REPORT FROM THE SOT TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

(Submitted by Martin Kramp (JCOMMOPS), and Mathieu Belbéoch (JCOMMOPS))

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Summary and purpose of the document

This document contains the report of the former Technical Coordinator (Mathieu Belbéoch, JCOMMOPS) and of the new Technical Coordinator (Martin Kramp, JCOMMOPS) for the SOT, covering their activities on behalf of the Team during the periods April 2011 to January 2013 and February 2013 to April 2013 respectively.

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ACTION PROPOSED

The Team will review the information contained in this report, and comment and make decisions or recommendations as appropriate. See part A for the details of recommended actions.

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Appendices: A.   Ship Coordinator - Work plan (draft)
             B.   Maps: Overview 2012 and March 2013

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL REPORT

3.4.1   The new Ship Coordinator, Martin Kramp, who joined JCOMMOPS in February 2013 after a six-month lasting recruiting period and several years of preceding preparation, presented himself to the Team. He thanked all involved parties for the shown confidence and with enthusiasm he now looks forward to working with the community. The Team noted that while the Ship Coordinator is working in principle on a part-time basis (i.e. one third) as SOT Technical Coordinator (TC), that in practical terms most of the Ship Coordinator's work is effectively benefiting the SOT.

3.4.2   The TC reported that the main achievement of his predecessor, Mathieu Belbéoch, in the last intersessional period with regard to SOT, was to fund and recruit a new dedicated Ship Coordinator, who could deliver in particular the level of support the SOT deserves. The Team acknowledged that whilst further support to SOT by the former TC had thereby been rather limited, the continuous flow of SOT-relevant data into the JCOMMOPS structure had always been maintained and allows now to create in short time missing maps and statistics.

3.4.3   The TC presented a draft work plan with deliverables and deadlines for his Ship Coordinator position for the period from February to December 2013, which had already been reviewed by the chairs of the SOT programs and panels, GO-SHIP, the OPA Coordinator and the Secretariats of WMO/IOC. The Team finalized and endorsed the plan later under item 13.2.

3.4.4   The Team noted that the TC met during the week preceding SOT-7, with SOOP and GO-SHIP (co-) chairs in Miami (AOML) and Seattle (PMEL), in order to receive guidance and to define a couple of products and procedures, in particular for the production of the SOOP survey, technical coordination for GO-SHIP and related metadata needs.

3.4.5   Mr. Kramp reported that his predecessor is gradually transferring necessary knowledge to him. In particular, the Team noted with appreciation that the production of standard maps has been resumed and will now take place on the usual monthly basis. He presented the SOT network status.

3.4.6   The Team took note that new innovative tools and services are under development at JCOMMOPS (naturally taking into account SOT needs) and that a new dedicated website is under construction. The TC invited the SOT, VOSP, and SOOPIP Chairs to agree on priorities (QC mechanism, monitoring products, etc.) and provide guidance to the TC accordingly. With the launch of the new JCOMMOPS Information System, the content of all dedicated program pages will be updated.

3.4.7   The Team noted that one of the first actions of the new TC was the creation of a report on innovative volunteer ships. Mr. Kramp reported on very promising partnerships he had either taken over from his predecessor or initialized himself since his arrival. The TC emphasized the importance some sailing events and associations could play across all programs supported by JCOMMOPS. The concerned vessels could gather (i) ocean data (SOOP, potentially GO-SHIP) and (ii) atmospheric data (VOS), but also (iii) deploy instruments at sea (Argo, DBCP) and (iv) are accompanied by excellent communication potential. The TC had organized several meetings with confirmed or potential new partners and the report was presented by the Argo TC at AST14 in March 2013.

3.4.8   The TC reported that all mailing lists have been updated following the information on jcomm.info. The Team concurred with the following recommendations from the TC:

   (i)   to work rather with JCOMMOPS mailing lists in the future than with the web forms presently proposed on jcomm.info;
   (ii) to follow with the lists exactly the structure on jcomm.info;
   (iii) to provoke the transmission of a logfile to the TC by ANY profile change on jcomm.info; and
   (iv) to send the individual jcomm.info profile status to all users yearly for validation.

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APPENDIX A

Ship Coordinator Work Plan (Draft) - February to December 2013

Ship Coordinator - Work Plan (5 March 2013)

1. General overview

This work plan drafts the mission of the new Ship Coordinator at JCOMMOPS. It is based on the job specification, and input given during the JCOMMOPS roundtable (audio conference) which took place on 13 February. It's draft version was presented to the responsible program and panel chairmen for evaluation and validation. It is structured by main activities and specifies deliverables with deadlines.

Deliverable #1: Work plan. Deadline 26 April

2. Technical coordination

Structure of programs

In a first step it is necessary to study the terms of reference of the SOT (including SOOP) and GO-SHIP initiative, in order to familiarize with the (sub-) programs, tasks-team objectives and key players and to understand the overall structure. The JCOMMOPS data base, mailing lists and the JCOMM and program websites will be primary information sources. Simultaneously, contact and mailing lists (SOT and GO-SHIP) will be updated, rationalized or created if necessary, which need input from SOT-7.

