

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

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5 January 2023

Annex: 1

Subject: Twelfth session of the Ship Observations Team (from 15 to 18 May 2023) and the XBT workshop (11 and 12 May 2023) in Melbourne, Australia (Hybrid)

- Action required:
- (1) To inform the WMO Secretariat of representatives participating in SOT-12 session (in-person or virtually), as soon as possible, but **preferably not later than 28 February 2023**
 - (2) To check the list of national focal points for Ship Observations Team programmes and notify required changes to the Secretariat

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Ship Observations Team (SOT) was created to build on synergies between the three groups involved in coordinating global ship-based observing programmes, i.e., the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Scheme, the Ship-of-Opportunity Programme (SOOP), and the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP), with a view to working towards a full-integration of ship-based observing systems on commercial and research vessels, within a multi-platform global ocean observing system.

Membership of the Team is open, and comprises operators of VOS, SOOP and ASAP networks, as well as representatives from other groups using ships as observing platforms. It also includes representatives from monitoring centres, data management centres, telecommunication providers, manufacturers, scientific advisory bodies and data users.

On behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, I have the pleasure to inform you that we will hold a two-day scientific workshop on Expendable Bathythermograph (XBT), on 11 and 12 May 2023; and also, the twelfth session of the Ship Observations Team (SOT-12), from 15 to 18 May 2023, at the kind invitation of the Bureau of Meteorology, in Melbourne, Australia as a hybrid meeting. The SOT Executive Committee plans to meet prior to the SOT-12 session on 14 May in the afternoon and after the SOT-12 session on 19 May 2023.

As a SOT Member operating VOS, SOOP, and/or ASAP, you are cordially invited to nominate one or more representative(s) to participate in the SOT-12 session. Relevant experts are also invited to participate in and contribute to the XBT scientific workshop. The SOT-12 session and the XBT scientific workshop will be conducted in a hybrid format and people will be

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Dr Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary, IOC/UNESCO
Ms Estelle Grueter, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks (SC-ON)/INFCOM
Dr David Legler, Chairperson, OCG/GOOS
Mr Darin Figurskey, Chairperson, SOT
Mr Joel Cabrie, vice-Chairperson, VOSP
Dr Francis Bringas, Dr Tamaryn Morris, Co-Chairpersons, SOOPIP
Mr Rudolf Krockauer, Chairperson, ASAP

able to join the events virtually as well. It should be noted that, according to established procedures for the SOT, financial assistance by WMO or IOC will not be available for the participation of delegates at the session. The provisional agenda, local and accommodation information, as well as all related documents will be posted, in due course, on the event website: <https://www.goosocean.org/SOT-12>. Documentation and discussion at both SOT-12 and the preceding XBT scientific workshop will be presented in English only.

I would also like to invite you to check the list of SOT National Focal Points (see details in the Annex to this letter) and report any discrepancies or changes required to the Secretariat, or to nominate new contact points if needed.

The SOT-12 will consist of a common session for the three programmes: the fourteenth session of the VOS Panel (VOSP); the sixteenth session of the SOOP Implementation Panel (SOOPIP); and an ASAP Panel session. A special session of the meeting will provide Members/Member States with a chance to report on their national activities related to the SOT. Each country is invited to provide only one consolidated national presentation on its SOT-related activities (i.e., VOS, SOOPIP, ASAP and Port Meteorological Officers (PMO)), as appropriate. Detailed information on the national reports session will be circulated to the Members in due course.

I would greatly appreciate if you could notify Ms Champika Gallage, at the WMO Secretariat (cgallage@wmo.int), as soon as possible, but **preferably not later than 28 February 2023**, as to whether your representative(s) will be able to participate in the SOT-12 session and/or the XBT scientific workshop. You are kindly requested to reply with the full name and contact details of the participating representatives. Please also indicate whether they will participate in-person or virtually.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the VOS focal point(s), SOOPIP member(s) and ASAP focal point(s) of your country, as appropriate.

We look forward to your favourable response and to your continuous and active participation in ocean observing activities, and, in particular the Ship Observations Team.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Wenjian Zhang
for the Secretary-General

SOT CONTACT POINTS

The Ship Observations Team (SOT) is maintaining lists of contact points for itself as well as for its sub-programmes.

WMO Members and IOC Member States operating ship-based observation programmes are invited to coordinate at the national level and nominate one SOT Focal Point for each Member/Member State. They may also nominate one or more contact point(s) for the SOT sub-programmes (VOS, SOOP, ASAP), and Port Meteorological Officers (PMOs).

The current lists of focal points are available from the web pages detailed in the table below. Members/Member States are invited to check these lists and report discrepancies or required changes to the attention of Ms Champika Gallage at: cgallage@wmo.int. and the SOT Technical Coordinator at: ship-tc@ocean-ops.org

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Lists	Summary	Website
SOT	National Focal Point <i>(one contact point per country)</i>	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7011
VOSP	National Focal Point(s) of the Voluntary Observing Ship Panel <i>(one or more contact point per country)</i>	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7013
SOOIP	National Focal Point(s) of the Ship of Opportunity Programme Implementation Panel <i>(one or more contact point per country)</i>	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7014
ASAP	National Focal Point(s) for the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme <i>(one or more contact point per country)</i>	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7012
PMOs	Port Meteorological Officers – <i>useful contacts</i>	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7015