# NWS Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program



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# NWS Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program

www.vos.noaa.gov

# Port Meteorological Officers (PMO)

NWS personnel supporting U.S. participation in the international Voluntary Observing Ship program

# NWS VOS Program

- Currently comprised of primarily manual observation vessels with a few having automated systems.

- VOS modernization initiative is being formulated with planned FY06 implementation.

- Prototype automated system with wide range of potential applicability is in early stage of development with plan to deploy in test by end of FY04.

- NOAA wide budget cuts are affecting VOS program.
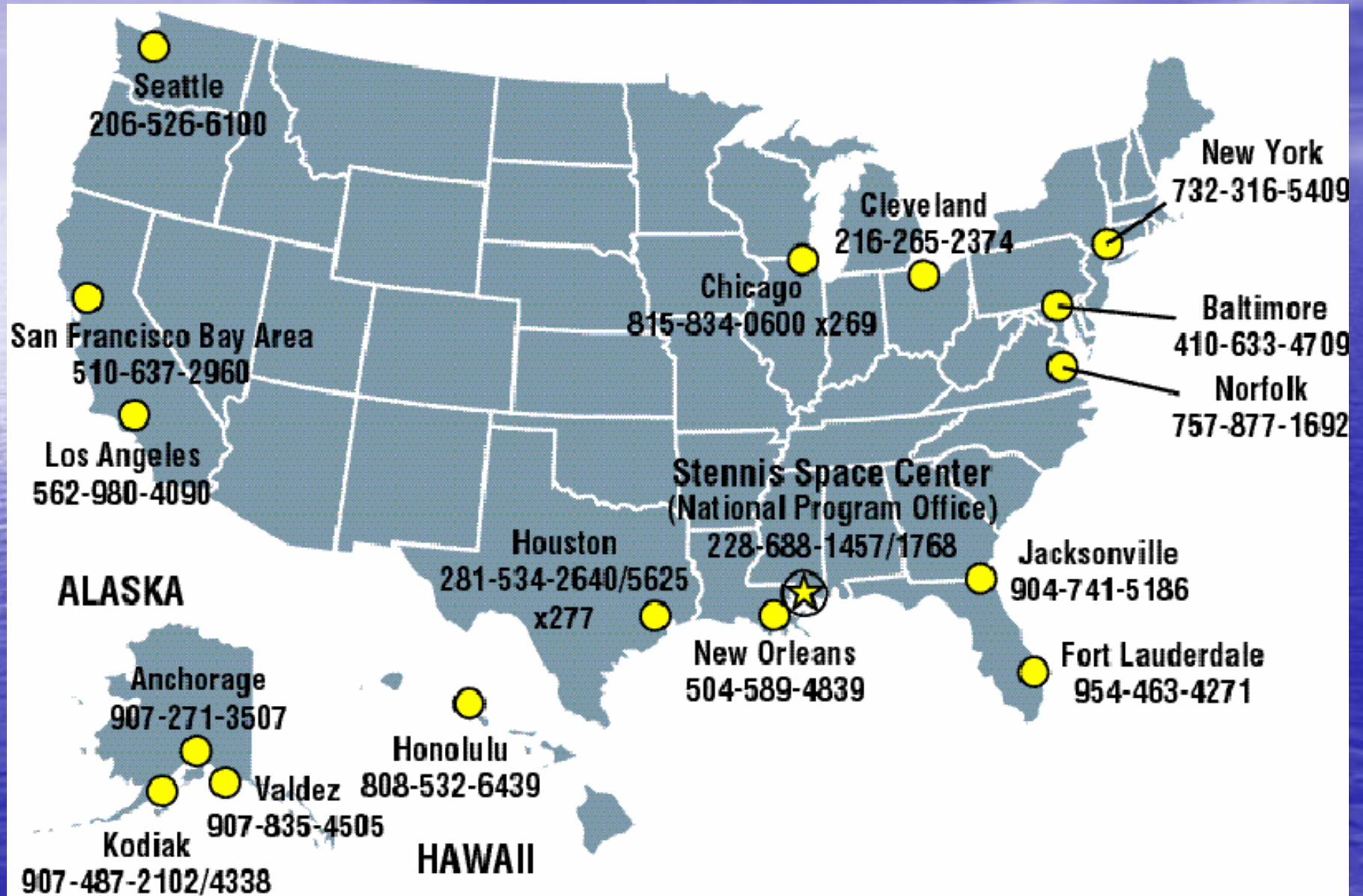
# NWS Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program

- **US NWS VOS program**:

  - Number of ships participating in VOS as at 31 Dec 2002  -  943
  - 526 Selected
  - 137 Supplementary
  - 131 Auxiliary
  - 49 Other (Great Lakes)
  - 13 VOSClim participants (expanded recruitment to reach goal of 50 is underway)
  - Shipboard Environmental (Data) Acquisition (SEAS) software account is used on 353 of the selected vessels.
  - Ocean Prediction Center QCs data in near real time, PMOs QC delayed mode data
  - Average 500 ships submit observations in any given month
  - 100,000 observations received in 2002
  - The Mariners Weather Log continues to be the primary published forum to disseminate VOS information to US VOS participants
  - 80 performance awards given during FY03
  - Numerous certificates of appreciation given

- **Currently have 17 PMOs (Cleveland PMO position moving to Charleston, SC)**

# PMO Mission

Recruit, train, and support ships to participate in VOS program as part of the U.S. commitment to SOLAS

# PMO Locations



Seattle
206-526-6100

San Francisco Bay Area
510-637-2960

Los Angeles
562-980-4090

ALASKA

Anchorage
907-271-3507

Valdez
907-835-4505

Kodiak
907-487-2102/4338

Honolulu
808-532-6439

HAWAII

Houston
281-534-2640/5625
x277

New Orleans
504-589-4839

Stennis Space Center
(National Program Office)
228-688-1457/1768

Chicago
815-834-0600 x269

Cleveland
216-265-2374

Jacksonville
904-741-5186

Fort Lauderdale
954-463-4271

New York
732-316-5409

Baltimore
410-633-4709

Norfolk
757-877-1692

# PMO Responsibilities

➢ Recruit ships, especially those traveling in data sparse areas

➢ Train Ship's officers/crew

➢ Check sensors & provide them to Selected vessels

➢ Perform Quality Control of observations

➢ PMOs work directly for their respective NWS Region