

SOOP Report for 2010

AUSTRALIA

a. Programme description:			
Line	Agency	Sampling programme and target mode (if applicable)	No. of ships
IX01	ABOM	FRX+	5
IX12	ABOM	FRX	4
PX11/IX22	ABOM	FRX	3
PX02	ABOM	FRX	2
IX28	CMAR	HDX, SST/SSS, pCO ₂ , TCO ₂ , alkalinity, pigments, fluorescence, macronutrients	1
PX30	CMAR	HDX	1
PX34	CMAR	HDX	2
	RAN	XBT for Operational requirements and or hydrographical surveying	10

b. Data management		
Agency	No. of JJVV messages on the GTS in 2010	Location of delayed-mode data
ABOM	2088	US NODC
CMAR	1102	US NODC
RAN	145	US NODC

c. Major challenges and difficulties:

Ship recruitment issues meant that CMAR missed one occupation of PX34 this year. This was regrettable but unavoidable. In addition, L'Astrolabe had difficulties which delayed the second summer trip by several days and meant the volunteers didn't get home in time for Christmas (...but they did get to Mawson's hut so didn't mind!)

RAN is continuing to install DEVIL on all of their patrol boats.

While the Bureau's XBT SOOP fleet remained mostly stable, the program struggled with ageing equipment, a diminishing supply of spare parts and limited staff to assess and repair equipment.

d. Research / development / testing:

CMAR's Autolauncher continues to move forward, with successful testing of wireless transmission of drops from the launcher to the computer. Alan Poole has developed an elegant box that contains all the necessary hardware. The next step will be designing the mechanics of the autolauncher and it is expected that significant progress will be made on this during 2011.

RAN is working to update their XBT database to ensure that all data are quality controlled and follows the correct formatting guidelines. The RAN also plans to further develop their XBT quality control software.

BOM is planning to implement a wireless XBT system in the 2011/2012 financial year. This may be developed in-house or produced externally.

e. Other comments:

In 2010, CMAR contributed (through RAN) an additional 600 probes to BOM for continued sampling along IX01.

A new staff member has joined the Bureau's XBT technical support section in 2011, enabling an improved service level.