VOS Report for 2011   **(THE GAMBIA)**

a. Programme description:

Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2011	Recruitments in 2011	De-recruitments In 2011	Comments
Selected	None	None	None	Recruitment of vessels to participate in the DBCP/SOT Deck Drifter donation programme in support of the VOS Scheme as an Autonomous AWS Ships in progress but yet to be realised. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to recruit a vessel sometime this year 2012, after receipt of genuine photos of the equipment.
Selected AWS	None	None	None	
VOSClim	None	None	None	
VOSClim AWS	None	None	None	
Supplementary	None	None	None	
Supplementary AWS	None	None	None	
Auxiliary	None	None	None	
Auxiliary AWS	None	None	None	
Other	None	None	None	
National VOS Total	Zero			

National VOS Target	THREE
National VOSClim Target	NONE

b. Data management:

Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2011	None
Frequency of VOS data submitted to the GCC in Yea0r	None

c.	Shipboard Automatic Weather System			
Type	**No. of ships at 31 Dec 2011**	**Manual Input Yes / No**	**Method of Comms**	**2012 Planned installations**
DBCP/SOT Deck Drifter	None	No	Satellite	Very hopeful

f.	Electronic logbooks: (TurboWin, SEAS, OBSJMA)	
Software & version	**No. of ships at 31 Dec 2011**	**Implementation plans**
None	None	None

g. Major challenges and difficulties:

The Gambia has no national vessel that plies the oceans. All the fleet of VESSELS that ply our territorial waters are foreign owned. Our Shipping agents only charter vessels for their operations and most of these charters do not exceed three months. Moreover, our major constrain and stumbling block is that Ship Captains are willing to participate in the VOS Scheme but must have the consent and approval of the VESSEL Owners' for whom we do not have direct contacts with.

h. Research / development / testing:

None

i. Other comments:

We will continue to pursue Ship Captains until we succeed in recruiting VESSELS to participate in the VOS Scheme - Autonomous AWS Ship so as to achieve our National target and contribute to GOOS as well as WWW.