



VOS MONTHLY REPORT

March 2008

In March 2008, **238 manned and 746 automated observations** were received in average per day from EUMETNET ships operating in the EUCOS area of interest (374 conventional VOS and 67 AWS).

EUCOS Automated Weather Stations (AWS)

In March 2008, **four 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	20080331	150	Ship in dry dock during a part of the month
BATEU01	Toronto Express	UK	20080331	215	Synoptic hours only
BATEU02	Celtic Explorer	IR	20080330	294	
BATEU03		DE			Returned to Meteo-France
BATEU04	Nuka Arctica	DK			Not yet installed
BATEU05	Irena Arctica	DK			Failed by the end of February
BATEU06	Montreal Express	UK	20080331	129	Synoptic hours only
BATEU07					Not yet allocated

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

Inmarsat-C Half Compression trial

Two French and one British conventional VOS only, fitted with the most recent version of TurboWin (version 4), reported their observations through Aussaguel SAC 412 instead of SAC 41 in March 2008. 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. Dutch ships who previously used the technique, came back to SAC 41.

Ident.	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
TBWFR01	20080321	75	
TBWFR02	20080331	178	
TBWUK01	20080323	26	

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

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conventional ships participating in the half compression trial or not, have their call signs masked. More and more AWS systems operated by E-SURFMAR participants have also their identifiers masked. In March 2008, **20 conventional VOS** (16 British, 2 Dutch and 2 French) **and 56 shipborne AWS** (2 Baros, 43 Batos, and 11 Minos) participating in this trial, reported onto the GTS.

News

A Baros station was installed on an E-ASAP ship (Atlantic Compass – SKUN) on the 27th of March. Its (masked) call sign is BAREU00. It is the second AWS station of that kind installed aboard a ship. The first one was installed aboard a French trawler (Jericho - FUGH) in last October. Its (masked) call sign is BAREU00.

The Baros of Atlantic Compass suffers from some teeth problems. The data availability appears weaker than expected due wrong GPS fixes.

The **5th VOS-TAG meeting** will be held in KNMI, De Bilt, on 9-11th April 2008. Half a day will be devoted to the establishment of a Task Team on ship borne AWS.

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.