



VOS MONTHLY REPORT

October 2007

In October 2007, **292 manned and 777 automated** observations were received in average per day from EUMETNET ships operating in the EUCOS area of interest (395 conventional VOS and 70 AWS). These figures may be compared to those of 2002: 400 manned and 320 automated observations were received in average per day during this year.

EUCOS Automated Weather Stations (AWS)

In October 2007, five **Batos AWS stations** out of the eight funded by EUCOS in 2005 and 2006 reported their observations onto the GTS.

Ident.	Ship's name	CC	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
BATEU00	Mary Arctica	DK	20071029	483	
BATEU01	Toronto Express	UK	20071031	226	Synoptic hours only
BATEU02	Celtic Explorer	IR	20071030	231	94 gross errors on MSLP in October
BATEU03		DE			Lent to DWD for evaluation
BATEU04	Nuka Arctica	DK			Should be installed soon
BATEU05	Irena Arctica	DK	20071031	514	
BATEU06	Montreal Express	UK	20071031	151	Synoptic hours only
BATEU07	Juan de la Costa	SP			Stand-by

The installation aboard Montreal Express is not complete. Installation of wind and SST sensors is postponed in December.

Inmarsat-C Half Compression trial

Three conventional VOS fitted with the most recent version of TurboWin (version 4), reported their observations through Aussaguel SAC 412 instead of SAC 41 in October 2007. Received at Météo-France the raw data are uncompressed, coded in FM-13 SHIP messages and sent onto the GTS. The data transmission costs twice less than through SAC 41.

Ident.	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
TBWAA01	20071012	11	
TBWAA03	20071031	44	New ship - Biased values during a part of October
TBWFR01	20071031	32	
TBWFR02	20071031	112	
TBWUK01	20070930	32	

Masked call sign trial

Since mid-2006, E-SURFMAR is performing a masked call sign trial carried out accordingly to WMO Resolution 7 (EC-LVIII). The purpose is to avoid the availability of VOS ship's positions and identifications on public websites not controlled by National Meteorological Services. Messages reported onto the GTS by VOS participating in this E-SURFMAR trial report are fitted with unique identifiers which are different from their ITU call signs. All EUCOS funded AWS, as well as conventional ships participating in the half compression trial, have their call signs masked. More and more AWS systems operated by E-SURFMAR participants have also their identifiers masked. In October 2007, **5 conventional VOS and 57 shipborne AWS** (1 Avos, 43 Batos, 1 Baros and 12 Minos) participated in this trial.

News

A **first Baros prototype** was successfully installed on a French trawler on the 26th of October. Its WMO identifier (masked callsign) is BARFR00. Electrical power is supplied by the ship. The station, based on a PC card with Linux, a Vaisala PTB210 barometer, a GPS and an Iridium SBD modem (9601), is fully operational (*). A pre-series of four units is now under construction.

(*) See http://www.shom.fr/cgi-bin/meteo/display_vos_ext.cgi?callchx=BARFR00 and check air pressure.

Useful links

The working area of the E-SURFMAR website <http://esurfmar.meteo.fr/wikisurf-wa/> is the place where you can get a lot of informations about the programme in general and its components (data buoys and VOS). Ask the E-SURFMAR Programme Manager Pierre.Blouch@meteo.fr for the password in case you forgot it. Notice you can participate in providing your own information to the PM or in writing directly on the website. This latest facility, easy to handle, may be provided to volunteers.

Monthly QC statistics and other quality control tools are available at:

<http://www.meteo.shom.fr/vos-monitoring/>

A "blacklist" of EUMETNET VOS reporting dubious air pressure values is displayed at:

<http://www.meteo.shom.fr/qctools/evblackap.htm>

VOS operators (focal points) and PMOs are invited to check whether their ships are not in this list and to take appropriate actions to correct possible problems if any.

A list of European AWS is available at <http://www.meteo.shom.fr/qctools/last-report-list.htm>. Updated every day, this list gives for each station: its operating country; the date of its first report (after July 2004); the date of its last report - in red for those which have not reported for more than 2 weeks - ; etc...

Graphs of system performances may be downloaded at:

http://esurfmar.meteo.fr/doc/r/surfmar/others/e-surfmar_monitoring.pdf

The official E-SURFMAR webpages are henceforth on the EUCOS Web site (<http://www.eucos.net/>). Choose "EUCOS Networks" then "E-SURFMAR" in the left menu.