

The Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program

GOT WEATHER?

Report It!
“Observations Save Lives”

*Only You Know The Weather
 At Your Position*



Report Weather at: 0000, 0600, 1200 & 1800 UTC
 to the National Weather Service.

For detailed information about the program,
 contact one of the Port Meteorological Officers

or

The National Program Center

Phone: (228) 688-1457/1818

E-Mail: VOS.NOAA.GOV

or visit

www.vos.noaa.gov

PMO LOCATIONS & CONTACTS

Port Meteorological Officers (PMOs) are located in the following United States ports and should be contacted when services are needed or if your vessel would like to receive more information about participating.
 (* is the National Program Office):

Anchorage, AK	907-271-5137	PMOANC@noaa.gov
Baltimore, MD	410-633-4709	PMOBAL@noaa.gov
Charleston, SC	843-740-1281	PMOCHS@noaa.gov
Duluth, MN	218-729-0651	PMOGLAKES@noaa.gov
Honolulu, HI	808-532-6439	PMOHON@noaa.gov
Houston, TX	281-534-2640 x277	PMOHOU@noaa.gov
Jacksonville, FL	904-607-3219 x117	PMOJAX@noaa.gov
Kodiak, AK	907-487-2102	PMOKDK@noaa.gov
Los Angeles, CA	562-980-4090	PMOLAX@noaa.gov
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	954-463-4271	PMOMIA@noaa.gov
Newark, NJ/NY	732-316-5409	PMONYC@noaa.gov
New Orleans, LA	504-289-2294	PMOMSY@noaa.gov
Norfolk, VA	757-877-1692	PMONOR@noaa.gov
Oakland, CA	510-637-2960	PMOAK@noaa.gov
Seattle, WA	206-526-6100	PMOSEA@noaa.gov
Valdez, AK	907-835-4505	PMOVDZ@noaa.gov

*National Program Center
 Stennis Space Center, MS
 228-688-1457 or 1818



VOS



VOLUNTARY **O**BSERVING **S**HIP PROGRAM



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service

Voluntary Observing Ship Program

The mission of the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) program is two-fold: (1) to collect and disseminate critical real-time maritime weather observations through the recruitment and support of ships to fulfill National needs and international agreements supporting commerce, forecasts and warning programs, and the Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS) worldwide, and (2) to define the global climate and help measure extreme weather events, climate variability, and long-term climate changes.

VOS operates at no cost to the vessel, with communication charges, observing equipment and reporting supplies furnished by the National Weather Service.

REMEMBER: HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF FORECASTS AND WARNINGS, CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF SAFETY AT SEA.

Only YOU know the weather at your position. Report It!

From the very beginning, ship's meteorological observations were recognized as being essential for the provision of safety related meteorological services for ships at sea, as well as for climatological purposes.



Port Meteorological Officers (PMOs)

PMOs support observing programs aboard Voluntary Observing Ships. They are responsible for recruitment and training of new vessels as observers and also for ensuring the quality of observations from vessels actively participating in the program.

In addition to training officers/crew to successfully participate in the VOS program, PMOs provide insight and resources for ships marine forecasting needs. It is the intent that the VOS program provide assistance to improve the basic knowledge base on methods and products available to mariners.

Websites of Interest for further information:

NOAA

<http://www.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service

<http://www.weather.gov>

VOS

<http://www.vos.noaa.gov>

National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov>

Mariners Weather Log

<http://www.vos.noaa.gov/mwl.shtml>

U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/marcomms/>



World Meteorological Organization
Working Together in weather, climate and water

AMVER/SEAS, OBSJMA & TURBOWIN Software



Software (E-LOGBOOKS)

*Endorsed by the
World Meteorological Organization*

AMVER/SEAS

Developed by NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in cooperation with the U.S. Coastguard for all Voluntary Observing Ships.

TURBOWIN

Developed by the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute with contributions from several National Meteorological Services.

OBSJMA

Developed by Japan Meteorological Agency.

Observation Encoding Software

- Provided at no cost to all participating ships.
- Observing/user training provided.
- Assistance/training in transmittal setup (e-mail/or inmarsat C).
- Cost of transmitting via inmarsat C at no cost to the ship.

Benefits of using E-Logbooks

- Guides observers through complete weather observations, step by step.
- Encodes observations for transmission into proper BBXX code (ship observation code).
- Performs Quality Control of marine weather data at the very source.
- Paperless
- AMVER (Automated Vessel Rescue System)-
Ship track reporting input for departure, arrival and deviation. Daily updates not needed if taking weather observations, position information forwarded to USCG by NOAA. Unlimited way points.