Deliverable #2: Up-to-date contact and mailing lists. After SOT-7

Metadata

Information about metadata sources (SOT and GO-SHIP) will be gathered / reviewed in details and synchronization mechanisms will be set up with the IT team. Metadata content will be reviewed from a cross-program point of view and reasonable additions could be proposed (e.g. Pub47, SeaDataNet). Standard metadata exchange systems must be established between all operators for a set of crucial variables (TBD, in particular for GO-SHIP).

Deliverable #3: GO-SHIP section for SOT-7 document 9.3. Deadline 15 March

Deliverable #4: Metadata (sources) spec sheet. Deadline 31 May

SOT VII - biannual meeting

A number of action items from SOT-VI must still be treated. No major issues were identified and all items should be fulfilled before SOT-VII. The status of the SOT observing systems must be analyzed for 2012 (data study) and maps and statistics will be created. For the SOOP panel, metadata for 2011 and 2012 must be gathered with the operators and improvements discussed. For GO-SHIP, contacts must be established in order to see how metadata could be exchanged and to analyze the status of the system.

Deliverable #5: Results of SOT-6 action items. Deadline 15 March

Deliverable #6: SOT-7 TC general report. Deadline 29 March

Deliverable #7: SOOP survey production strategy. Deadline SOT-7

Technical information

The existing instrumentation information must be reviewed (JCOMMOPS data base) and updated. The Ship Coordinator acts as a focal point for all ship-based issues within the community.

Deliverable #8: Up-to-date data base for technical information. Ongoing

3. Monitoring

The status of the observing system(s) must be monitored continuously. For GO-SHIP, key products (e.g. maps) must be identified or designed (the mission to AOML, PMEL and SOT-7 in April will be helpful here). If necessary the Ship Coordinator intervenes as soon as an issue occurs (e.g. platforms unexpectedly disappear). Tools to monitor the KPIs proposed at SOT-6 (and OCG) must be created.

Deliverable #9: Define key products for GO-SHIP. Deadline 15 May

Deliverable #10: Reports to the community with network maps. Monthly. Yearly Summary

Deliverable #11: Performance measurement system for SOT (Draft). TBD

4. Management of websites

SOT and GO-SHIP websites must regularly be reviewed and refreshed (including national initiatives).

Deliverable #12: Quick improvement of main program sites. Ongoing

5. Cruise information centre

With the formerly gathered information, the available metadata will be analyzed and expanded by including and synchronizing cruise plans from key players such as BSH, IFREMER, NOAA, etc. Interoperability aspects (POGO, SeaDataNet) and deployment requirements of the other TCs will be taken into account in order to achieve cross sector information and synergies. These will be made available to the community through new JCOMMOPS web-services and –tools (under construction within JCOMMOPS) with ex-post, ex-ante and present views.

Deliverable #13: Creation of a coherent and wide-spread cruise plan. Ongoing

Deliverable #14: Provide the community with the information (web-based). Deadline 30 November

6. Ship time service & partnerships: Recruiting Activities

The Ship Coordinator will as of now take care of already existing ship-based partnerships and initiatives (set up by JCOMMOPS, e.g. Lady Amber, Voile sans Frontières, SailingOne, or VOS-DP …) and strengthen or rationalize these activities. New partnerships must be established through aggressive and pro-active recruiting activities (e.g. with organizers of ocean races transiting regularly sea areas below 40° S) to fill up growing gaps due to substantial budget cuts. New commercial and communication strategies will be developed (cross sector within JCOMMOPS, e.g. with labels, agendas, educational and sponsoring programs, "adoptions"), requiring also the review of information material such as the VOS brochure and the creation of conventions, contracts and agreements.

Deliverable #15: Yearly report on recruiting activities. Deadline 1 March (AST14)

Deliverable #16: Support the review activities of the VOS brochure. TBD

7. Missions

The Ship Coordinator will report at the meetings of the SOT. He will represent and promote the SOT and GO-SHIP programs at every opportunity inside and outside of JCOMM, as appropriate (such as the AOML SOOP meeting or the arrival of Lady Amber in Cape Town at the end of her mission).

Deliverable #17: Represent the communities. Ongoing

8. JCOMMOPS web services and tools

As a member of JCOMMOPS, the Ship Coordinator will assist in the development of the new website, especially on items for SOT, SOOP, GO-SHIP and further ship-based activities. A number of tools must be defined (for monitoring, cruise information, etc.) and new content regularly generated and published.

