VOS MONTHLY REPORT

February 2014

In February 2014, **221 manned and 1666 automated observations** were received in average per day from EUMETNET ships operating in the EUMETNET observation area of interest (309 conventional VOS and 116 Shipborne Automatic Weather Stations (S-AWS)).

Since mid-February, FM13 messages received at KNMI through Inmarsat-C (Burum station operated by Stratos), or by email, are forwarded to Meteo-France. There, they are transmitted onto the GTS under headers S[M,I,N]V[A-Z]14 LFPW. In parallel they are converted in BUFR and transmitted in that format. During the few days which followed the switch, the operational Meteo-France databank was not fed with these observations which were sent onto the GTS nevertheless. The problem has been fully fixed on the 3rd of March. E-SURFMAR statistics had been impacted.

EUMETNET Automated Weather Stations (AWS)

During February, **ten AWS stations**, out of the thirteen funded by EUMETNET, reported their observations onto the GTS. It must be noted that, on two ships, Montreal Express and Cap Finisterre, pressure measurements suffer from a lack of accuracy in windy conditions. This could be due to a wrong position of the barometer outside the bridge.

Ident.	Ship's name	CC	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
BATEU00	Mary Arctica	DK	20140224	484	Back in Europe after annual Antarctic voyage
BATEU01	Toronto Express	UK	20140228	465	
BATEU02	Celtic Explorer	IR	20140228	129	
BATEU03	Celtic Voyager	IR	20140228	364	
BATEU04	Nuka Arctica	DK	20131110		Stopped transmitting in November
BATEU05	Irena Arctica	DK	20140228	407	
BATEU06	Montreal Express	UK	20140228	449	
BATEU07	Mississauga Exp.	UK	20130228	448	
BATEU08	Naja Arctica	DK	20140228	407	
BATEU09	Urania	FR	20140228	262	
BATEU10	Cap Finisterre	FR	20140225	288	Inaccurate pressure measurements

Seven BaRos AWS stations installed on E-ASAP ships **and eleven** installed on other ships or on Cycofos moored buoy reported their data onto the GTS in February. Three stations are BaRos+. In addition to air pressure, they normally report air temperature, air humidity and wind. In order to correctly measure the wind, the sonic anemometer must be well exposed. It seems this is not the case here for two out of them. Wind observations have been be removed from the GTS for these meanwhile better exposures are found. The observations of the Cycofos buoy (WMO 1200050) are no longer counted among BaRos S-AWS observations. The status of this station is henceforth reported in the data buoy report.

Ident.	Ship's name	CC	Last rep.	nobs	Remark
BAREU00	Atlantic Compass	EU	20140226	485	
BAREU04	Alantic Companion	EU	20140228	480	
BAREU08	Liverpool Express	EU	20140228	514	
BAREU11	Dublin Express	EU	20140228	532	
BAREU12	Atlantic Conveyor	EU	20140228	556	
BAREU13	Ottawa Express	EU	20140228	569	
BAREU14	Atlantic Cartier	EU	20140227	607	
BAREU51	La Superba	IT	20140228	471	BaRos+ (Gill MetPak-II) - No wind reports
BAREU58	Louis Majesty	CY	20131124		Stand-by in Piraeus
BAREU60	Dubrovnik	HR	20140228	33	
BAREU62	Daniel A	IT	20140228	299	

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BAREU65  Agean Dignity     GR  20140228     450
BAREU66  Excellent         IT  20140228     553
BAREU67  Hilde A           IT  20140228     447  BaRos+ S-AWS (WXT520). - No wind reports
BAREU69  LNG Lirici        IT  20140228     359
BAREU70  Marguerite A      IT  20140227     379
BAREU71  Sete Cidades      PT  20140228     321  BaRos+ (MetPak-II) – Reliable wind reports
BAREU72  Natalia A         IT  20140228     434
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Inmarsat-C Half Compression deployment

KNMI continued to deploy the half compression technique on their conventional VOS. Raw data messages sent through Inmarsat-C (Burum LES - SAC 431) are processed at Meteo-France for GTS transmission. In February, 19 conventional VOS reported a total of **509** half compressed messages.

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.meteo2.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.meteo2.shom.fr/qctools/last-report-list_surfmar.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.