

VOS Report for 2012

(New Zealand)

a. Programme description:				
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Recruitments in 2012	De-recruitments In 2012	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	23	2	4	
<i>Selected AWS</i>	2			
<i>VOSclim</i>	3			
<i>VOSclim AWS</i>				
<i>Supplementary</i>	1			
<i>Supplementary AWS</i>				
<i>Auxiliary</i>	3			
<i>Auxiliary AWS</i>				
<i>Other</i>				
National VOS Total	32			

National VOS Target	~ 30
National VOSclim Target	8

b. Data management:	
Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2012	17965 only includes BBXX in quadrants 3 & 5
Frequency of VOS data submitted to the GCC in 2012	Quarterly

c. Shipboard Automatic Weather System				
Type	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Manual Input Yes / No	Method of Comms	2013 Planned installations
Sutron 9000 RTU	1	Yes	MTSAT	
mSTAR	1	No	UDP Cellular	

d. Electronic logbooks: (TurboWin, SEAS, OBSJMA)		
Software & version	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2012	Implementation plans
TurboWin 3.6	1	All TurboWin on NZ VOS is installed on ship's PCs
TurboWin 4.0	1	
TurboWin 4.5	19	
TurboWin 5.0.1	5	Plan is to continue upgrading TurboWin log books to 5.0.1 as opportunities arise.

e. Major challenges and difficulties:

1. **Constant changing of ship's charters, routes and personnel makes it difficult to recruit and retain ships. It also requires a lot more time in training the new crews.**
2. **A couple ships did not return to NZ for inspection during 2011.**
3. **The use of email to send OBs is cost effective, but requires careful monitoring to ensure the pathway works.**
4. **Short port stays results in frequent after hours visiting – nights, evenings, weekends.**

f. Research / development / testing:

All barometers for NZ VOS ships and the transfer standard barometer used by PMO to check VOS barometers are issued by MetService's Calibration Laboratory and are traceable to National/International/WMO RA-V standards. The first digital barometer, a Vaisala PTB330 was installed on a ship in November 2009, and two more units have been installed during 2010. The plan is to gradually replace the precision aneroid barometer and the marine barograph with a digital barometer which displays pressure and pressure tendency data. Some NZ VOS have been supplied with plastic marine screens, replacing the wooden marine screens.

All NZ VOS ships are supplied with calibrated, certified instruments and the PMO inspection programme ensures standards are maintained. All NZ VOS are inspected at least once per year. Some ships receive 4 or 5 visits per year. PMO also visits many overseas VOS ships, targeting those that do not routinely return to their country of recruitment, to offer encouragement and support for the continuation of their Obs programmes.

g. Other comments:

The QC monitoring tools provided by MeteoFrance, and the monthly monitoring statistics provided by the UKMO are invaluable.

The global PMO network has been helpful assisting NZ VOS at overseas ports.

NZ MetService currently has Steve Knowles as acting PMO, but a new person will be appointed to the position by April 2013.