

French VOS Programme Status report 2008

SOT
Geneva, Switzerland
18-22 May 2009
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METEO FRANCE
Toujours un temps d'avance

French VOS fleet in 2008

In 2008, the French fleet was made of **73** VOS :
(*64 active*)

- 55 AWS BATOS (*53 active*)
(2 of them also ASAP)
- 7 AWS MINOS (*7 active*)
- 1 AWS BAROS
(*developped by CMM in Brest*)
- 10 with STANDARD INSTRUMENTS
only 3 active and using TURBOWIN

Internal Organization

- 9 PMO (3 oversea : Tahiti, LaRéunion, Nlle Calédonie)
(10% of time)
- 12 technicians
(from 10% to 80% of time)

French Vos performances

In 2008, the french VOS fleet sent

- ~ **202 100** observations
==> **+ 26%** more than 2007
(mainly du to AWS BATOS sending hourly observations)

Average of ~ 3000 obs.per active ship

- But only ~ **10 700** visual observations (AWS Batos + Turbowin)
==> **- 24 %** less than 2007

Systems dedicated to the VOS Fleet

BATOS



- P
- T, U
- DD, FF
- SST
- Visual observations

MINOS



- P
- T

BAROS



- P

STANDARD MATERIAL



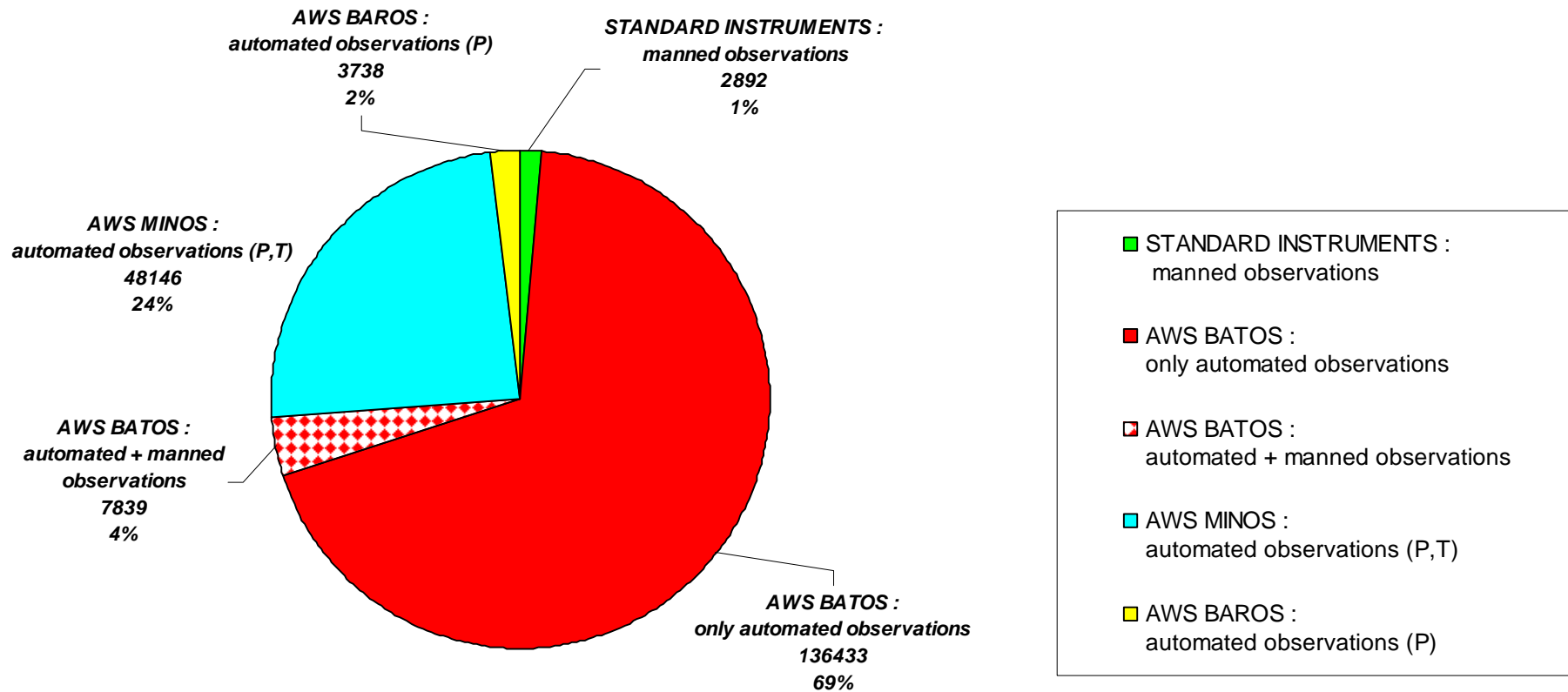
- P
- T, U

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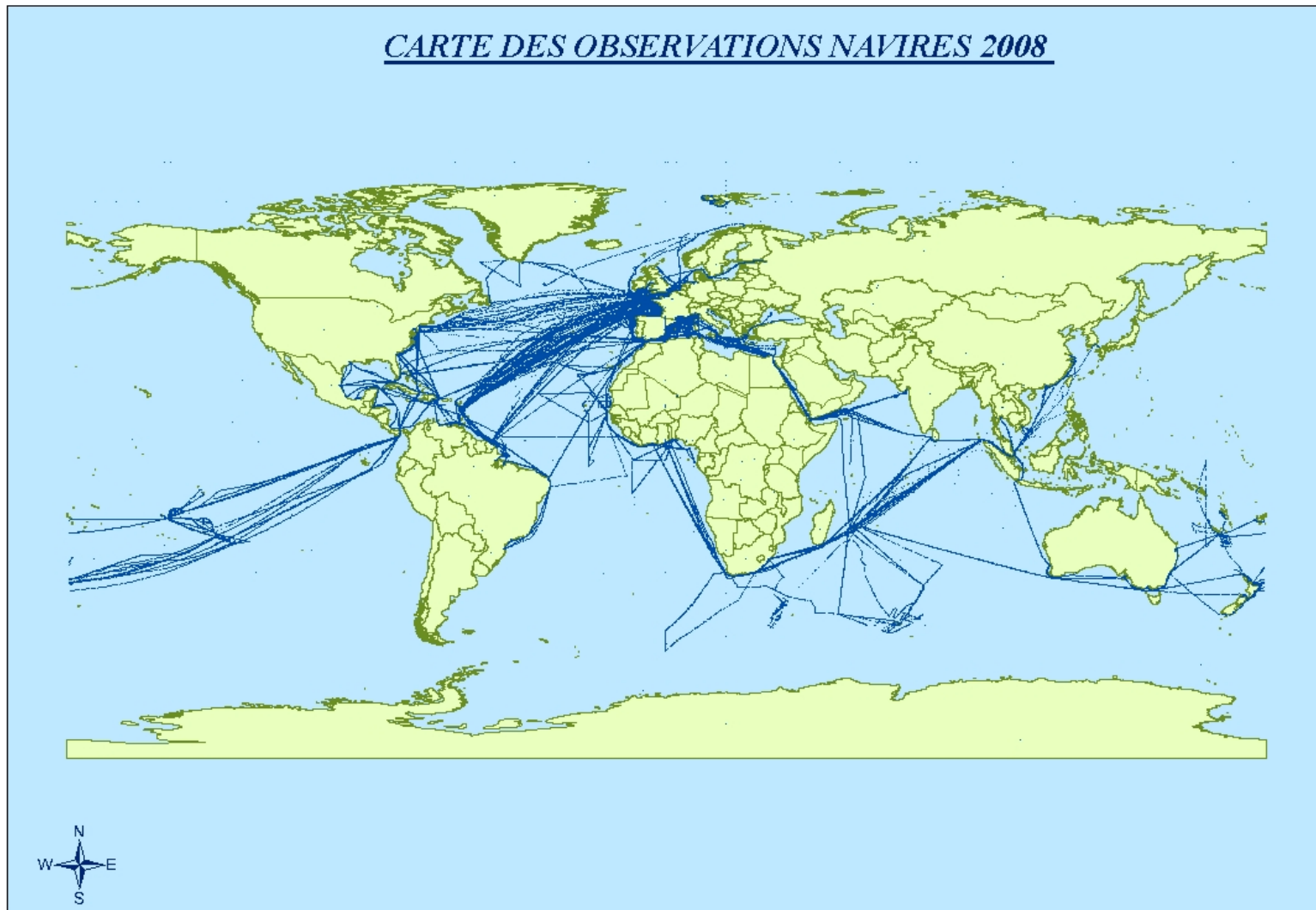


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Distribution of observations according to the type of equipment (in 2008)

