

<b>International Comprehensive Ocean-Atmosphere Data Set (ICOADS)</b>	<b>Release 2.5</b>
R2.5 (1662-2007) and "Preliminary" (2008-forward) Data Available at NCDC	15 February 2012
Document name:	<i>R2.5-README_ ICOADS_NCDC</i>

## Background

ICOADS (<http://icoads.noaa.gov/>) Release 2.5 (R2.5) (Woodruff 2011 et al.) individual observations span the years 1662-2007. Additionally, following the official end date of R2.5 (December 2007), "preliminary" (note: subject to change and not part of R2.5) near-real-time (NRT) monthly updates (available 2-5 days after the end of each data month) augment this collection and extend the dates from 2008 to the most recent month available. The NRT observations are exclusively based on marine Global Telecommunication System (GTS) observations from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP).

All observations available in this directory (<http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/icoads2.5/>) R2.5 and NRT updates, are "enhanced" filtered. The enhanced filter option is designed to select almost all available observations, including ships, buoys, and additional platforms such as oceanographic profilers. Furthermore, this filter excludes (trims) outliers that fall outside 4.5 standard deviations from the smoothed median. For more information on enhanced observations please read: [http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/stat\\_trim](http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/stat_trim). From the project website (<http://icoads.noaa.gov/products.html>) you can find out about other filtering operations, as well as about monthly summary statistics (basic gridded) products, provided from the other ICOADS project partners.

## Data Format and Access

All observations are in the International Maritime Meteorological Archive (IMMA) format (ICOADS 2010). Format documentation and field descriptions can be found in the abridged version at: [http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/imma/R2.5-imma\\_short.pdf](http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/imma/R2.5-imma_short.pdf). Software to read and write the IMMA format is available at <http://icoads.noaa.gov/software/rdimma0>.

## Filename Descriptions

1. Release 2.5 observations (1662-2007):

IMMA\_R2.5.yyyy.mm\_ENH

IMMA = International Maritime Meteorological Archive (IMMA) Format

R2.5 = Release 2.5 observations

yyyy = year

mm = month

ENH = Enhanced trimming

2. NRT (preliminary) extensions to R2.5 created from NCEP GTS (2008-present):

IMMA\_R2.5P.yyyy.mm\_ENH

IMMA = International Maritime Meteorological Archive (IMMA) Format

R2.5P = "Preliminary" NRT observations

yyyy = year

mm = month

ENH = Enhanced trimming

## References

- ICOADS, 2010: Archival of Data Other than in IMMT Format: The International Maritime Meteorological Archive (IMMA) Format. <http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/imma/R2.5-imma.pdf>
- Woodruff, S.D., S.J. Worley, S.J. Lubker, Z. Ji, J.E. Freeman, D.I. Berry, P. Brohan, E.C. Kent, R.W. Reynolds, S.R. Smith, and C. Wilkinson, 2011: ICOADS Release 2.5: Extensions and enhancements to the surface marine meteorological archive. *Int. J. Climatol.* ([CLIMAR-III Special Issue](#)), **31**, 951-967 ([doi:10.1002/joc.2103](https://doi.org/10.1002/joc.2103)).

## Contact Points

For information on the NCDC ICOADS collection in this directory and ICOADS or marine observation data access at NCDC, please contact:

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## Document Revision Information

Previous document version: undated version, transitioned into standard ICOADS e-doc format.

Previous document version: R2.5-README\_ICOADS\_NCDC\_20120214, added external url for data access to these files.