VOS MONTHLY REPORT

November 2007

In November 2007, **247 manned and 726 automated** observations were received in average per day from EUMETNET ships operating in the EUCOS area of interest (363 conventional VOS and 72 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 November 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	20071130	325	
BATEU01	Toronto Express	UK	20071130	193	Synoptic hours only
BATEU02	Celtic Explorer	IR		0	MSLP removed from GTS reports
BATEU03		DE			Lent to DWD for evaluation
BATEU04	Nuka Arctica	DK			Should be installed soon
BATEU05	Irena Arctica	DK	20071127	481	
BATEU06	Montreal Express	UK	20071031	158	Synoptic hours only
BATEU07	Juan de la Costa	SP			Stand-by

The installation aboard Montreal Express is not complete. Wind measurement inputs must be checked and the SST sensor must be installed. The operation is postponed again.

Inmarsat-C Half Compression trial

Five conventional VOS fitted with the most recent version of TurboWin (version 4), reported their observations through Aussaguel SAC 412 instead of SAC 41 in November 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	20071122	21	
TBWAA03	20071128	42	
TBWFR01	20071130	110	
TBWFR02	20071127	116	
TBWUK01	20071130	4	

A sixth ship is using the half compression technique but with its true callsign back (PGDM).

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 November 2007, **5 conventional VOS and 60 shipborne AWS** (1 Avos, 1 Baros, 46 Batos, and 12 Minos) participated in this trial.

News

The **first Baros prototype** (call sign BARFR00) worked perfectly in November. 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 heceforth on the EUCOS Web site (http://www.eucos.net/). Choose “*EUCOS Networks*” then “*E-SURFMAR*” in the left menu.