

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 22 floats to date. Purchases and deployments are likely to continue at the 2 floats/year level.

Information on the New Zealand floats, designated (WMO#): 2039 (5900106), 2042 (5900109), 2137 (5900205), 2138 (5900206), 2331 (5900631), 2332 (5900632), 2463 (5901028), 2547 (5901227), 2555 (5901239), 2585 (5901271), 2693 (5901763), 2659 (5901804), 2739 (5901843), 2750 (5901853), 2859 (5902224), 2860 (5902225), 2872 (5903332), 2873 (5903333), 8035 (5903756), 8064 (5903777), 8097 (5904062), 8116 (5904076), 8131 (5904332)*, 8179 (5904274)*, 8322 (5902383)*, 8323 (5902384)*, 8426 (5902439)*, 8427 (5902440)*, 8511 (5902502)*, 8513 (5902503)*, 8597, (5905265)*, 8599 (5905266)* can be found at: http://sio-argo.ucsd.edu/weqpac_web.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. There is an Antarctic (Ross Sea) voyage planned for February 2019 with the opportunity to deploy floats.

An R/V Kaharoa deployment voyage from New Zealand to the tropical Pacific is planned for July 2018.

Finally, NIWA is also available to facilitate float deployments being mobilized out of New Zealand ports.

Vessel replacement

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