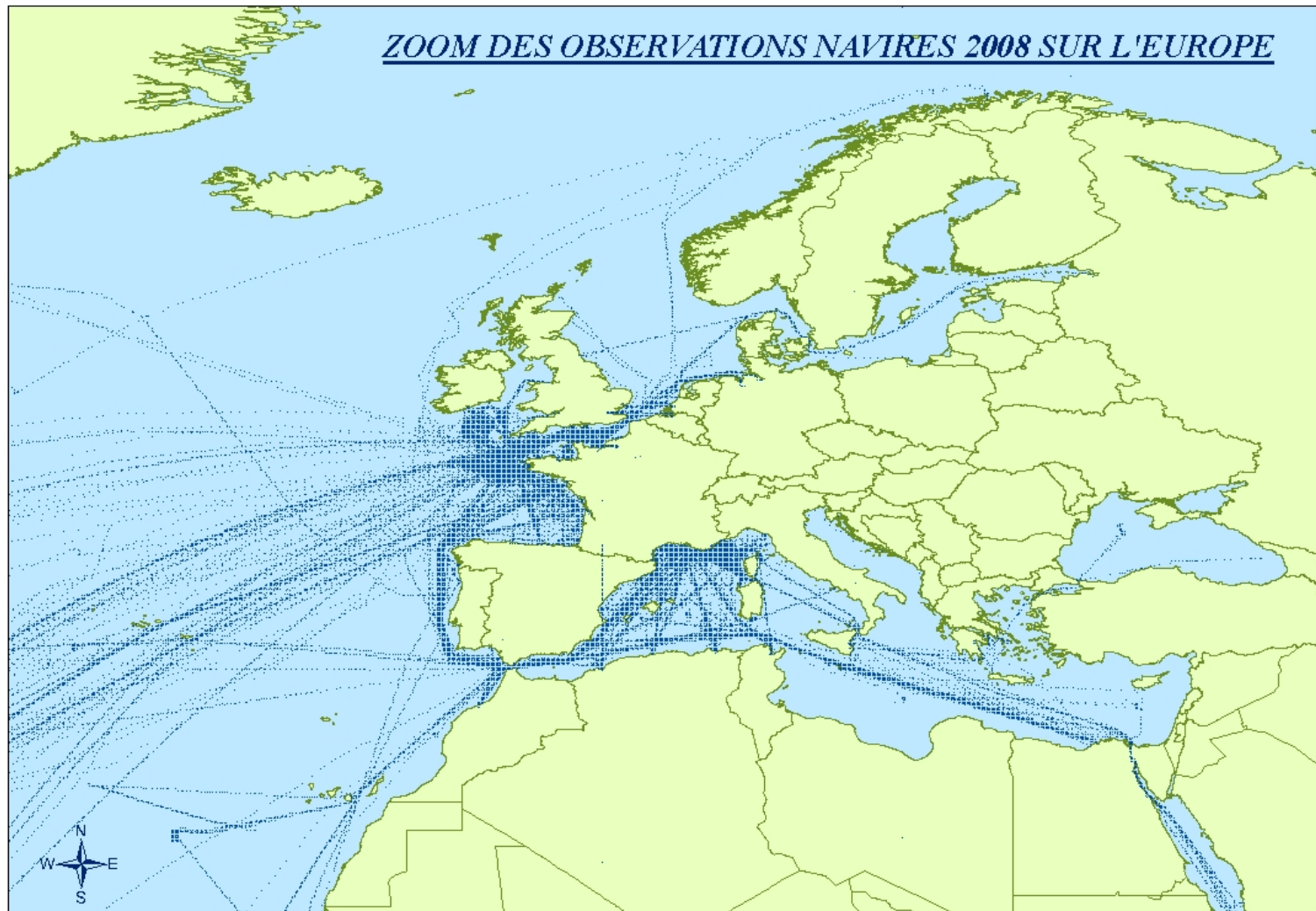


Geographical distribution of observations made by french VOS



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Zoom over EUROPE

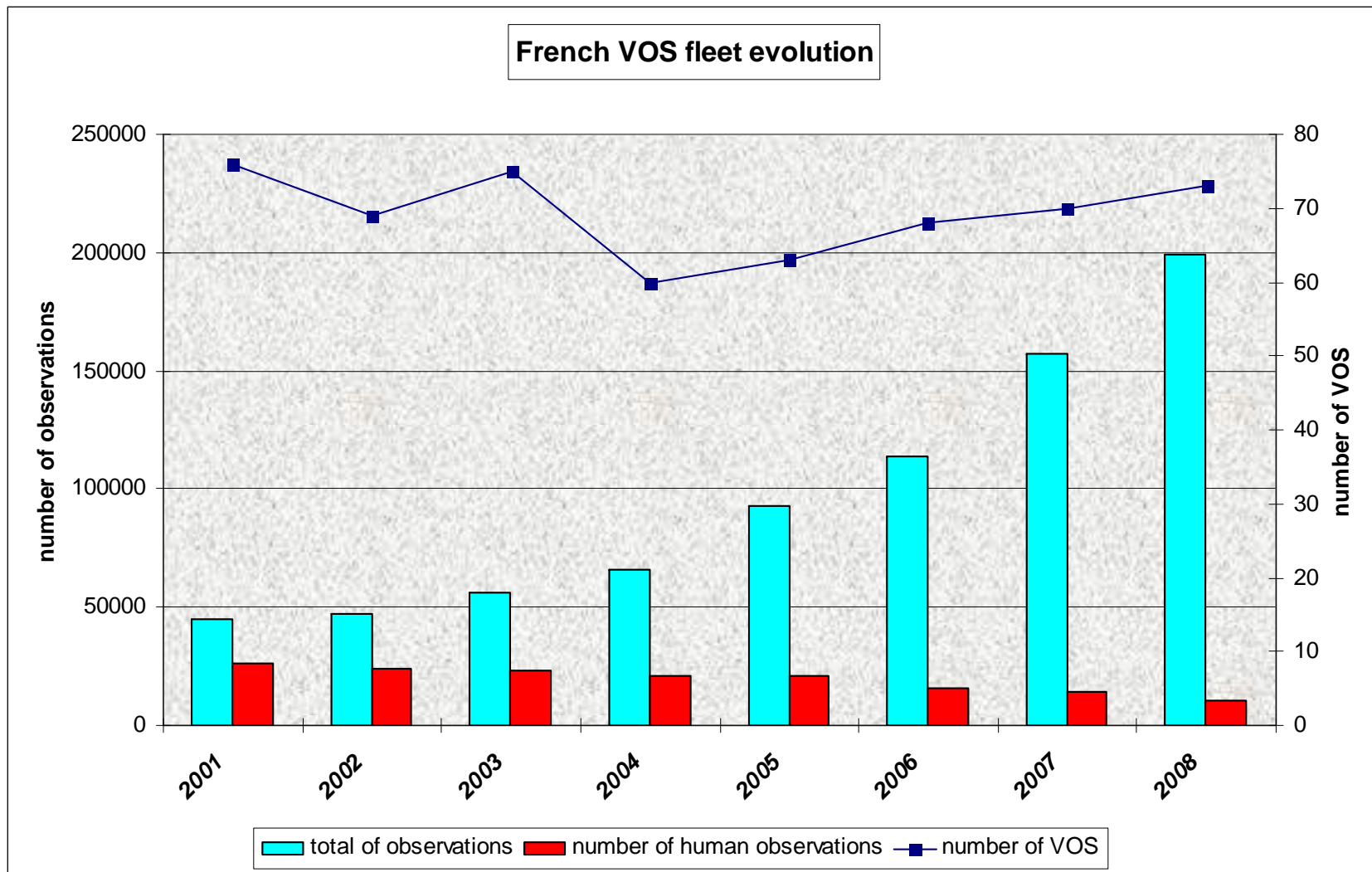


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French VOS fleet : tendency since 2001



Practices

- At present, Meteo-France uses
 - masked callsigns TTTCCNN
 - the E-Surfmar metadatabase

- VOSCLIM Participation
 - 48 french VOS dedicated to the VOSCLIM Project
(only 23 in 2007)
 - Delayed mode data in IMMT3 sent quarterly

Ongoing Projects

- Partnership with the racing sailing boat fleet SOLOCEANS
- The “Repcet project” : detection of whales in the Mediterranean Sea (to avoid collision)



Main challenges

- To enhance the number of visual observations through the AWS BATOS
 - By selecting more ships motivated by visual observation
 - By increasing help in the practise of visual observation (more training)
 - By improving the visual observation frame in the BATOS software to make it as easy as possible for the observers

- To concentrate on an active fleet (withdraw the inactive VOS) and to select new VOS (7 are planned for this year)

- To improve equipment of the existing fleet
 - By replacing classic anemometers by ultrasonic ones
 - Iridium transmission (instead of Inmarsat C)
 - ...

End

Thank you for your attention.