO-IMO International Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather: Towards Safety of Life at Sea and a Sustainable Blue Economy' (hereafter referred to as the 'WMO-IMO Symposium'), held at the IMO Headquarters (London) in October 2019 and endorsed as a contributing event to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and the key recommendations from the WMO-IMO Symposium including:
  - (a) Better marine weather forecasts should be provided to inform decisions to keep people and property safe at sea and in ports and harbours,
  - (b) Efforts should be made to close the gap in understanding between the maritime industry and the metocean community, especially through educational trainings for both mariners and metocean forecasters that would increase awareness between mariners and forecasters of each community's needs and operational constraints,
  - (c) Efforts should be made to 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,
  - (d) The research community should be looked to in order to inform operational and policy and decision-making, which can in turn inform subsequent research priorities,
  - (e) Requests should be made for more ships to participate in the WMO-IOC Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS) Scheme,
  - (f) Marine services should be encouraged to communicate impact-based weather forecasts as well as ancillary support in decision-making,
  - (g) A second WMO-IMO Symposium should be held to bring together the broad set of stakeholders to continue to address the recommendations outlined during the first WMO-IMO Symposium.
- (2) The successful development of the first Marine Services Capacity Development course 'Enhancing Marine Weather Forecasting Services', intended to be rolled out over a five-year period across more than 70% of Members (see EC-72/Doc. 4.4(3)), as well as the successful commencement of the course in March 2020, for the Spanish speaking Members in Regional Association III and Regional Association IV, coordinated by the

WMO Education and Training Office and Marine Services Division, with in-kind support from the State Meteorological Agency of Spain (*Agencia Estatal de Meteorología* (AEMET)),

- (3) The resources/requirements for addressing points (1) and (2) above,

**Having examined** the outcomes of the first WMO-IMO International Symposium “Extreme Maritime Weather: Towards Safety of Life at Sea and a Sustainable Blue Economy”, held at IMO Headquarters in London (UK) from 23 to 25 October 2019,

**Having considered** the recommendation of the Technical Coordination Committee contained in document EC-72/INF. 2.5(2),

**Decides:**

- (1) To commence addressing the key recommendations from the WMO-IMO Symposium via the Standing Committee for Marine Meteorology and Oceanographic Services (SC-MMO) to prioritize these recommended actions in partnership with IMO, IOC and other relevant stakeholders as soon as possible;
- (2) To work closely with NMHSs, WMO Regional Training Centres, appropriate nautical training institutes, and other relevant bodies, in collaboration with SC-MMO and the WMO Capacity Development Panel, to assist with the requested training and capacity development for metocean professionals (including forecasters) to better deliver marine weather forecasts, products and services, and for stakeholders to better understand and use the information from such forecasts, products and services;
- (3) In consultation with IMO and in view of the recommendations of SC-MMO following (1) above, to consider holding a follow-on WMO-IMO Symposium as soon as is practical, to build on the important dialogues between the metocean and maritime communities, and to continue to progress on the recommendations outlined in the first Symposium Report;

**Requests:**

- (1) The Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (Services Commission) to prioritize and initiate the recommended actions;
- (2) Regional associations, the technical commissions, the Research Board, the Capacity Development Panel and the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board:
  - (a) To contribute advice or expertise, when requested, on matters discussed at the Symposium, when relevant to their mandates, including providing comments and recommendations on any requested information;
  - (b) To ensure effective coordination of information to meet needs at the regional level and appropriate technical responses by the Organization;
  - (c) To contribute to the technical expertise and advice (guided by SC-MMO), and regional assistance required to facilitate and support closing the gap in stakeholder awareness and training, which includes the provision of technical experts to assist the WMO course ‘Enhancing Marine Weather Forecasting Services’, thereby enhancing marine weather competencies for Members;

**Invites Members:**

- (1) To increase their collaboration between relevant maritime safety agencies in their countries, beyond the traditional meteorological services, for example, port authorities,

maritime safety agencies, and to become more familiar with the needs of their customers, such as shipping companies and private industry (for example, oil and gas);

- (2) To contribute to closing the gap through their relevant staff participating in training initiatives, including, when relevant, the WMO "Enhancing Marine Weather Forecasting Services" course and liaison with training partners and maritime training institutions such as the Nautical Institute;
- (3) To report on their marine services activities carried out within their institutions and, when possible, regarding WMO marine weather competency frameworks;
- (4) To encourage members to operate shipboard observation programmes under the auspices of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Ship Observations Team (for example, the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) scheme, the Ship of Opportunity Programme (SOOP), and/or the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP), as well as to encourage networks in known shipping communities to join such programmes with the aim of increasing observations taken at sea, ultimately leading to improved marine weather forecasts, products and services;
- (5) To consider hosting the next WMO-IMO Symposium, potentially in 2022;

**Requests** the Secretary-General:

- (1) To continue to liaison with IMO to strengthen the partnership in marine meteorology and maritime safety provisions under the Safety of Life at Sea Convention and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS);
  - (2) To provide the necessary support for the priority activities recommended from the WMO-IMO Symposium.
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