

VOS Report for 2011

(Brazil)

a. Programme description:				
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2011	Recruitments in 2011	De-recruitments In 2011	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	19	0	0	
<i>Selected AWS</i>	-	-	-	
<i>VOSclim</i>	-	-	-	
<i>VOSclim AWS</i>	-	-	-	
<i>Supplementary</i>	-	-	-	
<i>Supplementary AWS</i>	-	-	-	
<i>Auxiliary</i>	-	-	-	
<i>Auxiliary AWS</i>	-	-	-	
<i>Other</i>	-	-	-	
National VOS Total	19			

National VOS Target	111
National VOSclim Target	

b. Data management:	
<i>Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2011</i>	396
<i>Frequency of VOS data submitted to the GCC in Yea0r</i>	0

g. Major challenges and difficulties:

- a) Costs of satellite transmissions of SHIP messages.
- b) Lack of qualified personnel to make observations on board ships.
- c) Costs for maintenance of meteorological instruments.
- d) Costs to keep qualified personnel training ship personnel in the methods of meteorological conventional observation.
- e) Lack of qualified personnel to deal with development and implementation of masking and quality control programmes and softwares, which compromise the submission of the datas to the GCC.

h. Research / development / testing:

In 2009, in order to fulfill the request received through the Official Letter nº 8363-09 from WMO, and also with the aim of reaching a rapprochement with the user navigator and reactivate the VOS recruitment activities, the Navy Hydrographic Center sent official letter (and a letter attached based on the letter 8363-09, along with your questionnaire) to shipping companies of seven states. The letter asked the owners to direct the questionnaire to the ship commanders and to orient them to fill them out and return them answered via e-mail to an account specifically created for this purpose, the SMM (vosbrasil@smm.mil.br) and the WMO (mmo@wmo.int). With respect to the firms from Rio de Janeiro, three navy officers were deployed to deliver the questionnaires personally in 8 (eight) shipping companies. In total 43 questionnaires were received from ships of 12 (twelve) shipping companies. The questionnaire aimed to assess the quality of services provided by the Marine Meteorological Services, however it was used as a tool for rapprochement with the navigator. In 2010 we continue sending the questionnaires to the shipping companies. We received a total of 50 questionnaires. In 2011 a total of 26 questionnaires received.

In the next years, actions will be implemented in order to stimulate the navigator's cooperation in the collection of meteorological data, in the area of responsibility of Brazil (METAREA V). Such actions include:

- a) promote visits and lectures about the VOS program on the organizations responsible for training officers of the Merchant Navy in Brazil;
- b) keep up with the masters and owners discussing the national importance of the participation of ships in the VOS program for weather and climate studies in the sea area;
- c) make technical visits to ships moored at first only in the port of Rio de Janeiro, checking the status of the instruments, collecting metadata and training on methods of observation; and
- d) reward the merchant ship and the shipping company that contribute the most in one year with meteorological observations.

With these measures, this Service expects for the coming years, more cooperation from the navigator by sending meteorological observations to the Navy Hydrographic Center by merchant ships operating in sea area of Brazil.

i. Other comments:

Although JCOMM have organized several workshop/seminar and training for VOS-SOT program in order to present the characteristics and operational requirements of the programs, such as the recommended forms of transmission, data processing, softwares for electronic logbooks and data management (callsign masking scheme, quality control data) and other related material, difficulties related to the costs to send a representative have forbidden the Brazilian Navy to take part in such events.