

# Report of the Task Team on Instrument Best Practices - Drifter Technology Development

Richard Crout, Chair  
Andy Sybrandy, Co-Chair

# Review of Terms of Reference

- Instrument Best Practices and Quality Management (6)
  - All buoy types
- Drifter Technology Developments (6)
- General (3)
  - Efforts to support JCOMM

# Reports

- Global Drifter Program Data Assembly Center (AOML)
- United Kingdom Met Office
- Meteo-France
- Environment Canada
- NIOT India
- Manufacturers
  - Marlin-Yug Ltd
  - Pacific-Gyre
  - DBI
- Science and Technology Workshop

# Issues

- Buoy lifetime investigations show perceived decrease
  - Batteries, communications, etc.
  - Time for improvements/fixes to get into the field
- Drogue loss being addressed by SIO and others
- New opportunities such as Iridium/Argos 3 show promise
- Evaluation of drifters often occurs operationally, takes time to notice issues and fixes must be effected

# Actions

- Did not adequately address issues from DBCP-27
  - Insistence on Calibration Certificates from sensor vendors, to support ISO documentation
  - Provide information on buoy specifications, manufacture date, and barometer length of life
  - Definition of minimum standard for buoy lifetime (in discussion)
- Previous Chair resigned in January and Interim Chair assigned in June, intersessional efforts were impacted
- Co-Chair from Manufacturer reaffirmed on a one-year rotating schedule, Andy Sybrandy elected
- Interim Chair, Richard Crout, elected to serve a full term
- Noted that the Task Team on Moored Buoys met at the same time, their input is missing

# Recommendations

- Review "Global Drifter Programme: Barometer Drifter Design Reference" Document, last revised Jul 2009
- Develop a definition for a specifications list, based upon existing metadata at AOML, to be used in reporting specifications to the community
- Develop a list of recommended standard documents that are to be delivered with buoys (including sensor calibration)
- Specify clear labeling in buoy packaging
- Define protocols for upgrade opportunities such as Iridium and SVPB
- Continue to report on members buoy performance experiences