CIESM Round table session on

Mediterranean Water Mass Acronyms

This round-table session benefited from the work of a previous CIESM session on the subject. Following broad discussions, the group of participants (see list in Annex 1) agreed on the following acronyms for the major Mediterranean water masses.

Agreed acronyms for major Mediterranean water masses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AW</td>
<td>Atlantic Water (Surface water of Atlantic origin. Formerly MAW, NAW, etc).</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIW</td>
<td>Western Mediterranean Intermediate Water (Formerly Winter Intermediate Water, in the Western Basin).</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIW</td>
<td>Levantine Intermediate Water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMWDW</td>
<td>Western Mediterranean Deep Water.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TDMW</td>
<td>Tyrrenian Deep Water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASW</td>
<td>Adriatic Surface Water (Po influenced).</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSW</td>
<td>Levantine Surface Water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSW</td>
<td>Black Sea Water (Surface water of Black Sea origin).</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIW</td>
<td>Cretan Intermediate Water.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAdDW or NADDW</td>
<td>North Adriatic Deep Water (Formerly NADW).</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADW</td>
<td>Adriatic Deep Water (Formed in the southern Adriatic, main component of the EMDW and sometimes called SADW).</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDW</td>
<td>Cretan Deep Water (Involved recently in EMDW. Sometimes referred as CSOW).</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDW</td>
<td>Levantine Deep Water (Formed in NW Levantine Basin).</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMDW</td>
<td>Eastern Mediterranean Deep Water (Kept for historical reasons).</td>
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<tr>
<td>EOW</td>
<td>Eastern Mediterranean Overflow Water (Sometimes called AIW or tEDMW at the Sicily channel).</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOW</td>
<td>Mediterranean Outflow Water (At the Gibraltar strait) (MW in the Atlantic).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
This list was derived from a new set of rules agreed by the participants in order to
govern the designation (current and future) of water mass acronyms in the
Mediterranean Sea. From now on, these rules will be applied to all water masses that
are predominant at the Basin or at sub-Basin scales.

Set of rules adopted for the acronyms of major Mediterranean Water Masses :

- The first letters, up to three, of the acronym will indicate the name of the
  location where the water mass is formed. This will be an abbreviation of a
  geographical name. Other types of features, like eddies, should be avoided. The
  abbreviation may contain, optionally, lower case letters.
- Next will be a single letter indicating the level. The only letters accepted
  here are: “S”, “I”, “D” or “O” for Surface, Intermediate or Deep layers,
  respectively; “O” will indicate “water overflowing” at sills. In cases where
  no confusion is possible, this letter will be missing.
- Finally the single letter “W”, to signal the acronym of a water mass.
- There cannot be two different water masses with the same acronym.

- A CIESM “editorial board”, composed of relevant experts from Committee
  C2 (Physics and Climate of the Ocean) will oversee the naming of future
  Mediterranean water masses.

Jordi Salat and Alex Theocharis
Moderators
Annex 1

List of participants:

Antonio Artegiani : artegiani@irpem.au.cnr.it
Karine Beranger: kbe@lodyc.jussieu.fr
Jean Pierre Bethoux: bethoux@obs-vlfr.fr
Abdelhafid Chalabi : thalassophile@yahoo.fr
Maria Luz Fernandez de Puelles : mluz.fernandez@ba.ieo.es
Jordi Font : jfont@icm.csic.es
Jean-Luc Fouda : jean-luc@ifremer.fr
Miroslav Gacic : mgacic@ogs.trieste.it
Maria Jèsus Garcia: mjesus.garcia@md.ieo.es
Isaac Gertman : isaac@ocean.org.il
Nagiwa Hamad : nhamad@ifremer.fr
Werner Hieke : werner.hieke@geo.tum.de
Jordi Isern : jisern@cmima.csic.es
Alexander Lascaratos : alasc@oc.phys.uoa.gr
José Luis Lopez-Jurado : lopez.jurado@ba.ieo.es
Claude Millot : cmillot@ifremer.fr
Begoña Perez: bego@puertos.es
Nicolai Rachov : rachev@itt.ts.cnr.it
Fabio Raicich : fabio.raicich@itt.ts.cnr.it
Gilles Rougier : grougier@ifremer.fr
Jordi Salat : salat@icm.csic.es
Isabelle Taupier-Letage : itaupier@ifremer.fr
Alexander Theocaris : alekos@nhreas.ncmr.gr
George Zodiatis : gzodiac@spidernet.com.cy