IOC Circular Letter No. 2267
(Available in English, French, Russian, Spanish) 14 May 2008

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC
    Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
    National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
    Officers of the Commission and Subsidiary Bodies

cc. : The Director-General
     The Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation
     The Director, Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs

Subject : Services provided by the JCOMM in-situ Observing Platform Support Centre

As part of the services offered by JCOMMOPS through the Argo Information Centre, IOC has been publishing on the internet the geo-referenced position of all Argo floats deployed as part of the Argo Programme, together with referential information bearing on the limits of national jurisdictional spaces.

Considering that the delimitation of maritime spaces is clearly outside the competences of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and taking especially into account the explicit and precise expression of intention contained in its Statutes, Article 3 Paragraph 5, that “Nothing in these statutes shall imply the adoption of a position of the Commission regarding the nature or extent of the jurisdiction of coastal States in general or of any coastal State in particular”, from this date on the web services of the JCOMMOPS will not include references to terrestrial or maritime jurisdictional limits.

.../...
The service of the Argo Information Centre providing geo-referenced position of all Argo floats part of the Argo Project will continue to be published in the web together with all the other ancillary information pertaining to each float. Through this modified service the Secretariat continues to make available to all Member States of the Commission the information required to comply with IOC Resolution XX-6, "The Argo Project" (IOC-XX/3, 1999).

[signed]

Patricio Bernal
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO
Executive Secretary, IOC