

VOS Report for 2012

(Brazil)

a. Programme description:				
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Recruitments in 2012	De-recruitments In 2012	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	12	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	12			

National VOS Target	111
National VOSclim Target	

b. Data management:	
<i>Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2012</i>	230
<i>Frequency of VOS data submitted to the GCC in Year</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). In 2010, 2011 and 2012 we continued sending the letters and receiving the feedback from many companies and ships.

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 in the ports of Rio de Janeiro, Vitória, Santos and Rio Grande 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.