Deliverable #18: Spec sheet and prototype of the new JCOMMOPS website and tools.
Deadline 31 May

9. Summary deliverables

|	#	Deliverable	Deadline	Priority
General overview	1	Work plan	26 April	High
Technical coordination	2	Up-to-date contact and mailing lists	After SOT-7	High
	3	GO-SHIP input for SOT-7 doc 9.3	15 March	High
	4	Metadata (sources) spec sheet	31 May	Medium
	5	Status action items (SOT-7)	15 March	High
	6	TC general report (SOT-7)	29 March	High
	7	SOOP survey production strategy	SOT-7	High
	8	Data Base - technical information	Ongoing	Low
Monitoring	9	Define key products for GO-SHIP	15 May	Medium
	10	Regular maps / report	Monthly, yearly	Medium
	11	SOT-PMS with KPIs and KPTs	TBD	Low
Websites	12	Refresh main program sites	Ongoing	Medium
Cruise information centre	13	Widespread cruise plan	Ongoing	Low
	14	Implementation as web service	30 November	Low
Ship-time service and partnerships	15	Report on recruiting activities	Yearly	High
	16	Support review VOS brochure	TBD	Low
Missions	17	Represent the communities	Ongoing	Medium
JCOMMOPS I.S.	18	Spec sheet and prototype of new website and tools	31 May	Medium

10.   Working time

Duties and responsibilities will be balanced between the regularly overlapping items, with 2/3 of the working time allocated to technical coordination / monitoring items and 1/3 to all the other items (within ship-related issues across all programs JCOMMOPS supports). As many of the items will be treated with JCOMMOPS team assistance, SOT and GO-SHIP will benefit from synergies and common resources.

Technical Coordination	**2/3**	**SOT (SOOP, VOS, ASAP)**	**1/3**
		GO-SHIP	**1/3**
JCOMMOPS	**1/3**		

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APPENDIX B

Network Status - Maps
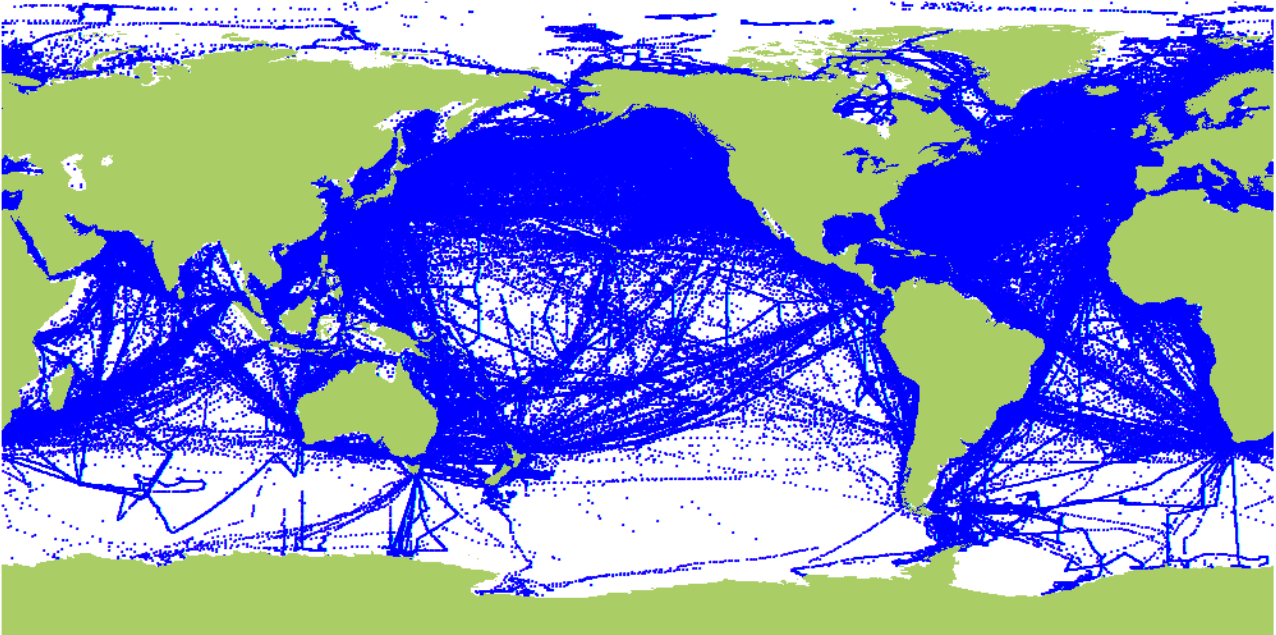
Ship Observations Team
VOS (3686)
Reports (2357588)

