

VOS Report for 2013

Country =

a. Programme description:				
Category	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2013	Recruitments in 2013	De-recruitments In 2013	Comments
<i>Selected</i>	337	16	190	
<i>Selected AWS</i>	17	1	14	
<i>VOSclim</i>	4	1	0	
<i>VOSclim AWS</i>	3	3	0	
<i>Supplementary</i>	585	40	242	
<i>Supplementary AWS</i>	12	0	2	
<i>Auxiliary</i>	240	20	281	
<i>Auxiliary AWS</i>	0	0	1	
<i>Other</i>	7	6	385	
National VOS Total	1205			

National VOS Target	600
National VOSclim Target	150

b. Data management:	
<i>Total number of ship observations (BBXX) distributed on the GTS in 2013</i>	447040
<i>Date when VOS data submitted to the GCCs in 2013</i>	Quarterly

c. Shipboard Automatic Weather System				
Type	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2013	Manual Input Yes / No	Method of Comms	2014 Plans
SCS computer data collection using RM Young equipment .. Seas AutoIMET 9.1	5	Yes	Ships email VSAT	All 17 NOAA ships will be using this method.
Ship Developed and implemented system	11	Yes	EMAIL	2 more ships on the Great Lakes currently being outfitted
Non NOAA (developed by Alaska Region)	7	No	EMAIL	

d. Electronic logbooks: (TurboWin, SEAS, OBSJMA)		
Software & version	No. of ships at 31 Dec 2013	Implementation plans
SEAS AutoIMET 9.1	5	Implement on all NOAA Research vessels.
SEAS AutoIMET 6.57	10	Eliminate, upgrade to TW or SEAS
AMVERSEAS 6.57 or earlier	1,100	Either upgrade to Turbowin or AMVERSEAS 9.1
TURBOWIN 4.5 OR EARLIER	11	Upgrade to 5.0 or later
TURBOWIN 5.0 OR LATER	56	
TURBOWEB	2	
MANUAL	31	Upgrade to e-logbook

e. Standard Meteorological Equipment: (Types and Settings)		
Equipment Type / Element	Manual Instrumentation	AWS Instrumentation
Barometer	Belfort Aneroid	
	Fischer Aneroid	
	<i>Default national setting</i> Mean Sea Level	<i>Mean Sea Level</i>
Barograph	Belfort Marine barograph	Slowly phasing these out
	DBX1 Electronic barograph	
	Meteograf Electronic	
	<i>Default national setting</i> Mean Sea Level	<i>Mean Sea Level</i>
Thermometers	Zeal Glycol Glass	
Sea Surface Temperature	Ships Injection Sensor	
Wind Speed	Estimated	
Wind Direction	Estimated	

f. PMO ship visit activities: (if a visit is for dual purposes, include all purposes)			
Activity	Manual Ship	AWS Ship	Comment
Routine VOS inspections	173	28	*AWS uses ships met equipment with a software collection platform
VOS recruitment visits	83		
VOS de-recruitment visits	13		
VOS courtesy or foreign visits	63		
<i>Total visits to VOS</i>			
Routine ASAP inspections	0		
ASAP recruitment visits	0		
ASAP de-recruitment visits	0		
ASAP courtesy visits	0		
<i>Total visits to ASAP</i>	0		
Routine SOOP visits	0		
SOOP recruitment visits	0		
SOOP de-recruitment visits	0		
SOOP courtesy visits	0		
<i>Total visits to SOOP</i>			
Visits in support of DBCP (drifting buoys)	0		
Visits in support of Argo (profiling floats)	0		
<i>Total visits to other programs</i>	0		
Total visits by national PMOs			<i>Sum of all ship visits (VOS + ASAP + SOOP) + visits to other program (DBCP + Argo)</i>

g. Major challenges and difficulties:

Budget cuts, have not been able to purchase equipment in over a year
Travel restrictions have made it impossible to attend meetings and conduct visits with PMOs. Further, PMOs have been restricted on travelling distances to visit ships
iVOS database updates and reporting improvements have not happened
Vacancies in New Orleans, Oakland, and Valdez have hindered the ability to do ship visits
National Weather Service reorganization has left program with a small degree of uncertainty on the direction of the program
VOS management believes the US fleet is too large given budgetary cuts and restraints and not sustainable.
Standardizing procedures within U.S. VOS to international standards.

h. Research / development / testing:

SEAS AutoIMET 9.1 AWS VOSclim....implementing on all 17 NOAA Research vessels

i. Other comments