

# The Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program

## GOT WEATHER?

### PMO LOCATIONS & CONTACTS

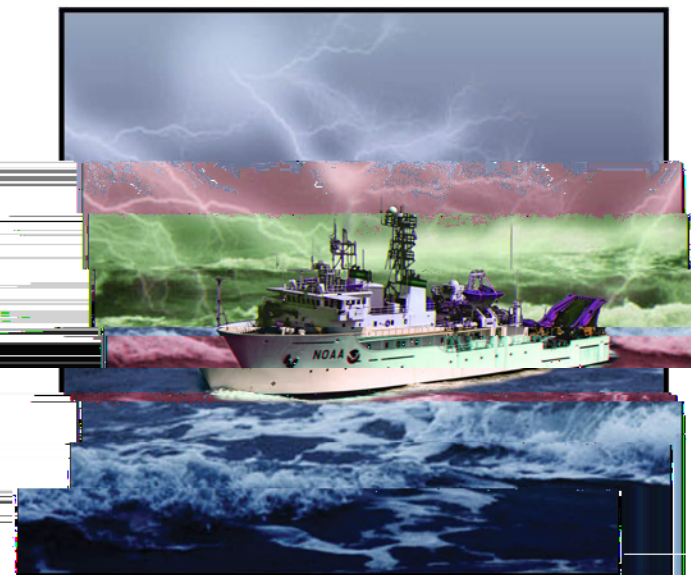
Port Meteorological Officers (PMOs) are located in the following United States ports and should be contacted when services are needed or if your vessel would like to receive more information about participating.  
(\* is the National Program Office):

|                    |                   |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Anchorage, AK      | 907-271-5127      | PMOANB@noaa.gov    |
| Baltimore, MD      | 410-633-4709      | PMOBAL@noaa.gov    |
| Charleston, SC     | 803-740-1281      | 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   | 904-787-3318 x113 | PMOJAX@noaa.gov    |
| Kailua, HI         | 808-245-5111      | PMOKAI@noaa.gov    |
| Kailua, HI         | 808-245-5111      | PMOKAI@noaa.gov    |
| Los Angeles, CA    | 562-280-4000      | PMOLAX@noaa.gov    |
| Ft. Lauderdale, FL | 954-463-4271      | PMOMIA@noaa.gov    |
| Newark, NJ         | 732-310-8405      | PMONJ@noaa.gov     |
| New Orleans, LA    | 504-289-2284      | PMOSY@noaa.gov     |
| Norfolk, VA        | 757-677-1692      | 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



**V**OLUNTARY **O**BSERVING **S**HIP PROGRAM



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service

**Report It!**

**"Observations Save Lives"**

*Only You Know The Weather  
At Sea*



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](mailto:VOS.NOAA.GOV)

or visit

[www.vos.noaa.gov](http://www.vos.noaa.gov)

## 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

TURBOWIN



Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute  
Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment



AMVER/SEAS



### 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.*