



## **VOS MONTHLY REPORT**

**December 2008**

In December 2008, **339 manned and 826 automated observations** were received in average per day from EUMETNET ships operating in the EUCOS area of interest (440 conventional VOS and 75 AWS).

### **EUCOS Automated Weather Stations (AWS)**

In December 2008, **five Batos AWS stations** out of the eight funded by EUCOS in 2005 and 2006 reported their observations onto the GTS.

<b>Ident.</b>	<b>Ship's name</b>	<b>CC</b>	<b>Last rep.</b>	<b>nobs</b>	<b>Remark</b>
BATEU00	Mary Arctica	DK	20081231	376	
BATEU01	Toronto Express	UK	20081224	171	Synoptic hours only
BATEU02	Celtic Explorer	IR	20081217	178	
BATEU03		DE			Returned to Meteo-France
BATEU04	Nuka Arctica	DK			Not yet installed
BATEU05	Irena Arctica	DK	20081231	283	
BATEU06	Montreal Express	UK	20081231	558	
BATEU07					Not yet allocated

Three Baros AWS stations installed on E-ASAP ships were correctly working. New ones should be installed soon :

<b>Ident.</b>	<b>Ship's name</b>	<b>CC</b>	<b>Last rep.</b>	<b>nobs</b>	<b>Remark</b>
BAREU00	Atlantic Compass	EU	20081231	507	
BAREU01	SL Motivator	EU			E-ASAP service ended
BAREU02	Hornbay	EU			Should be re-installed in January
BAREU03	SL Performance	EU			E-ASAP service ended
BAREU04	Alantic Companion	EU	20081222	178	Operating since December 12 <sup>th</sup>
BAREU05	Power	EU			Should be installed in January
BAREU06	Endurance	EU			Should be installed in January

### **Inmarsat-C Half Compression trial**

**One remaining VOS**, recruited by Meteo-France and fitted with the most recent version of TurboWin (version 4), reported their observations through Aussaguel SAC 412 instead of SAC 41 in December 2008. Received at Météo-France the raw data were uncompressed, coded in FM-13 SHIP messages and sent onto the GTS. The data transmission costs twice less than through SAC 41. Then a set up problem occurred, leading to produce corrupted data. No reports have been sent onto the GTS since. Investigations are ongoing.

<b>Ident.</b>	<b>Last rep.</b>	<b>nobs</b>	<b>Remark</b>
TBWFR02	20081207	52	

### **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 December 2008, **30 conventional VOS** (19 British, 10 Dutch and 1 French) **and 59 shipborne AWS** (2 Baros, 42 Batos, two Deck Drifters, one Met Pod and 12 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](mailto: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](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.