

VOS and VOSClm Report for 2007

(Australia)

| a. Programme description: | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Category | No. of ships at 31 Dec 2007 | Comments |
| <i>Selected</i> | 84 | Includes one confidential ship not reported in Pub47 or distributed on the GTS. |
| <i>Supplementary</i> | 2 | |
| <i>Auxiliary</i> | 1 | |
| <i>Other (specify)</i> | | |
| Total National VOS Fleet | 87 | |

| b. VOS: | |
|---|-----|
| <i>Number of VOS vessels recruited in 2007</i> | 27 |
| <i>Number of VOS vessels de-recruited in 2007</i> | 19 |
| <i>Target number of ships in the national VOS Fleet</i> | 100 |

| c. VOSClm: | |
|--|----|
| <i>Number of VOSClm vessels at 31 December 2007</i> | 11 |
| <i>Number of VOSClm vessels recruited in 2007</i> | 1 |
| <i>Number of VOSClm de-recruitments in 2007</i> | 2 |
| <i>Number of VOSClm recruitments planned for 2008</i> | 5 |
| <i>Target number of ships to participate in VOSClm</i> | 20 |

| d. Automated observing systems: | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Type | No. of ships at 31 Dec 2007 | Manual Input Yes / No | Method of Comms | 2008 Planned installations |
| Vaisala Milos 500 | 9 | Yes | Inmarsat | 3 (depending on availability of technical staff to perform the installation) |
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| | | | | |

| e. Data management: | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2007</i> | 41429 |
| <i>Frequency of VOS data submitted for the GCC in 2007</i> | 2. (see point 3 in Other Comments) |

| f. Electronic logbooks: | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Software & version | No. of ships at 31 Dec 2007 | Implementation plans |
| TurboWin 1.71 | 1 | Older versions of TurboWin to be upgraded on an opportunity basis. |
| TurboWin 2.12 | 9 | |
| TurboWin 3.6 | 43 | |
| TurboWin 4.0 | 11 | Wherever possible, all manually reporting VOS will be equipped with TurboWin. The Bureau will, where necessary, provide a laptop for TurboWin. |
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| | | |

g. Major challenges and difficulties:

1. Rebuilding the AVOF after the number of participating vessels fell below 80 in 2006.
2. Sustaining adequate levels of serviceable equipment has become a serious issue, particularly regarding barometers, barographs and screens.
3. A lack of trained Bureau personnel to service the ageing DA barometers has resulted in a 5 year program, commencing in 2008, to replace the DA barometers with Vaisala electronic barometers (initially PTB220B).

h. Research / development / testing:

1. As part of the installation of electronic barometers on ships, the Bureau plans to interface a laptop to the electronic barometer to produce a barograph trace on the screen, and thus remove the need for a stand-alone barograph. Ultimately, and with assistance from KNMI, the Bureau plans to link the data feed with TurboWin to automatically input the atmospheric pressure and pressure tendency.

i. Other comments:

1. The Bureau:
 - a. Updated its Setup Guide and User Manual to TurboWin 4.0;
 - b. Developed an electronic recruitment form based on WMO Pub 47 metadata version 3.0;
 - c. Held a PMA Training Workshop, also attended by the VOSP Chair, in November 2007; and
 - d. Submitted quarterly updates for WMO Pub 47 (in XML, metadata version 3.0 after July 2007).
2. Discussions are continuing with the RAN to include the Navy as part of the AVOF
3. The Bureau now submits quarterly MCSS submissions to the GCCs. These will be in February, May, August and November.