

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)

JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR
OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY
(JCOMM)

SHIP OBSERVATIONS TEAM (SOT)

SEVENTH SESSION

VICTORIA, CANADA, 22-26 APRIL 2013

SOT-7/ Doc. 9.1.4
(14.03.2013)

ITEM: 9.1.4

Original: ENGLISH

VOSCLIM DATA ASSEMBLY CENTRE (DAC) REPORT

(Submitted by Eric Freeman (USA))

Summary and purpose of the document

This report, by the National Climatic Data Center – NCDC (acting as the DAC for the VOS Climate Fleet), provides information on the present status of the DAC activities in accordance with its Terms of Reference. It includes information on the status of the project website, including the collection and provision of real-time and delayed-mode observation data, metadata, ship listings and other project information.

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.

Appendices: A. Screen Captures from the updated VOSCLim Fleet DAC Website

- A - DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL REPORT

9.1.4.1 The National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), acting as the DAC for the VOSClm fleet, reported on the present status of the DAC activities in accordance with its Terms of Reference. The DAC reported on the status of the project website, including the collection and provision of real-time and delayed-mode observation data, metadata, ship listings and other project information. In the coming years, the MCDS will replace the MCSS and at that time it is expected that the VOSClm DAC will be upgraded to the VOSClm Global Data Assembly Centre (GDAC).

Data Assembly

9.1.4.2 The Team noted that the NCDC maintains several archives in support of the VOSClm Fleet and hosts a web presence¹ for access to fleet information and data. The archive consists of three data streams:

- GTS - near-real time collection of ship observations
- BUFR – ship observations plus model fields
- GCC – Global Collection Centers delayed mode ship observations

9.1.4.3 VOSClm observations from all streams are captured based on the most current ship list² available. GTS ship observations are transmitted over the GTS under a variety of WMO headers. BUFR ship observations are transmitted daily via GTS under WMO abbreviated header IZZX40 from the UK Met Office.

9.1.4.4 The Team further noted that the DAC continues to report quarterly to the GCCs on the number of delayed mode VOSClm observations parsed from the delayed mode files distributed to Responsible Members (RM). This information is used in the GCC annual reports.

9.1.4.5 All observations are decoded into the International Maritime Meteorological Archive (IMMA) format³ and placed on the project web site¹.

VOSClm Web Page and Data Access

9.1.4.5 NCDC reported that the VOSClm web page was significantly modified in 2011 to represent the upgrade of VOSClm from a project to its own class within the VOS Scheme. New VOSClm Fleet logos were added to the website, replacing the Project logo, and the site was downsized in order to focus primarily on VOSClm-related material and move all extraneous VOS Scheme materials/links to the official International VOS website⁴. A screen shot of the new VOSClm Fleet home page is provided in Appendix A.

9.1.4.6 The Team recalled that the data access website⁵ allows viewing of the data directly by any browser. For an automated download, the data is available on an anonymous FTP site⁶. In either location, separate folders exist for each year beginning with 2001. Also available for download from the FTP site is the VOSClm Ship List in MS Excel format; award pictures; ship pictures; and the statistics and suspect ship reports.

VOSClm Ship List and Participation

9.1.4.7 The DAC noted with appreciation that the number of recruited ships was up to 432. Participation in VOSClm continues to increase. One hundred eleven (111) ships were recruited into the VOSClm fleet since SOT-VI (April 2011, inclusive) while 39 vessels were withdrawn during

¹ <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/vosclim/vosclim.html>

² <http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/vosclim/vosclimshiplist.xls>

³ <http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/imma/R2.5-imma.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.bom.gov.au/jcomm/vos/vos.html>

⁵ <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/vosclim/vosclimdata.html>

⁶ <ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/vosclim>

the same period, providing a net gain of 72 VOSClm vessels.

9.1.4.8 The DAC commends International Port Meteorological Officers (PMO) for timely updates and notifications of new VOSClm recruits/withdrawals.

Appendix: 1

APPENDIX A


SCREEN CAPTURES FROM THE UPDATED VOSCLIM FLEET DAC WEBSITE



A.1) VOSClm home page:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/vosclim/vosclim.html>

About VOSclim VOSclim Datasets VOSclim Data Monitoring VOSclim Ship Information

 **VOS**
Voluntary Observing Ship Scheme
VOS Climate Fleet

VOSclim Datasets

- [2013](#)
- [2012](#)
- [2011](#)
- [2010](#)
- [2009](#)
- [2008](#)
- [2007](#)
- [2006](#)
- [2005](#)
- [2004](#)
- [2003](#)
- [2002](#)
- [2001](#)

Click the links to the left to access monthly text files of VOSclim data

[IMMA Documentation - VOSclim Archive Data Format \(PDF\)](#)

For database access to the same data, as well as data from buoys and other ships, please go to the [marine data portal](#) of NCDC's 'Climate Data Online' store.

A.2) VOSclim data access:


<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/vosclim/vosclimdata.html>

The screenshot shows a web interface for VOS Clim Data Monitoring Statistics. At the top, there are four navigation buttons: "About VOSclim", "VOSclim Datasets", "VOSclim Data Monitoring", and "VOSclim Ship Information". Below these is the VOS logo (Voluntary Observing Ship Scheme) and the text "VOS Climate Fleet". The main heading is "VOSclim Data Monitoring Statistics". The interface includes three selection fields: "Select Report:" with radio buttons for "Monthly statistics" (selected) and "Ship suspect list*"; "Select Year:" with a dropdown menu showing "2013"; and "Select Month:" with a dropdown menu showing "January". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "View Report" and "Reset options".

A.3) VOSclim monitoring statistics:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/vosclim/vosclim-stats.html>

About VOSCLIM **VOSCLIM Datasets** **VOSCLIM Data Monitoring** **VOSCLIM Ship Information**



VOS
Voluntary Observing Ship Scheme
VOS Climate Fleet

VOSCLIM Ship Information

VOSCLIM Ship Metadata

- [WMO Pub No. 47 and E-Surfmar Metadata Listings](#)
- [Informal Pub47 VOSCLIM list at ESURFMAR](#)

Ship and Instrument Photographs

- [NCDC ftp-site with photographs of ships by call sign and ship name](#)
- [Dutch web-site with ship photographs](#)
- [NCDC ftp-site with photographs of VOSCLIM Certificates of Participation presentations](#)

PMOs are encouraged to send additional photos to the [VOSCLIM DAC](#).

Project Ship List

- [Ship list \(MS Excel\)](#)

Please send all Ship List updates and inquiries to Eric.Freeman@noaa.gov.

A.4) VOSCLIM ship information:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/vosclim/shipinfo.html>