

VOS Report for 2012

Australia

a. Programme description:				
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Recruitments in 2012	De-recruitments In 2012	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	58	12	13	
<i>Selected AWS</i>	7		2	
<i>VOSclim</i>	7		1	
<i>VOSclim AWS</i>	-			
<i>Supplementary</i>	-			
<i>Supplementary AWS</i>	-			
<i>Auxiliary</i>	3			
<i>Auxiliary AWS</i>	-			
<i>Other</i>	-			
National VOS Total	75			

National VOS Target	100
National VOSclim Target	20

b. Data management:	
<i>Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2012</i>	59,099
<i>Frequency of VOS data submitted to the GCC in 2012</i>	4 (January, April, July, October)

c. Shipboard Automatic Weather System				
Type	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Manual Input Yes / No	Method of Comms	2013 Planned installations
Vaisala Milos 500	6	Yes	Inmarsat (data mode)	Nil
TECHSAS	1	No	Inmarsat Fleet Broadband System	Nil

d. Electronic logbooks: (TurboWin, SEAS, OBSJMA)		
Software & version	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Implementation plans
TurboWin 3.6	6	Upgrade to latest version as the opportunity arises
TurboWin 4.0	4	Upgrade to latest version as the opportunity arises
TurboWin 4.5	38	Upgrade to latest version as the opportunity arises
TurboWin 5.0	16	

e. PMO ship visit activities: (if a visit is for dual purposes, include all purposes)		
Activity	Total	Comment
Routine VOS inspections	134	
VOS recruitment visits	12	
VOS de-recruitment visits	16	
VOS courtesy/foreign visits	55	
<i>Total visits for VOS</i>	217	
Routine ASAP inspections	0	
ASAP recruitment visits	0	
ASAP de-recruitment visits	0	
ASAP courtesy visits	0	
<i>Total visits for ASAP</i>	0	
Routine SOOP visits	47	
SOOP recruitment visits	4	
SOOP de-recruitment visits	0	
SOOP courtesy visits	0	
<i>Total visits for SOOP</i>	51	
Visits in support of DBCP (drifting buoys)	27	Supporting the Bureau's Buoy Program and the Global Drifter Program for NOAA/AOML
Visits in support of Argo (profiling floats)	0	
Total visits by national PMOs	295	

f Major challenges and difficulties:

The transient nature of shipping in the Southern Hemisphere remains a major concern, resulting in limited recruitment opportunities.

The use of non-English speaking crews further limits recruitment opportunities and also creates difficulties understanding instructions.

The Bureau has reverted to using in-house personnel to conduct the PMO duties at the Ports of Melbourne, Fremantle and Sydney. A comprehensive training course, assisted by Julie Fletcher (PMO Wellington and Chair VOSP), was provided to the new PMOs who have general adapted well to their new roles and continued to maintain a high level of service and efficiency.

g. Research / development / testing:

The Bureau has developed software to display a barograph trace from a Vaisala electronic barometer. Testing of this software has been completed and rollout will commence in 2013. It is intended that the software will be installed on the same (Bureau supplied) laptop that is running TurboWin. There is the potential for TurboWin to accept automatic pressure and tendency values from this new software. This software will obviate the need to provide ships with costly barographs that are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain.

h. Other comments