

VOS and VOSClm Report for 2008

(Australia)

a. Programme description:		
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2008	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	81	Includes one confidential ship not reported in Pub47 or distributed on the GTS.
<i>Supplementary</i>	1	
<i>Auxiliary</i>	1	
<i>Other (specify)</i>		
Total National VOS Fleet	83	

b. VOS:	
<i>Number of VOS vessels recruited in 2008</i>	17
<i>Number of VOS vessels de-recruited in 2008</i>	19
<i>Target number of ships in the national VOS Fleet</i>	100

c. VOSClm:	
<i>Number of VOSClm vessels at 31 December 2008</i>	10
<i>Number of VOSClm vessels recruited in 2008</i>	0
<i>Number of VOSClm de-recruitments in 2008</i>	2
<i>Number of VOSClm recruitments planned for 2009</i>	6
<i>Target number of ships to participate in VOSClm</i>	20

d. Automated observing systems:				
Type	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2008	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)

e. Data management:	
<i>Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2008</i>	44969
<i>Frequency of VOS data submitted for the GCC in 2008</i>	4 (Feb, May, Aug, Nov)

f. Electronic logbooks:		
Software & version	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2008	Implementation plans
TurboWin 2.12	9	To be upgraded on an opportunity basis.
TurboWin 3.6	18	To be upgraded on an opportunity basis.
TurboWin 4.0	34	Wherever possible, all manually reporting VOS will be equipped with TurboWin. The Bureau will, where necessary, provide a laptop for TurboWin.

g. Major challenges and difficulties:

1. Maintaining the number of ships in the AVOF in the current economic environment.
2. Sustaining adequate levels of equipment has become a serious issue due to a fixed budget and increasing equipment costs.

h. Research / development / testing:**i. Other comments:**

1. The Bureau submitted quarterly XML updates for WMO Pub 47.
2. The Bureau commenced installing Vaisala PTB220B electronic barometers on the AVOF to replace ageing digital aneroid barometers.
3. The Bureau introduced a callsign masking scheme. This is on a limited number of ships on a trial basis.
 - a. The Australian **MASK** has been approved by the SOT Task Team on Callsign Masking and Encoding
 - b. The format is CNCNNNN, where C = character (A - Z) and N = number (0 - 9, or 2 - 9 for N in the second position in the MASK in accordance with ITU directives).
 - c. The callsign series comprises: B2M0000 - B2M9999 through to B9M0000 - B9M9999.
 - d. In accordance with SOT requirements, the Bureau provides JCOMMOPS with a quarterly list linking the official ITU callsign (**REAL**) with **MASK**, or immediately whenever a change is made to the list of MASK ships.
4. Port Meteorological Agent Sydney, Captain Taffy Rowlands, announced his retirement as of 4 February 2009. Mr. Sean Quinlan, will commence as Port Meteorological Agent Sydney on 5 February 2009.