



VOS MONTHLY REPORT

April 2009

In April 2009, **297 manned and 979 automated observations** were received in average per day from EUMETNET ships operating in the EUCOS area of interest (451 conventional VOS and 87 AWS).

EUCOS Automated Weather Stations (AWS)

In April 2009, **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	20090430	460	
BATEU01	Toronto Express	UK	20090430	506	
BATEU02	Celtic Explorer	IR	20090427	370	
BATEU03		DE			Returned to Meteo-France
BATEU04	Nuka Arctica	DK			Not yet installed
BATEU05	Irena Arctica	DK	20090430	326	
BATEU06	Montreal Express	UK	20090430	457	
BATEU07					Not yet allocated

Eight Baros AWS stations installed on E-ASAP ships and one installed on a Greek ship were correctly working during the month.

Ident.	Ship's name	CC	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
BAREU00	Atlantic Compass	EU	20090430	477	
BAREU02	Hornbay	EU			Re-installation postponed in May
BAREU04	Alantic Companion	EU	20090430	658	
BAREU05	Power	EU	20090430	394	
BAREU06	Endurance	EU	20090430	563	
BAREU07	Naja Arctica	EU	20090430	642	
BAREU08	Liverpool Express	EU	20090430	516	
BAREU09	Nuka Arctica	EU	20090430	34	
BAREU50	Greek ship	EU	20090430	400	

Inmarsat-C Half Compression trial

One remaining VOS, recruited by Meteo-France and fitted with the most recent version of TurboWin (version 4), reports its observations through Aussaguel SAC 412 instead of SAC 41. 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
TBWFR02	20090428	146	

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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 April 2009, **33 conventional VOS** (23 British, 7 Dutch and 2 French and one Greek) **and 67 shipborne AWS** (8 Baros, 44 Batos, two Deck Drifters, one Met Pod, one Milos 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.