

ARGO National Report 2007 – The Netherlands

1) Status of implementation

The Dutch Argo program, run by the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), started in 2004 when three floats were deployed between Spain and Ireland. In 2005 four floats were deployed in the Irminger Sea, and in 2006 four in the Canary Basin. All deployments were done by the Dutch research vessel *Pelagia*, which is operated by the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ).

2) Present level of (and future prospects for) national funding for Argo including summary of human resources devoted to Argo.

In their observation strategy adopted in 2006 KNMI has expressed the intention to sustain a fleet of approx. 30 floats. Given a lifetime of about 4 years for a float this means purchase of about eight floats per year, plus communication. However, funding for float procurement has to compete with investments in other observational programs. As a consequence only six floats can be purchased in 2007.

One person (Andreas Sterl) is working on ARGO. He does so besides his other duties.

3) Summary of deployment plans (level of commitment, areas of float deployment) and for other commitments to Argo for the coming year (and beyond where possible).

Six floats will be purchased and deployed in 2007. Deployment positions will probably be in the central North Atlantic Ocean, a region in which the current array is sparse.

4) Summary of national research and operational uses of Argo data

Nothing done yet.

5) Issues that your country wishes to be considered (and resolved) by AST regarding the international operation of Argo

Nothing.