

SOOP Report for 2012

(Australia)

a. Programme description:			
Line	Agency	Sampling programme and target mode (if applicable)	No. of ships
IX01	ABOM	FRX+	1
IX12	ABOM	FRX	4
PX11/IX22	ABOM	FRX	1
PX02	ABOM	FRX	2
IX28	CMAR	HDX, SST/SSS, pCO ₂ , TCO ₂ , alkalinity, pigments, fluorescence, macronutrients	1
PX30	CMAR	HDX	2
PX34	CMAR	HDX	2
	RAN	XBT for operational requirements and or hydrographical surveying	11

b. Data management		
Agency	No. of JJVV messages on the GTS in 2012	Location of delayed-mode data
ABOM	1637	US NODC
CMAR	942	US NODC
RAN	194 (using REAL callsign), unknown (using SHIP callsign)	US NODC

c. Major challenges and difficulties:

Recruiting and retaining ships remains a huge challenge, particularly on PX30 and IX22/PX11.

CSIRO recruited the Pacific Gas which had been on the Brisbane-Fiji run for 20 years, with the expectation that she would continue on that route for another 20 years. The ship subsequently lost the contract, resulting in one missed section. It now appears that CSIRO will need to return to the system of running two ships between Brisbane and Noumea, then Noumea and Fiji. Given that these effectively go in different directions, this means two ship riders and scheduling problems. This will also significantly increase costs.

The ABOM continues to sample IX22/PX11 at below the recommended level because of difficulties in recruiting two additional vessels on these lines.

The ABOM regularly replaces the hand launcher and/or cable due to broken connections or wires. This has significantly and negatively impacted on the number of JJVV messages sent to the GTS.

d. Research / development / testing:

A Wireless XBT system is now used operationally on ALL XBT runs by CSIRO. This is a huge improvement, allowing easier access to the ships and faster transfers between ships when they change.

The ABOM is currently developing a Wireless XBT system, similar to the CSIRO system, but which will match our requirements. This will help to eliminate the data loss issues due to damaged launcher extension cables. Modified hand launchers and new stronger cable will be used from 2013 onwards, hopefully reducing the likelihood of broken connections.

e. Other comments: