



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA,
AND INFORMATION SERVICE

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December 15, 2007

International Council for the Exploration
of the Sea (ICES)
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46
DK-1553 Copenhagen V
Denmark

ICES Ref: G84/GH/LS
Re: Letter of Agreement ICES and NODC

Dear Dr. Hubold:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the U.S. National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC)/World Data Center for Oceanography, Silver Spring (WDC) approved the Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the International Council of the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Enclosed is the signed Letter of Agreement.

This agreement re-affirms the long-term cooperation between ICES and NODC/WDC. We will continue to share our mutual interest in serving the scientific community with data and information for understanding the ocean and its role for human well-being.

I look forward to maintaining our productive relationship with ICES.

Sincerely,

Terrance A. Tielking
Acting Director
National Oceanography Data Center



**Letter of Agreement between
the National Oceanographic Data Center of
the United States of America
and the International Council for Exploration of the Seas (ICES)**

Based on their mutual interest in:

- serving the scientific community with data and information for understanding the ocean and its role for human well-being,
- providing access to oceanographic observational data and products,
- providing scientific oceanographic data services, and
- conducting assessments of the ocean environment,


The National Oceanographic Data Center of the USA, hereinafter referred to as USNODC, and the International Council for Exploration of the Seas, hereinafter referred to as ICES, agree to undertake the following activities:

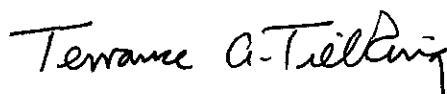
- 1) Each party will keep each other informed of planned and actual adoption of standards, participation in distributed data networks, and other matters of mutual interest or with wider implications.
- 2) There shall be reciprocal consultations and regular contacts between the Parties on matters of common interest in the field of marine data management and exchange
- 3) There shall be coordination and co-operation on operational issues of common interest to ensure reliable, secure data stores.
- 4) Exchange information on data management via, for example, exchange of experts in visiting science programmes, and participation in mutually relevant groups and projects;

Issues of common interest

- a) Data quality assurance measures with the aim of maintaining appropriate data quality levels while eliminating duplicated processing; this includes backups of data on a regular basis to ensure complete, secure data sets;
- b) Maintain international standards for data, data processing and data exchange protocols. NODC recognizes ICES role in assigning platform codes and will coordinate on new or code changes.
- c) Planning and actual adoption of standards, participation in distributed data networks, and other matters of mutual interest or with wider implications.

Signed on behalf of the National Oceanographic Data Center of the United States of America and the International Council for Exploration of the Seas (ICES):


Gerd Hubold
General Secretary of ICES
Date: 1 December 2007


Terrance A. Tielking
Acting Director, National Oceanographic
Data Center of the United States of America
Date: XX 2007

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