Figure 1: VOS reports distributed on GTS in 2012

Ship Observations Team
VOS (3686)
Reports (2357588)
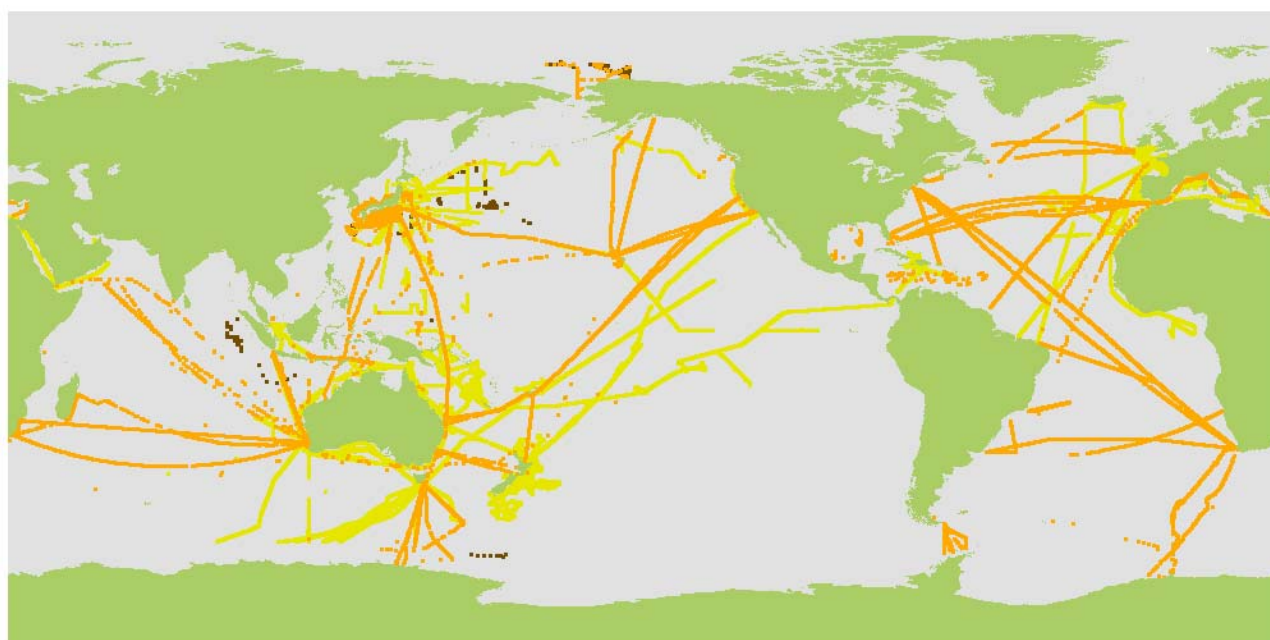
Figure 2: VOS reports distributed on GTS in 2012 by GTS node
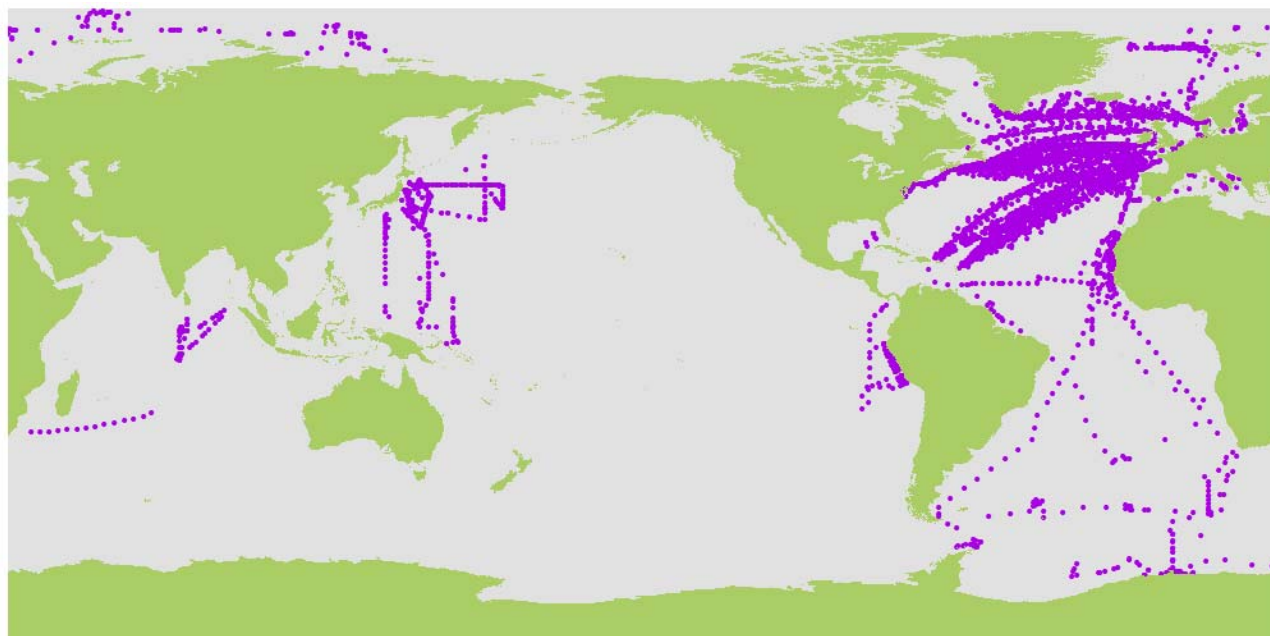
Ship Observations Team
ASAP (25 ships)
Reports (5417)

