

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)

JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR
OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY (JCOMM)
SHIP OBSERVATIONS TEAM

SOT-IV/Doc. IV-3.4
(15.II.2007)

FOURTH SESSION

ITEM IV-3.4

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 16 TO 21 APRIL 2007

Original: ENGLISH

**VOSP-V
MONITORING AND DATA MANAGEMENT**

VOSClim DAC Report

(Submitted by Alan Hall)

Summary and purpose of document

To update the Ship Observations Team of the VOSClim Data Assembly Center's activity since SOT-III.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Ship Observations Team is invited to:

- (a) Review new web page and data access;
- (b) Celebrate the milestone of more than 200 ships recruited;
- (c) Define beginning collection dates;

Appendices:

- A. Screenshots from VOSClim web site.

DISCUSSION

1. Data Assembly

The National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) is the Data Assembly Center (DAC) for the VOSCLIM Project. NCDC maintains several archives in support of the VOSCLIM Project and hosts a web presence¹ for access to project information and data.

The archive consists of three data streams:

- GTS - near-real time collection of ship observations
- BUFR – ship observations plus model fields
- GCC – Global Collection Centers delayed mode ship observations

VOSCLIM observations from all streams are captured based on the most current ship list² available. GTS ship observations are transmitted over the GTS under a variety of WMO headers. BUFR ship observations are transmitted daily via GTS under WMO abbreviated header IZZX40 from the UK Met Office. The GCC in Germany places the delayed mode collection on an FTP server quarterly. All data sources have, or will soon have, backup capability in case the primary source is unavailable.

Observations are decoded into the International Maritime Meteorological Archive (IMMA) format³ and placed on the project web site⁴.

2. VOSCLIM Web Page and Data Access Update

The web page and data access were changed dramatically. The web page has a new look and feel and was received positively by external reviewers.

Data access was changed from a relational database to a simpler text file format. The relational database method for access was cumbersome to load and retrieve data. Further, it did not support automated download of data. The text files are kept on an FTP server divided by data source, year, and month. This simpler access is easier to maintain by the DAC and supports automated download of data.

The URL for web access is <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/vosclim/vosclimdata.html> and allows viewing of the data directly by any browser. For an automated download, the data is available on an anonymous FTP site <ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/vosclim>. In either location separate folders exist for each year beginning with 2001. The data is not duplicated in any way.

Also available for download from the FTP site is the VOSCLIM Ship List in MS Excel format; award pictures; ship pictures; and the statistics and suspect ship reports.

3. VOSCLIM Ship List

It is with great pleasure to note that the number of recruited ships has now reached 218. The original goal of recruited ships was 200.

1 <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/vosclim/vosclim.html>

2 <http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/vosclim/vosclimshiplist.xls>

3 <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/documentlibrary/vosclim/imma.pdf>

4 <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/vosclim/vosclimdata.html>

4. DAC Discussion Topics

The meeting is invited to discuss the following recommendations.

4.1 New data access: The new data access is currently designed to provide monthly data for GTS and BUFR collectives. This could be maintained on a daily basis if the team so desires.

4.2 Recruitment dates: On several occasions the recruitment date of a ship is significantly different from the date submitted to the DAC. One recruitment date was noted to be a full year difference. This causes problems for data collection if the date of recruitment is used as the beginning date. A separate process must be initiated to retrieve data that is more than a month old; this is generally a manual process.


Either the notification of recruitment to the DAC must be by the 5 of the month or the date the notification receipt should be used.

Appendix: 1


APPENDIX: A

The image is a screenshot of the VOSCLIM project website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with five blue tabs: 'About VOSCLIM', 'Project Datasets', 'Ship Information', 'Data Monitoring', and 'Project Documents and Promotion'. To the right of these tabs is a 'Links and Contacts' link. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a white container ship named 'COMCREON' sailing on the ocean. The ship has 'Seatrade' written on its side. Overlaid on the banner are several text links: 'About VOSCLIM' in the upper left, 'VOSCLIM Brochure' in the middle left, 'VOSCLIM Article - The Way Ahead' in the middle right, and 'VOSCLIM Project Document' in the lower left. In the bottom right corner of the banner, there is a circular logo for the 'VOS CLIMATE PROJECT' featuring a stylized ship and the text 'VOS CLIMATE PROJECT' around the perimeter. At the bottom center of the banner, there is a caption: 'Image courtesy of Seatrade Reefer Chartering'.

