

SOT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006

REPORT BY THE TASK TEAM ON VOS RECRUITMENT AND PROGRAMME PROMOTION

(report submitted by Julie Fletcher, Task Team Chairperson)

Status of Action Items from SOT III for TT on VOS Recruitment and Programme Promotion

1/ 4.1.6 International Newsletter to be kept under review

This was also discussed at PMO-III, Hamburg, March 2006. Action Item No 20 from PMO-III invited member countries to volunteer to publish a SOT newsletter on behalf of the TT. In view of limited resources to prepare and publish a SOT newsletter, it was agreed that newsworthy material could be placed on the Wiki website hosted by E-SURFMAR for use by any NMS that publishes a marine-based newsletter. The cover page for the repository of articles is

http://esurfmar.meteo.fr/wikisurf/index.php/Marine_Observing_Articles

and authors are invited to contact Pierre Blouch at Meteo France.

III/ A4.2.4 Tools developed by the TT (eg flyer, PowerPoint presentation) be used to promote VOS thro shipping companies

These tools are all available on the VOS website for promotional use

<http://www.bom.gov.au/jcomm/vos/resources.html#operational4>

III A/4.5.3 VOSP to provide VOSP Chair with list of improvements to the Marine Meteorological Services monitoring questionnaire to be passed to ETMSS for inclusion in the next questionnaire.

The update of the questionnaire was completed and sent to Henri Savina, Chair of ETMSS on 30 August 2006 for consideration at ETMSS-II.

Progress by TT on Tasks defined at SOT III

Five tasks were identified for the TT to progress, these are numbered below with the actions achieved listed below each task.

- 1. Further develop the generic pre-installation design standards that will eventually be available to ship builders and classification societies.*
Work in progress - WMO sent a letter about ship design to the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) in February 2007 and the issue was discussed at a high level WMO-IMO consultative meeting in Geneva in February. WMO will report on this.
- 2. Review existing promotional aids (flyer, certificate) and recommend new promotional aids.*
The promotional aids are on the VOS website and being used.
- 3. Promote the use of, and keep under review, the promotional presentation "The Partnership between the Maritime Industry, Marine Forecasting and Science".*
The PowerPoint presentation still conveys the right message, but some of the slides need updating to keep it current.
- 4. Establish a store of newsworthy articles for use in a SOT or VOS Clim Newsletter or in national newsletters.*
Agreed to use the E-SURFAR Wiki website
- 5. Review the questionnaire used for the Marine Meteorological Services Monitoring*

Programme, and propose amendments, which should be reflected in the questionnaire survey to be conducted in 2008.

Questionnaire review completed and revised questionnaire sent to Chair of ETMSS, in August 2006. The questionnaire was discussed and adopted at the Expert Team on Maritime Safety Services (ETMSS-II) in Brazil in January 2007, and will be disseminated for the next monitoring survey in early 2008, after final discussion during the SOT-IV in April 2007.

Summary of other work completed under the TT

Initiatives

1. The SOT Certificate and Flyer were finalized and put on the VOS web site <http://www.bom.gov.au/jcomm/vos/resources.html#operational5> during the 4th quarter (Q4) 2005. These are now in routine use.
2. The PMO and VOS FP group mailing lists were established to improve global communication and these are being used. pmo@jcommops.org and vos@jcommops.org
3. The Foreign VOS Inspection form (Annex 3) was completed in Q2, 2006 and put on the VOS website http://www.bom.gov.au/jcomm/vos/documents/foreign_vos_inspection_form.doc for PMOs to download. PMOs should use this generic inspection form to record the details of a visit to a foreign VOS ship and then email the completed form to the VOS FP in the country of recruitment.
4. VOS Quick Reference Guides for PMOs (Annex 1) and National VOS Programme Managers (Annex 2) were written by the Chairs of the SOT and VOSP and put on the VOS web site in Q4 2006. <http://www.bom.gov.au/jcomm/vos/information.html#info1>
These guides are intended to standardize global VOS practices and to provide helpful guidelines for both existing and new PMOs and VOS Programme Managers. As well as providing information about ship recruitment and visiting, the Guides contain links to the VOS Quality Monitoring Tools and details the recommended international reporting requirements for WMO, SOT, and other bodies on the status of National VOS.

TT Membership Review

The TT members as agreed at SOT III are:

Steve Cook (TT chairperson, USA)

Graeme Ball (Australia)

Pierre Blouch (France)

Julie Fletcher (New Zealand)

Gordon Mackie (United Kingdom)

Sarah North (United Kingdom)

It is recommended that this Task Team be re-established by SOT-IV for the next intersessional period, but that its membership is reviewed and a new Chairperson appointed to replace Steve Cook (retired).