2012

Figure 3: ASAP profiles distributed on GTS in 2012

Ship Observations Team
SOOP (98 ships)

· XBT (11588) · TSG (951600) · XCTD (290)

2012

Figure 4: SOOP reports distributed on GTS in 2012

Ship Observations Team

Reports 2012

VOS (2357588) · XBT (11588) · TSG (951600) · XCTD (290) · ASAP (5417)
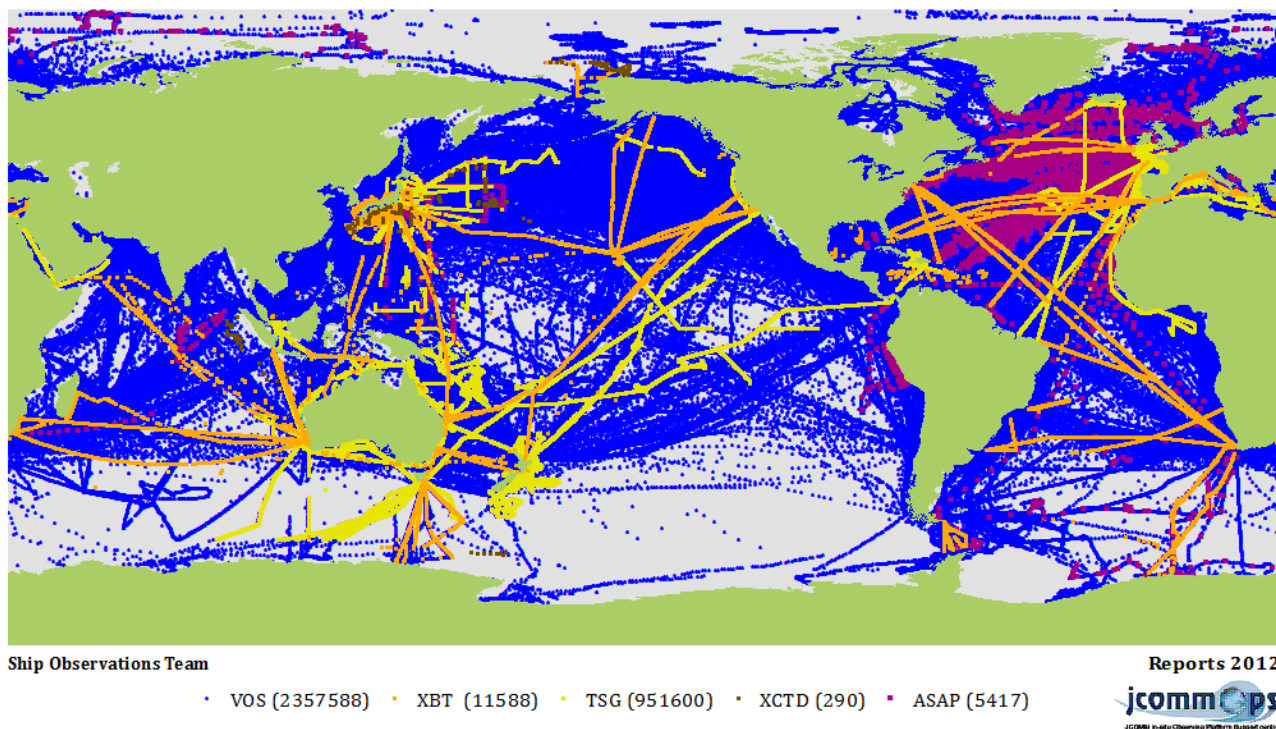
Figure 5: SOT reports distributed on GTS in 2012

VOS (1927 ships)
SOOP (31 ships)
ASAP (20 ships)

