

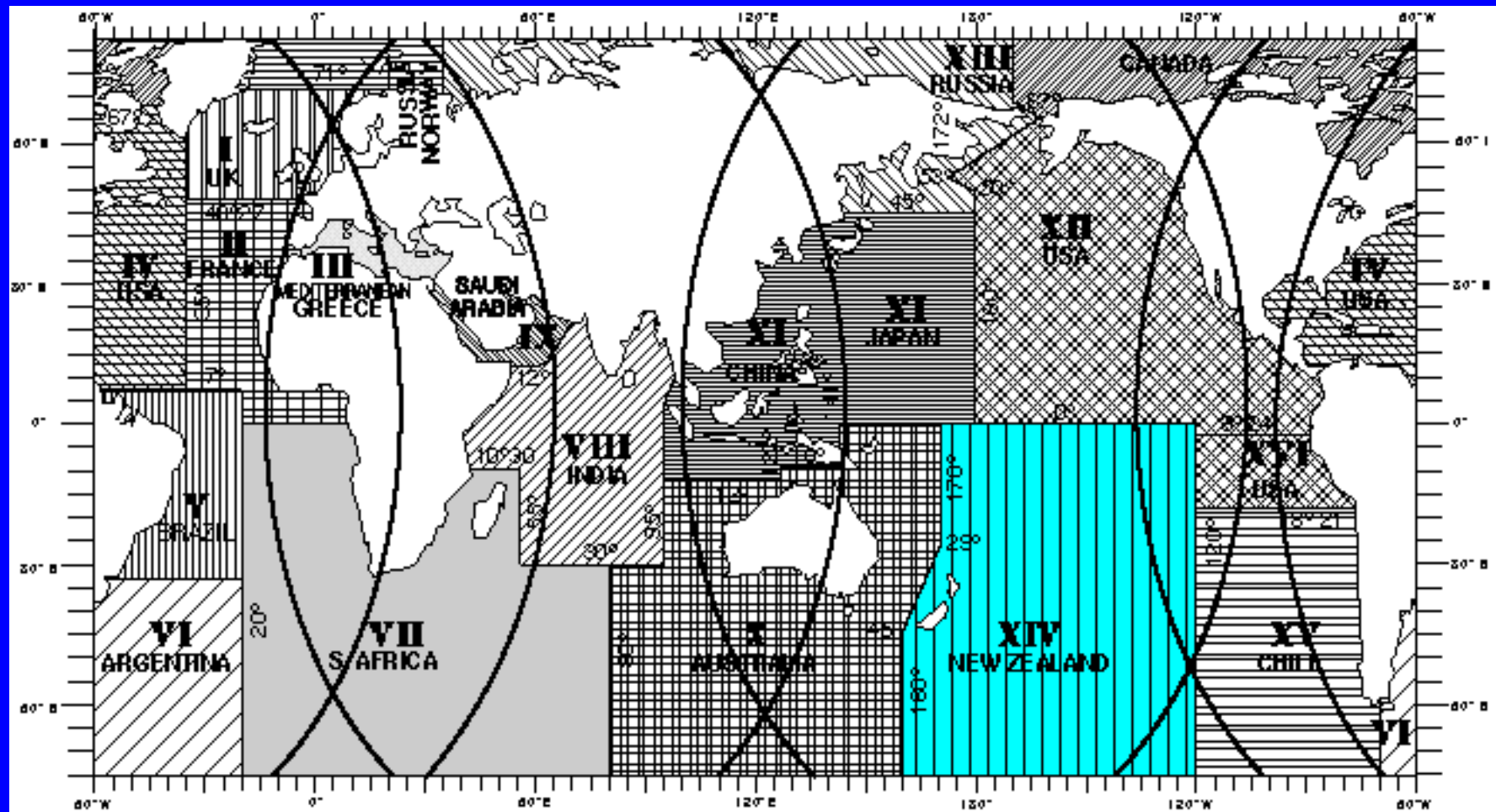
~METSERVICE



Julie Fletcher
Manager Marine
Observations

NZ Marine Network at 1/7/03

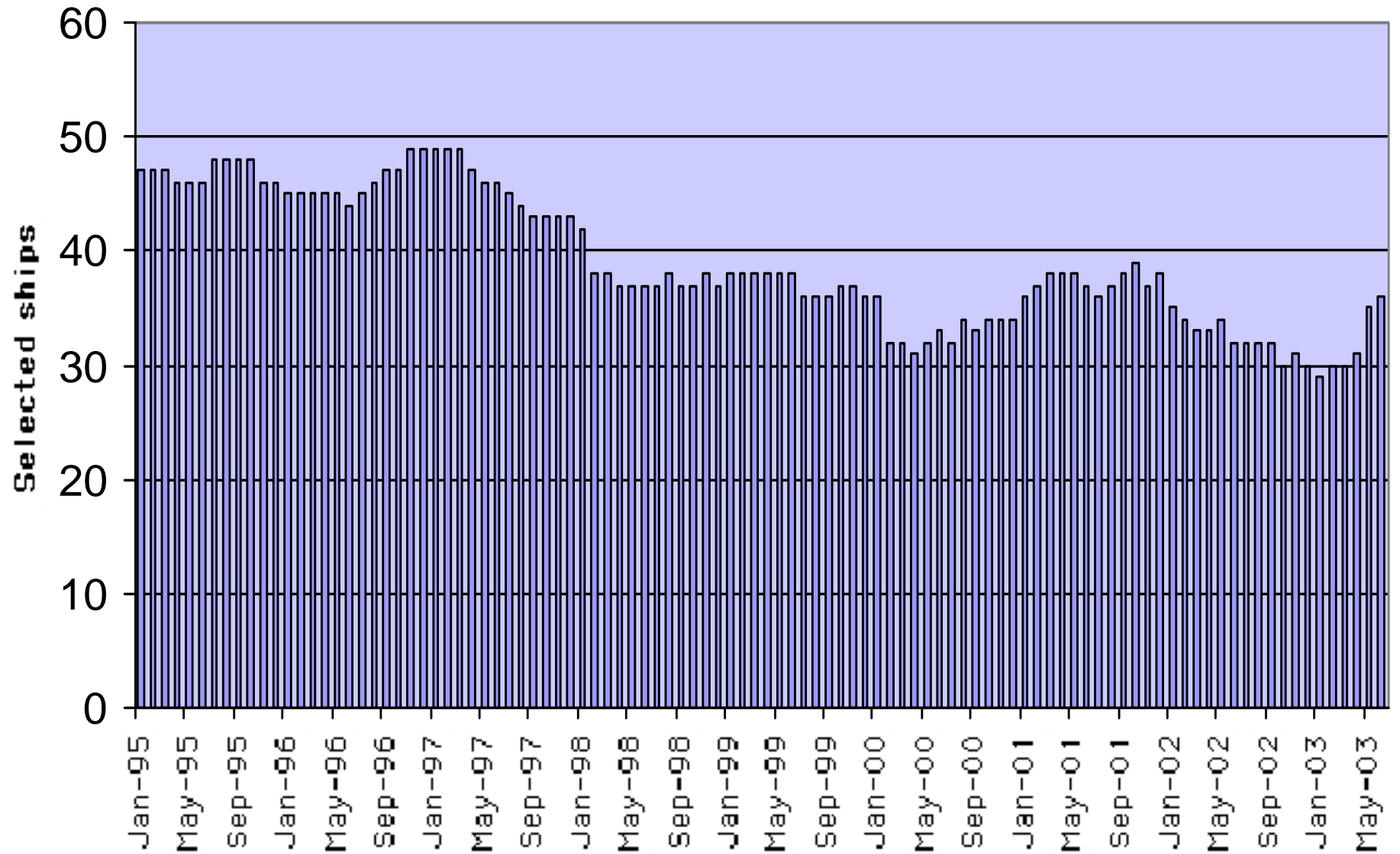
- 8 Drifting Buoys
- Total NZ VOS = 50
36 Selected 6 Supplementary 8
Auxiliary



NZ VOS Fleet Changes

- Recruited 2002 = 4
- Recruited 2003 (first 6 months) = 9
- Decommissioned 2002 = 11
- Decommissioned 2003 = 3
- Percentage VOS not reporting Dec 02 = 3%
- Total No. SHIP OBs on GTS 2002 = 18852

NZ VOS - Numbers of Selected Ships



NZ VOS Objectives

- To maintain a VOS fleet of about 40 Selected ships to provide timely accurate real-time coded SHIP data for Forecasting
- To exchange SHIP data internationally to provide input to global models & be available for Climatological and Research applications

VOS Responsibilities

- All Ship visits
- Recruitment of VOS ships
- All correspondence with ships, WMO..
- Maintenance of VOS data base
- Assistance to Foreign VOS
- Monitoring of Ship OBs
- QC + follow up action

Challenges & Difficulties

- Constant change in marine industry
- Change of ships, charters, routes, personnel
- VOS numbers are volatile
- Increase in FOC ships
- Shorter port stays - more after hours visiting
- Language problems

NZ VOS instrumentation

- Precision Aneroid barometer
- Marine Barograph
- Stevenson Screen
- Mercury thermometers
- Sea Bucket
- One Marine AWS- based on Sutron 9000RTU

Inspection Regime

- All NZ VOS inspected at least once per year
- Some ships receive several visits
- All barometers calibrated against PMO's Vaisala 220AD Transfer Standard barometer which is traceable to National/International standards
- Foreign VOS ships visited when possible

Communications

- Most ships send via SAT C - special access code 41
- Few coastal ships phone/fax to 0800 number

Receipt of OBs monitored

No OBs can be first sign of problems

- Monthly check for receipt of all callsigns in NZ VOS
- Follow up ships identified as sending few or no OBs

OBs Quality Monitored

- PMO access to Real Time GTS SHIP OBs
- Automated computer QC - manual editing
- Forecaster & Data Entry feedback
- Daily summary of OBs with coding errors
- UKMO monthly Monitoring Stats
- WMO 6 monthly Monitoring Stats

What could improve my job?

- Up to date on-line WMO No 47
- Reliable callsign/ship name/Sat C matching
- Greater global communication between PMOs
- Simplification of the SHIP code

Steering Strategies

- Number of ships in VOS not important - it's the number that report that count
- Coded OBs are worthless if they are not received at the Forecasting Office
- Doesn't matter which country a ship reports for, so long as it reports.