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**International Ice Charting Working Group (IICWG) 2013**

**JCOMM Expert Team on Sea Ice (JCOMM ETSI)**

**Project**: Joint Production of Antarctic Sea Ice Analysis

**Contacts**: V. Smolyanitsky, AARI; N. Hughes, NIS; C. Panowicz, USNIC; C. Readinger, USNIC

**Background**

Over the years, the ice services of the IICWG have recognized the value of cooperative activities in ice services supporting maritime navigation and polar environmental awareness. With the implementation of the WMOSIGRID3 code used in geodatabases, the possibility of collaborative ice charting has made attaining this goal more realistic.

Currently, AARI produces bi-monthly (1st and 15th) Antarctic Sea Ice Analysis Charts. USNIC produces an analysis biweekly, and NIS analyzes sea ice for the Antarctic Peninsula and Weddell Sea on a weekly basis during the austral summer (October-April). Per agency specific requirements, all three agencies use SIGRID3 to code ice concentration, ice type, ice form, and icebergs.

Because of this overlapping area of responsibility, sea ice services of IICWG would like to implement a regular collaborative method to analyze and disseminate a weekly Antarctic sea ice analysis hence contributing to development of a safer ice navigation in the Antarctic waters as well as regional GMDSS.

**Desired Output**

An established process describing the parameters to be analyzed; a common geospatial dataset; a common coast line; defined dissemination process; documented methodology and a SOP to include a rotating schedule of the responsible analysis party; to deliver a sustained weekly hemispheric ice analysis.

**Requirements**

In order to appoint personnel to participate in this effort, the managements of the respective agencies must agree to a commitment to provide work time and resources (including some travel expenses) to participate in working groups required to develop and perfect process.

Methodology: Upon acceptance of this proposal, select personnel will manage the development of the product. Initial actions should include a well-defined end product and steps needed to achieve the product. USNIC contact will schedule the first meeting of the working group. A timeline, along with notes of discussions, proposals, details will be forwarded to appropriate agency chain of command. Each agency should monitor the progress of the project on a regular basis. Quarterly updates will be made to IICWG for informational purposes, as well as to ensure communication and obtain feedback from all IICWG ice services involved in the project.

**Acronyms**

AARI – Arctic and Antarctic research Institute

NIS – Norwegian Ice Service

SOP – Standard Operating Procedure

USNIC – United States National Ice Center