Ship Observations Team - Reports March 2013

VOS (170799) · XBT (1395) · TSG (59790) · XCTD (42) · ASAP (393)
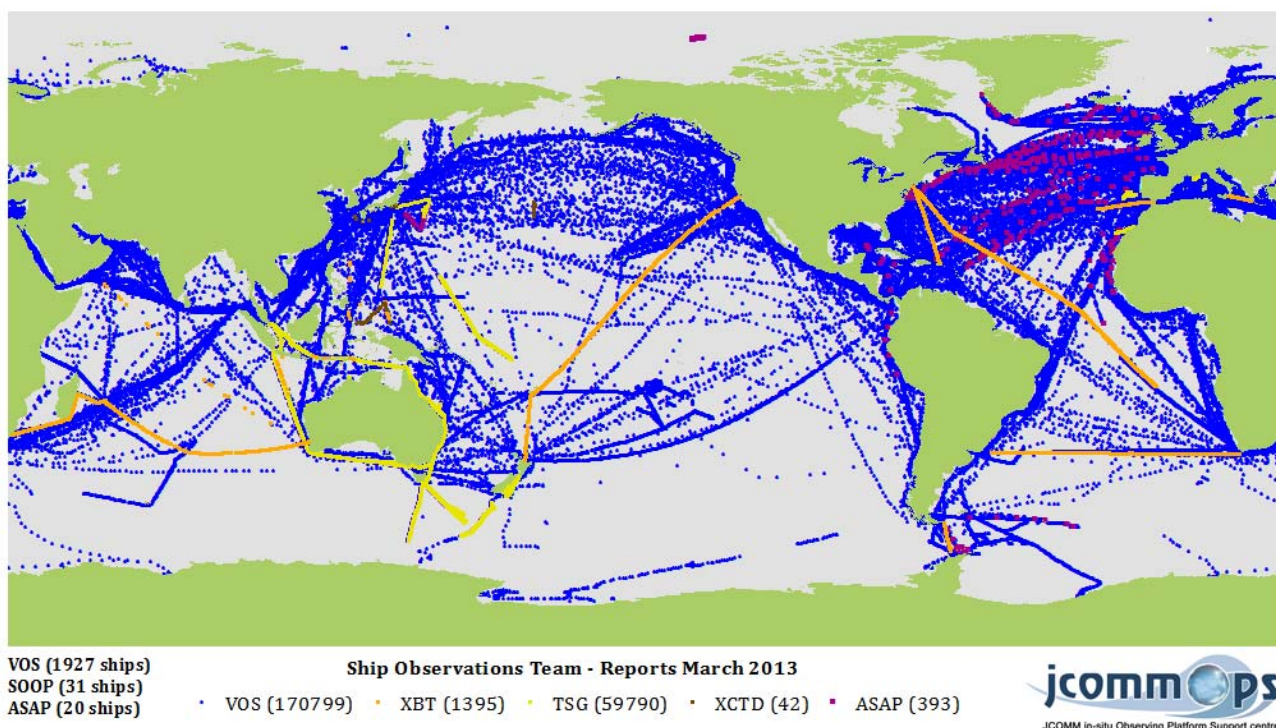
Figure 6: SOT reports distributed on GTS in March 2013

Ship Observations Team
VOS (1927)
Reports (170799)
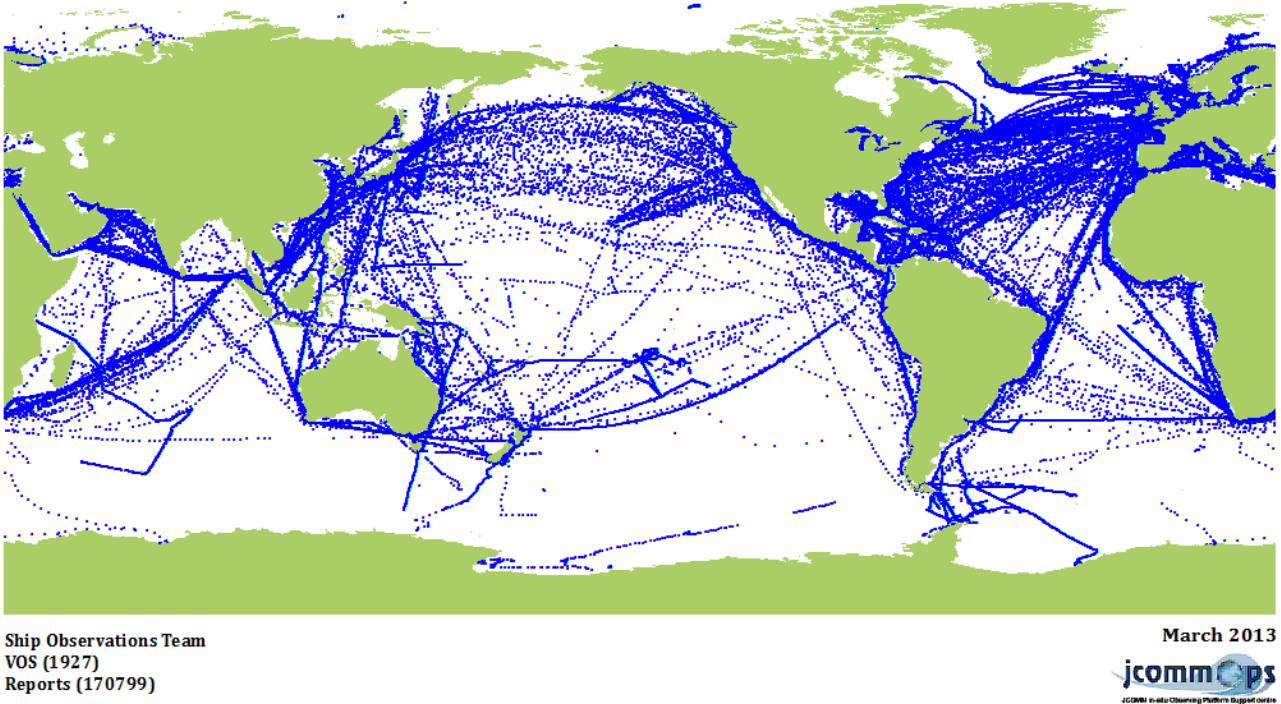
March 2013