About VOSclim	Project Datasets	Ship Information	Data Monitoring	Project Documents and Promotion	Links and Contacts
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VOSclim Data



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2001• 2002• 2003• 2004• 2005• 2006• 2007	<p>Click the links to the left to access monthly text files of VOSclim data</p>
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For database access to the same data, as well as data from buoys and other ships, please go to the [marine data portal of NCDC's 'Climate Data Online' store](#)

About
VOSClim

Project
Datasets

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Project Documents and Promotional Material



VOSClim Ship Metadata

- [WMO metadata listings for all VOS ships \(pub 47\)](#)
- Please note that new metadata requirements will come into force in July 2007 and documentation is available on the WMO link above

Ship and Instrument Photographs

- [NCDC ftp-site with photographs of ships by call sign and ship name](#)
- [Dutch web-site with ship photographs](#)
- [NCDC ftp-site with photographs of VOSClim Certificates of Participation presentations](#)



This section is under construction and more pictures will be available soon.

Project Ship List

- [Ship list \(MS Excel\)](#)

Candidate ship list

- [Candidate Ship list \(MS Word\)](#)

About VOSCLim	Project Datasets	Ship Information	Data Monitoring	Project Documents and Promotion	Links and Contacts
	<h2>Data Monitoring Statistics</h2>				
Select	Report:	Select Year	Select Month		
<input type="radio"/> Monthly	statistics	<input type="text" value="2006"/>	<input type="text" value="December"/>		
<input type="radio"/> Ship suspect list*					
<input type="button" value="View Report"/>		<input type="button" value="Reset options"/>			

*Please note that there are no ship suspect reports for January-April 2002 and reports exist only for limited elements for the remainder of 2002

About
VOSClm

Project
Datasets

Ship
Information

Data
Monitoring

Project Documents
and Promotion

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Contacts



Project Documents and Promotional Material



VOSClm Survey/Recruitment Form

- [Instructions \(pdf\)](#)
- [Blank Form \(pdf\)](#)
- [Form Example \(pdf\)](#)
- [Format Description \(html\)](#)

VOSClm Certificates

- [Certificate of Appreciation Instructions \(pdf\)](#)
- [Certificate of Appreciation \(pdf\)](#)
- [Certificate of Participation Instructions \(pdf\)](#)
- [Certificate of Participation \(pdf\)](#)

VOSClm Certificate Presentation Photographs

- [photographs](#)

VOSClm Newsletters

- [October 2003 \(pdf\)](#)

VOSClm Articles

- [VOSClm article - The Way Ahead](#)
- [VOSClm Brochure](#)

VOSClm Scientific Papers

- [VOS and VOSClm related articles \(external link\)](#)

About
VOSClim

Project
Datasets

Ship
Information

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and Promotion

Links and
Contacts



Links and Contacts for VOSClim



Contacts

- [List of VOSClim contacts](#) (Word document)

Links

- Data Formats
 - [IMMA - VOSClim Archive Format \(PDF\)](#)
 - [WMO Pub. 47 - International List of Voluntary Observing Ships](#)
- Datasets
 - [The International Comprehensive Ocean-Atmosphere Data Set \(ICOADS\)](#)
- Institutions/ Program web-sites
 - [The Southampton Oceanography Centre VOSClim Page](#)
 - [Dutch VOSClim Page](#)
 - [United States Voluntary Observing Ships Program Page](#)
 - [Australian Oceanographic Data Centre](#)
 - [Meteo France Monitoring Site](#)
- General and Operational Links
 - [WMO Home Page](#)
 - [MarinersGuide.com's Marine Weather Links](#)
 - [Global Climate Observing System \(GCOS\)](#)
 - [TurboWin](#)
 - [JCOMMOPS](#)