



VOS MONTHLY REPORT

March 2011

In March 2011, **321 manned and 1199 automated observations** were received in average per day from EUMETNET ships operating in the EUCOS area of interest (421 conventional VOS and 103 AWS).

News

VOS-TAG-8 was held in Genoa on 30-31 March. The local organization was managed by CNR (Genoa) and ENEA (La Spezia). Nineteen participants attended the meeting. Among various topics, the meeting decided to manage the Pub47 metadata of European fixed platforms and rigs in the E-SURFMAR metadata database. Two non-official VOS classes were created for that purpose: 90 for manned platforms and rigs; 95 for platform and rig AWSs.

It seems that air pressure values reported by the BaTos of Mary Arctica are biased due to the pressurization of the bridge (-3 hPa).

Monthly statistics and plots of transmission delays over the past two weeks are now available among other tools to monitor VOS data (<http://www.meteo.shom.fr/gctools/>).

EUCOS Automated Weather Stations (AWS)

During the month, **ten BaTos AWS stations**, out of the twelve funded by EUCOS in 2005 and 2006, reported their observations onto the GTS. The station of Italian RV Urania was installed at the beginning of March.

Ident.	Ship's name	CC	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
BATEU00	Mary Arctica	DK	20110306	107	Transmission of air pressure stopped
BATEU01	Toronto Express	UK	20110308	88	Technical problem at the beginning of March
BATEU02	Celtic Explorer	IR	20110331	507	
BATEU03	Celtic Voyager	IR	20110330	215	
BATEU04	Nuka Arctica	DK	20110323	279	
BATEU05	Irena Arctica	DK	20110331	294	
BATEU06	Montreal Express	UK	20110331	431	
BATEU07	Mississauga Exp.	FR	20110331	437	
BATEU08	Naja Arctica	DK	20110330	298	
BATEU09	Urania	FR	20110331	114	Installed in March

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

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Ident.	Ship's name	CC	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
BAREU00	Atlantic Compass	EU	20110331	584	
BAREU04	Alantic Companion	EU	20110331	593	
BAREU05	Power	EU	20110331	510	
BAREU06	Endurance	EU	20110331	566	
BAREU07	Naja Arctica	EU	20110331	342	Will be dismantled soon (BaTos now operating)
BAREU08	Liverpool Express	EU	20110331	586	
BAREU11	Dublin Express	EU	20110331	538	
BAREU51	La Superba	IT	20110331	371	
BAREU54	Douce France	FR	20110331	596	
BAREU55	Hellenic Master	GR			Ship seems out of commission in Piraeus
BAREU56	Jolly Indaco	FR	20110331	204	
BAREU57	Pontos	CY	20110331	449	
BAREU58	Louis Majesty	CY	20110331	538	
BAREU59	Tenacia	IT	20110331	534	
BAREU60	Dubrovnik	HR	20110331	167	Installed in March

Inmarsat-C Half Compression trial

No ship used the half compressed message technique in March but the technique could be widely used in the coming months since KNMI decided to deploy it on their VOS ships.

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.

The E-SURFMAR metadata database address is <http://esurfmar.meteo.fr/doc/vosmetadata/>. This database contains the most recently updated WMO Pub47 metadata of the global WMO VOS fleet. Every day, extracts from the database are made available at <ftp://esurfmar.meteo.fr/pub/Pub47/>.

Monthly QC statistics and other quality control tools are 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>

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...

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.