Figure 7: VOS reports distributed on GTS in March 2013

Ship Observations Team
VOS (1927)
Reports (170799)
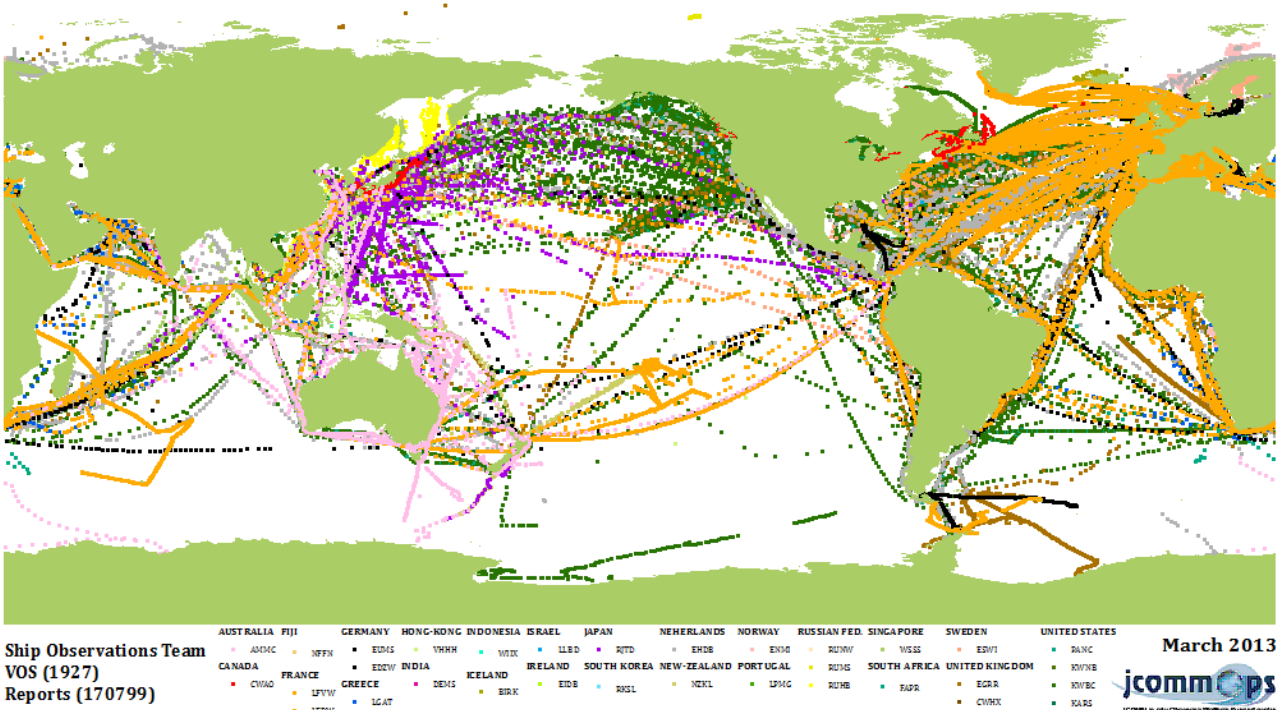
March 2013

Figure 8: VOS reports distributed on GTS in March 2013 by GTS node

Ship Observations Team
ASAP (20 ships)
Reports (393)

