

VOS Report for 2012

(The Gambia)

a. Programme description:				
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Recruitments in 2012	De-recruitments In 2012	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	None	None	None	
<i>Selected AWS</i>	None	None	None	
<i>VOSclim</i>	None	None	None	
<i>VOSclim AWS</i>	None	None	None	
<i>Supplementary</i>	None	None	None	
<i>Supplementary AWS</i>	None	None	None	
<i>Auxiliary</i>	None	None	None	
<i>Auxiliary AWS</i>	None	None	None	
<i>Other</i>	None	None	None	Recruitment of an Autonomous VOS is a nightmare
National VOS Total	Zero			

National VOS Target	At least 3
National VOSclim Target	None

b. Data management:	
Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2012	Nil
Frequency of VOS data submitted to the GCC in 2012	Nil

e. Major challenges and difficulties:

We have tried very hard in recruiting Vessels but all those approached seems to be dragging their feet. All the responses and promises we have been receiving from Ship Captains is that they will liaise with Vessel Owners to seek their approval and that's it. We really appreciated the involvement and efforts MAERSK Line personnel demonstrated in the recruitment process last year and we are still very much optimistic that we would be lucky to recruit a few.

f. Research / development / testing:

g. Other comments:

Since nearly all the potential vessels that ply our territorial waters are foreign owned, most especial European or South African registered. My suggestion would be to seek for strategies in convincing all develop as well as developing nations to have onboard their registered fleet of vessels at least one of the categories of equipment mentioned above. Furthermore, 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 contribute our quota to GOOS as well as WWW.