

**AOPC-XIII: CONSOLIDATED LIST OF CONCLUSIONS,
RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

(Geneva, Switzerland, 21-25 April 2008)

DRAFT 25 APRIL 23.59, modified by AJS

71. AOPC acknowledged the detailed reports from the WMO Secretariat and Elizabeth Kent and colleagues on VOS and VOSClm issues. AOPC reaffirmed the great value of the VOS datasets for climate studies. This type of observation remains a key component of the climate observing system. The Panel stressed the need to maintain the operations of the VOS programme and adequate delivery of VOS data to international data centres.

72. The Panel noted with concern the decrease of data submissions by VOS ships and the impact of the recent masking of the ship's identification, which resulted in difficulties with regard to quality monitoring and accessing the ship metadata. The Panel invited the JCOMM to take all available actions to address these issues, in particular to

- 1) Improve and integrate instrument best practices.
- 2) Work with the shipping industry and their representatives (e.g. IMO, ICS, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO) to minimize the effect of ship masking and to maintain up-to-date metadata.
- 3) Make the VOS observations more cost-effective in terms of satellite data telecommunication (e.g. by the increased use of data compression for the transmission of the data from ship to shore).
- 4) Respond to the loss of information on several variables that has resulted from the increased use of AWS in the VOS scheme (now about 200 ships equipped) by encouraging the manual observation required for some traditional variables.