March 2013

jcommops
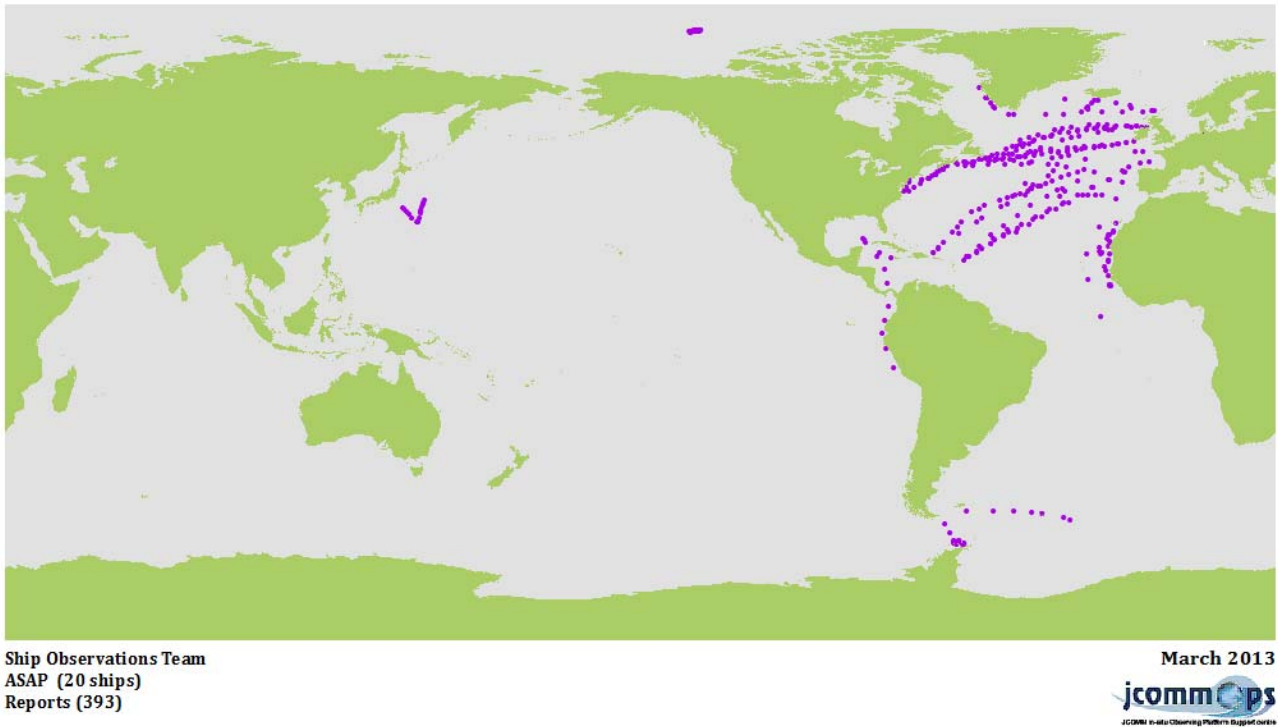
Figure 9: ASAP profiles distributed on GTS in March 2013

Ship Observations Team
SOOP (31 ships)

· XBT (1395) · TSG (59790) · XCTD (42)

March 2013

jcommops
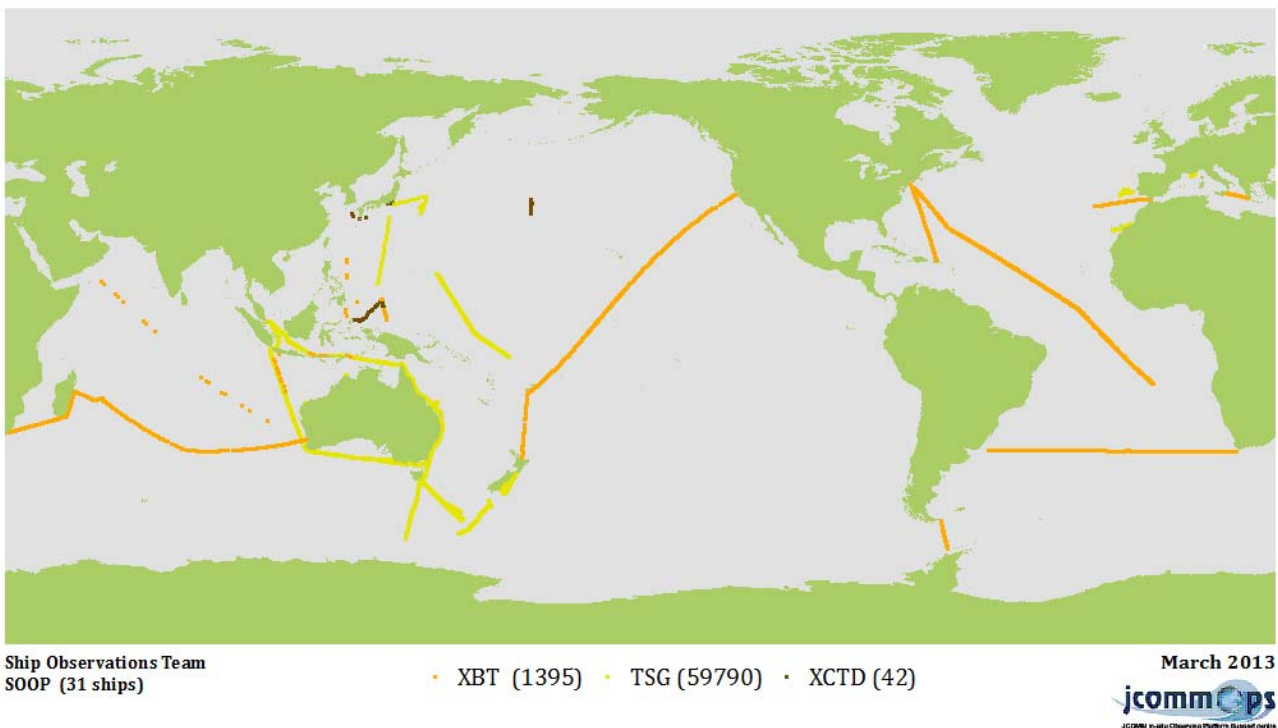
Figure 10: SOOP reports distributed on GTS in March 2013

All maps are available at ftp://ftp.jcommops.org/SOT in PNG and PDF format. It must be noted that the PDF files can be viewed and printed layer by layer.

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