



VOS MONTHLY REPORT

August 2008

In August 2008, **293 manned and 972 automated observations** were received in average per day at least(*) from EUMETNET ships operating in the EUCOS area of interest (435 conventional VOS and 81 AWS).

(*)The figures will be updated within a couple of weeks.

EUCOS Automated Weather Stations (AWS)

In August 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	20080831	473	
BATEU01	Toronto Express	UK	20080731	219	Synoptic hours only
BATEU02	Celtic Explorer	IR	20080831	142	
BATEU03		DE			Returned to Meteo-France
BATEU04	Nuka Arctica	DK			Not yet installed
BATEU05	Irena Arctica	DK	20080831	256	
BATEU06	Montreal Express	UK			Should be visited in September
BATEU07					Not yet allocated

The Batos of the Montreal Express is not working and the installation is not ended. The ship will be visited on 24-25 September. Wind measurement inputs must be checked and the SST sensor must be installed.

Two Baros AWS stations out of the four installed on E-ASAP ships are correctly working :

Ident.	Ship's name	CC	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
BAREU00	Atlantic Compass	EU	20080831	506	
BAREU01	SL Motivator	EU	20080831	606	
BAREU02	Hornbay	EU			The station is back in Brest (expertise)
BAREU03	SL Performance	EU			The station re-started on Sept. 19th

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 August 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.

E-SURFMAR VOS Monthly Report August 2008

Ident.	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
TBWFR01	20080831	121	
TBWFR02	20080831	169	

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 or not, have their call signs masked. More and more AWS systems operated by E-SURFMAR participants have also their identifiers masked. In August 2008, **22 conventional VOS** (19 British, 1 Dutch and 2 French) **and 64 shipborne AWS** (3 Baros, 49 Batos, one Deck Drifter and 11 Minos) participating in this trial, reported onto the GTS.

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 August 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.