



VOS MONTHLY REPORT

September 2008

In September 2008, **353 manned and 1017 automated observations** were received in average per day from EUMETNET ships operating in the EUCOS area of interest (451 conventional VOS and 85 AWS).

The figures of previous months were revised. The use of the E-SURFMAR metadata database, now operational, allows to take into account the modifications in the VOS fleets more quickly than before. More VOS and more reports have been found.

EUCOS Automated Weather Stations (AWS)

In September 2008, **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	20080928	455	
BATEU01	Toronto Express	UK	20080930	213	Synoptic hours only
BATEU02	Celtic Explorer	IR	20080930	448	
BATEU03		DE			Returned to Meteo-France
BATEU04	Nuka Arctica	DK			Not yet installed
BATEU05	Irena Arctica	DK	20080930	322	
BATEU06	Montreal Express	UK	20080930	68	In operation again since 25 Sept.
BATEU07					Not yet allocated

The Batos the Montreal Express was visited and repaired in Hamburg on 24-25 September. Wind measurement are now OK.

Three Baros AWS stations installed on E-ASAP ships are correctly working :

Ident.	Ship's name	CC	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
BAREU00	Atlantic Compass	EU	20080930	502	
BAREU01	SL Motivator	EU	20080930	590	
BAREU02	Hornbay	EU			The station is back in Brest (expertise)
BAREU03	SL Performance	EU	20080930	273	The station re-started on Sept. 19th

Inmarsat-C Half Compression trial

Two French VOS only, fitted with the most recent version of TurboWin (version 4), reported their observations through Aussaguel SAC 412 instead of SAC 41 in September 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.

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Ident.	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
TBWFR01	20080924	125	
TBWFR02	20080930	161	

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 September 2008, **21 conventional VOS** (19 British 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.