

VOS and VOSClm Report for 2007

(EUMETNET)

a. Programme description:		
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2007	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	5	Continuation of the installation of ship borne AWS funded by the E-SURFMAR programme. Two new ships were equipped in 2007 thanks to DMI and the UK Met Office, respectively.
<i>Supplementary</i>	Nil	-
<i>Auxiliary</i>	Nil	-
<i>Other (specify)</i>	0	-
Total National VOS Fleet	5	

b. VOS:	
<i>Number of VOS vessels recruited in 2007</i>	2
<i>Number of VOS vessels de-recruited in 2007</i>	0
<i>Target number of ships in the national VOS Fleet</i>	45

c. VOSClm:	
<i>Number of VOSClm vessels at 31 December 2007</i>	0
<i>Number of VOSClm vessels recruited in 2007</i>	0
<i>Number of VOSClm de-recruitments in 2007</i>	0
<i>Number of VOSClm recruitments planned for 2008</i>	5
<i>Target number of ships to participate in VOSClm</i>	~12

d. Automated observing systems:				
Type	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2007	Manual Input Yes / No	Method of Comms	2008 Planned installations
BATOS	5	Yes	Inmarsat Data Reporting	4
BAROS	0	No	Iridium SBD	10

e. Data management:	
Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2007 (excluding moored buoy Ship coded observations)	16,772
Frequency of VOS data submitted for the GCC in 2007	Unknown - Normally done through the EUMETNET member who installed the station

f. Electronic logbooks:		
Software & version	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2007	Implementation plans
BATOS	5	BATOS AWS records all the observations: automatic measurements of physical parameters as well as visual observations when entered by mariners

g. Major challenges and difficulties:

The funding of ship borne AWS is only a part of the E-SURFMAR duties. E-SURFMAR is actually coordinating the activities of about 47% of the VOS in the world and EUMETNET ships report more than 50% of the whole observations. During the 2002-2007 period, the number of observations reported by European AWS stations within the EUCOS area of interest passed from 320 to 800 per day although the number of observations carried out by conventional VOS in the same area decreased from 400 to 300 observations a day.

One of the main objective of E-SURFMAR – as for the other components of EUCOS – consists in optimising the ground observing system to improve short range forecasts over Europe. The sea level pressure is a key parameter for E-SURFMAR. It appears the quality of pressure measurements reported by conventional VOS is worse than this of AWS in average. This problem must be carefully considered and reduced as much as possible.

h. Research / development / testing:

A new basic ship borne AWS is under study at Météo-France. Easy to install, it will only report the sea level pressure every hour through Iridium SBD which appears a cost effective communication system. The first prototype was successfully tested in 2007. About 10 units should be built and installed on ships in 2008.

i. Other comments:

Nil