VOS Quick Reference Guide

Annex 1: Port Meteorological Officers

The purpose of this "Quick Reference Guide" is to:

1. Help newly appointed personnel become familiar with the [functions of a PMO](#);
2. Reacquaint experienced personnel with these functions; and
3. Promote the resources available to fulfil these functions.

Note: This guide is presented in point form and should be used in conjunction with the Quick Reference Guide for VOS Program Managers, as the separation of responsibilities and tasks expressed here might not be representative of all countries. The two guides when combined should cover the basic requirements of operating and maintaining a national VOS Program. Many of the functions of the PMO described in this guide are summarised in the VOS Work Flow Diagram at appendix 1.

Monitor Ship Movements

- Identify new ships that are arriving in port, i.e. as a potential VOS recruitment.
- Identify ships in the national VOS Fleet (VOF) that are arriving in port.
- Identify ships in a foreign VOF that are arriving in port
- Prioritise and plan ship visits accordingly.
- Obtain the necessary port and ship security passes in advance of a planned visit in accordance with prescribed local arrangements or specific port/ship requirements.
- Monitor the movement of ships in the national VOF and, if necessary, make arrangements for individual ships to be inspected or visited by an [international PMO](#).

Recruitment Preliminaries

- Select potential ships for the national VOF and or [VOSClim](#). Depending on your location, some recruitment factors to consider might include:
 - The trading pattern or route of the ship – target data-sparse areas;
 - The percentage of the time sailing in desired areas;
 - Length of charter on the route;

VOS Quick Reference Guide

Annex2: VOS Program Managers

The purpose of this "Quick Reference Guide" is to:

1. Help newly appointed personnel become familiar with their JCOMM responsibilities;
2. Reacquaint experienced personnel with their JCOMM responsibilities; and
3. Promote the resources available to fulfil these responsibilities.

Note: This guide is presented in point form and should be used in conjunction with the Quick Reference Guide for Port Meteorological Officers, as the separation of responsibilities and tasks expressed here might not be representative of all countries. This guide is not intended to be the definitive list of VOS Program Manager functions, however when combined with the Quick Reference Guide for Port Meteorological Officers they should cover the basic requirements, including the international responsibilities, of operating a national VOS Program.

National VOS Database

- On receipt of a recruitment or de-recruitment advice from a PMO, add, terminate or update the ship's record in the national VOS database as appropriate. The database as a minimum should store the required [metadata for WMO-No. 47](#).
- On receipt of an inspection advice from a PMO, update the ship's record in the database as appropriate, including:
 - o Dates and details of equipment changes; and
 - o Dates of instrument calibration.

VOF Monitoring

- In collaboration with national PMOs, investigate ships in the national VOF that are suspected of producing erroneous data or whose data are not being received within prescribed model cut off times. In addition to the global VOS monitoring tools listed in the Quick Reference Guide for Port Meteorological Officers, other useful tools include:
 - o Monthly VOSClim Suspect List, emailed directly to the [VOSClim Focal Points](#); and
 - o [JCOMMOPS QCRelay](#) email messages.
- Use the Météo France [search tool for multiple ship recruitment](#) to enquire if any ship in the national VOF has subsequently been recruited as a member of another national VOF. In the



SHIP OBSERVATIONS TEAM – VOS SCHEME

REPORT OF INSPECTION TO FOREIGN VOS

(Please complete relevant sections and email this report to the VOS Focal Point in the Country of Recruitment)

VOSP001

SHIP DETAILS *		* Required
Name of Ship		
Call Sign		
IMO Number		
Ship's email address		
Shipping Route		
VOS Country of Recruitment		(Refer to WMO No. 47)
INSPECTION DETAILS *		
Inspecting PMO		(Name & Location)
Date of inspection		(yyyy-mm-dd)
Country & Port of visit		
Reason for the visit		
VOS PERFORMANCE		
Recent GTS reporting history		
Quality of the observations		
Frequency of obs. from logbook		
INSTRUMENTS OR STATIONERY ISSUED OR RECOVERED		
Full details of instruments recovered (make / model / serial no. / reason)		
Full details of instruments issued (make / model / serial no.)		
Details of any stationery issued		
Details of paper logbooks recovered (mail to the responsible VOS FP)	Period of the observations recovered (yyyy-mm-dd-hh)	
	First obs.	Last obs.
Downloaded electronic logbook data (email to the responsible VOS FP)	Period of the observations recovered (yyyy-mm-dd-hh)	
	First obs.	Last obs.
General Comments & Other Actions		