

### **5.3 Standard for Tidal Data Exchange (#3)**

A PCTMSL Working Group discussed this issue at a workshop held on 25 March 2004 and recommended the following to the PCTMSL:

- (i) Maintain the status quo for intra-national data exchange, ie continue using existing proprietary formats rather than going to a common format. *(At this stage there is insufficient need to develop a national standard. The intra-national exchange of tidal readings is occurring satisfactorily.)*
- (ii) The National Tidal Centre (NTC) should be the national focal point for international obligations relating to data exchange. However this concept should acknowledge that there are national agencies (eg. Australian Antarctic Division) that deal directly at international levels. The NTC will in the future use whatever formats are required to transmit data internationally.
- (iii) There is a requirement for a mandatory minimum set of metadata for transferring data. This metadata, to be transferred in a common textual format, would comprise six elements (extracted from the ANZLIC Metadata Guidelines): Identification (Station Name & Geographical Co-ordinates); Measurement Units; Details of Owner/Custodian and Contact details; Date of Supply; Quality Assessment; Instrumentation. *(This minimum set of metadata would enable the customer to seek more information from the data provider).*

The PCTMSL meeting held on 26 March 2004 endorsed the above recommendations.

The Committee also resolved that the issue of quality assessment (one of the mandatory metadata fields outlined above) needs to be developed further, preferably for it to be an objective measure (standard deviations, adjustments that have been made, etc) rather than a subjective one (good, bad, etc). The PCTMSL tasked the Working Group with continuing this particular activity, and to circulate a draft (on the quality element) to Members by 30 September 2004. The feedback received from members would be discussed at the next PCTMSL meeting in October 2004.

**5.3.1 Recommendations:** That ICSM endorse the PCTMSL policy for Tidal Data Exchange and note the ongoing efforts to develop an objective measure for quality assurance of metadata.

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