

Task Team on Instrument Best Practices and Drifter Technology Development

Data Buoy Cooperation Panel, 27th Session, Geneva



ISSUE

- “During the intersessional period, the DBCP drifters did not perform as well as in the past...”
- Out of a total of 244 drifters deployed since 1 April 2010, the number of drifters which completely failed was 34%.
 - Many air pressure measurement failures on buoys (30%).
 - Other buoys had inaccurate values
 - Important bias on many buoys (21%)

ISSUE

- “In total, the number of buoys which no longer measure air pressure correctly (53%) is higher than buoys reporting correct values (47%).
- The Task Team found this situation to be unacceptable for buoys which are only 8.5 months old (for the oldest)

Discussion

- To facilitate future studies on buoy performances, the Task Team recommends to have the date of manufacture (or a manufacture number/name) within the GDP deployment log.
- The Task Team recommends to AOML to add a related barometric pressure column to the GDP log. Then then manufactures would provide AOML with the manufacture numbers (or names).
- The Task Team also recommends that the best exercise is to assess the performances of buoys remains with the AOML comparisons, which is performed every year on batches of buoys from different manufacturers, deployed in clusters.

Recommendation

- The Task Team on Instrument Best Practices recommends that members of the Panel insist on calibration certificates from instrument manufactures. They further recommend and encourage panel members to start systems for record keeping for instrument calibration, replacement and validation that are within ISO recommended specifications.

Thank you