

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 :

AW:	A tlantic W ater (Surface water of Atlantic origin. Formerly MAW, NAW, etc).
WIW:	W estern M editerranean I ntermediate W ater (Formerly Winter Intermediate Water, in the Western Basin).
LIW:	L evantine I ntermediate W ater.
WMDW:	W estern M editerranean D eep W ater.
TDW:	T yrrenian D eep W ater.
ASW:	A driatic S urface W ater (Po influenced).
LSW:	L evantine S urface W ater.
BSW:	B lack S ea W ater (Surface water of Black Sea origin).
CIW:	C retan I ntermediate W ater.
NAddW or	
NADDW:	N orth A driatic D eep W ater (Formerly NADW).
ADW:	A driatic D eep W ater (Formed in the southern Adriatic, main component of the EMDW and sometimes called SADW).
CDW:	C retan D eep W ater (Involved recently in EMDW. Sometimes referred as CSOW).
LDW:	L evantine D eep W ater (Formed in NW Levantine Basin).
EMDW:	E astern M editerranean D eep W ater (Kept for historical reasons).
EOW:	E astern M editerranean O verflow W ater (Sometimes called AIW or tEMDW at the Sicily channel).
MOW:	M editerranean O utflow W ater (At the Gibraltar strait) (MW in the Atlantic).

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.

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Moderators

Annex 1

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