VOS MONTHLY REPORT

September 2010

In September 2010, **350 manned and 1058 automated observations** were received in average per day from EUMETNET ships operating in the EUCOS area of interest (458 conventional VOS and 94 AWS).

EUCOS Automated Weather Stations (AWS)

During the month, **six 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	20100930	447	
BATEU01	Toronto Express	UK	20100930	416	
BATEU02	Celtic Explorer	IR	20100930	145	
BATEU03	Celtic Voyager	IR			Will be installed soon
BATEU04	Nuka Arctica	DK			Not yet installed
BATEU05	Irena Arctica	DK	20100930	341	
BATEU06	Montreal Express	UK	20100930	452	
BATEU07	Mississauga Exp.	FR	20100930	438	

Eight BaRos AWS stations installed on E-ASAP ships **and two** installed on other ships were correctly working during the month.

Ident.	Ship's name	CC	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
BAREU00	Atlantic Compass	EU	20100930	585	
BAREU04	Alantic Companion	EU	20100930	559	
BAREU05	Power	EU	20100930	500	
BAREU06	Endurance	EU	20100930	532	
BAREU07	Naja Arctica	EU	20100930	537	
BAREU08	Liverpool Express	EU	20100930	540	
BAREU09	Nuka Arctica	EU	20100930	506	
BAREU11	Dublin Express	EU	20100930	500	
BAREU52	Aegean Sky	EU	20100928	18	
BAREU53	Sapphire	EU	20100930	419	
BAREU54	Douce France	EU	20100930	419	
BAREU55	Hellenic Master	EU	20100930	17	Former BaRos of Aegean Sky

Inmarsat-C Half Compression trial

French conventional VOS TBWFR02 reported 14 half compressed messages in September although it is equipped with a BaTos AWS. KNMI expressed their interests in the technique. SAC 431 (LES x02) was created at Stratos for Dutch VOS. Studies are ongoing to optimize the technique. It appears it was not yet correctly applied.

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 2010, **25 conventional VOS** (15 British, 9 Dutch and one French) **and 81 shipborne AWS** (12 BaRos, 58 BaTos, 9 Minos and 2 deck drifters) 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 henceforth available at:
http://www.meteo.shom.fr/qctools/

A “blacklist” of EUMETNET VOS reporting dubious air pressure values is displayed at:
http://www.meteo.shom.fr/qctools/sevblackap.htm << New link
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 September 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.