

New Zealand National Report March 2018

NIWA is the New Zealand participant in Argo. NIWA has purchased 2 floats per year since 2001, with no floats being purchased in 2003 because of float availability. We have also deployed floats for other providers and are collaborating on large deployments by contributing towards vessel costs.

New Zealand's floats

NIWA has purchased and deployed 35 floats to date. Purchases and deployments are likely to continue at the 2 floats/year level.

Information on the New Zealand floats, designated (WMO#): 8711 (5905726)*, 8658 (5905681)*, 8599 (5905266)*, 8597, (5905265)*, 8513 (5902503)*, 8511 (5902502)*, 8427 (5902440)*, 8426 (5902439)*, 8323 (5902384)*, 8322 (5902383)*, 8179 (5904274)*, 8131 (5904332), 8116 (5904076), 8097 (5904062), 8064 (5903777), 8035 (5903756), 2873 (5903333), 2872 (5903332), 2860 (5902225), 2859 (5902224), 2750 (5901853), 2739 (5901843), 2693 (5901763), 2659 (5901804), 2585 (5901271), 2555 (5901239), 2547 (5901227), 2463 (5901028), 2332 (5900632), 2331 (5900631), 2138 (5900206), 2137 (5900205), 2042 (5900109), 2039 (5900106), can be found at: <http://sio-argo.ucsd.edu/historical.html>

*=active

The data from the NZ floats are administered by Scripps Institution of Oceanography and are available on the Argo Global Data Assembly Centers (GDACS).

Providing deployment opportunities

NIWA has provided deployment opportunities for other nation's floats in the southwest Pacific and Southern Ocean. This is a very important contribution to Argo, given that these regions had poor float coverage and limited deployment opportunities from commercial vessels.

In an ongoing collaboration, NIWA is funding 15% of the vessel costs of R/V Kaharoa deploying floats for University of Washington (USA), Scripps Institution of Oceanography (USA) and CSIRO (Australia).

NIWA's larger research vessel, R/V Tangaroa has also deployed floats in the Southern Ocean, both as part of the same collaboration and opportunistically when other research takes place in the Southern Ocean. An Antarctic (Ross Sea) voyage in February 2019 deployed 12 SOLO IIs and 5 DEEP SOLOs floats. The next Tangaroa Antarctic voyage is tentatively planned for February 2021.

An R/V Kaharoa deployment voyage from New Zealand to South America is planned for December 2019.

Other logistics

NIWA is available to facilitate any Argo-related work in the New Zealand region- recent examples include recovering floats and returning beached floats to manufacturers.

Vessel replacement

R/V Kaharoa is nearing replacement. Argo needs and requirements are being considered in the replacement process, but any input is welcome.