

VOS Report for 2010

United States of America

a. Programme description:		
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2010	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	812	
<i>Selected (AWS)</i>	27	
<i>VOSCLim</i>	0	
<i>VOS CLIM (AWS)</i>	2	
<i>Supplementary</i>	307	
<i>Supplementary(AWS)</i>	3	
<i>Auxiliary</i>	121	
<i>Auxilliary(AWS)</i>	0	
<i>Other (specify)</i>	10	Ships in database not designated by PMO
Total National VOS Fleet	1310	Numbers were adjusted after 2010 because of inaccurate active designation.

b. VOS:	
<i>Number of VOS vessels recruited in 2010</i>	110
<i>Number of VOS vessels de-recruited in 2010</i>	1
<i>Target number of ships in the national VOS Fleet</i>	1000

c. VOSCLim:

<i>Number of VOSCLim vessels at 31 December 2010</i>	2
<i>Number of VOSCLim vessels recruited in 2010</i>	0
<i>Number of VOSCLim de-recruitments in 2010</i>	0
<i>Number of VOSCLim recruitments planned for 2011</i>	10
<i>Target number of ships to participate in VOSCLim</i>	50

d. Automated observing systems:				
Type	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2010	Manual Input Yes / No	Method of Comms	2011 Planned installations
1	9	Yes	Email/Inmarsat	8
2	8	No	Email	0 (Plan to upgrade these to auto imet)
3	12	Yes	Unknown	0 (these are automated systems developed by the ship)

e. Data management:	
<i>Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2010</i>	382,047
<i>Frequency of VOS data submitted to the GCC in 2010</i>	Quarterly

f. Electronic logbooks:		
Software & version	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2010	Implementation/upgrade plans
SEAS 8.0	322	Version dated 09/18/08 - contains requested modifications as per Logbook Comparison Test
Seas.6.57	131	Version dated 01/13/07 - Contains correction to Dewpoint Calculation method & encoding
Others	54	Earlier versions

		2011 Goal is to upgrade to 9.0 where systems will allow.
--	--	--

g. Major challenges and difficulties:

- Loss of Robert Luke means a big loss of program history and continuity.
- Recruiting ships into VOSCLIM, meeting VOSCLIM requirements
- Keeping a more accurate count of active vs inactive ships
- Properly documenting and categorizing ships as selected, aux etc.
- Transition to BUFR
- Populating IVOS ship records with Pub47 metadata

h. Research / development / testing:

- Links with EUCOMM website for QC capabilities
- More comprehensive report abilities and automated reports built into IVOS database,
- Using NOAA ships sensors and SCS computer system to submit automated observations via AUTOIMET & SEAS
- As of this report, a new version of SEAS 9.0 has been completed and is ready for beta testing.

i. Other comments:

-After a review of 2010 numbers, it was discovered that they are "over-inflated". Hundreds of ships were listed as active in the database, that had not reported all year. I have since appealed to the PMOs to re-evaluate the status of all their ships and the more realistic number of active ships has been reduced to 877.

The US VOS program direction is changing where we are working towards better reporting ships, better quality observations and smaller more manageable fleets.