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: (226) 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 PMOAK@noaa.gov
Los Angeles, CA 323-983-4090 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

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 warnings 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.navicen.uscg.gov/marcomm/

AMVER/SEAS, OBSJMA & TURBOWIN Software

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.

World Meteorological Organization
Working Together in weather, climate and water