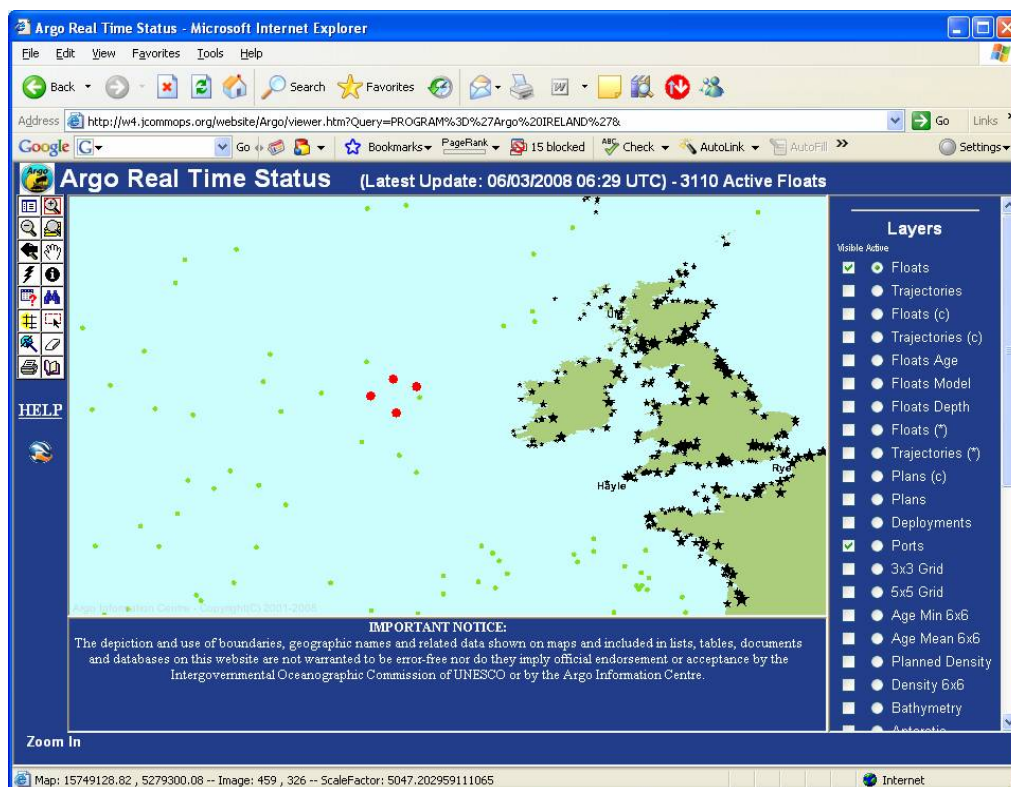


# Argo Steering Team – Ireland Argo Activities 2007-2008

## 1) Status of implementation

2007 was the first year in which Ireland became a member of the Argo programme and a partner in the Euro Argo PP. Twelve floats were procured through a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant, four of which were deployed in March of 2008 from the RV Thalassa.

4 Platforms							
	Status	WMO ID	Telecom ID	Model	Program	Date	Age
1		6900648	79622	APEX	Argo IRELAND	03/03/2008	0
2		6900650	79615	APEX	Argo IRELAND	12/03/2008	11
3		6900647	79621	APEX	Argo IRELAND	03/03/2008	0
4		6900649	79616	APEX	Argo IRELAND	10/03/2008	10



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

At present, there is no official operational budget for the Argo programme. As mentioned previously, the Argo floats were purchased using an ERDF grant. Four floats were deployed in the Rockall Trough during a research cruise on the RV Thalassa. Additional costs which may be incurred during subsequent deployment phase will be absorbed by the MI. The MI have secured agreement from the BODC to facilitate the delivery of 'real-time' Argo data and validate the 'delayed-mode' data from the Irish floats. The cost of the data delivery and processing is currently being shouldered by the Marine Climate Change programme in the MI. This programme is in place for a period of two years, with the possibility of extension for another five

year period. Costs incurred in the storage and testing facilities for the Argo floats are being carried by the MI annual budget.

In terms of human resources devoted to the Argo project, Fiona Grant has been appointed as project manager for the Euro Argo PP and Sheena Fennell is in charge of operational issues (deployment, data delivery and the MI website). One to two other research personnel in the MI will use Argo data to validate the ROMS model. Data may also be used by staff in the Marine Climate Change programme which is headed up by Glenn Nolan.

**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).**

See paragraph above in relation to Argo deployment plans. Four floats per year will be deployed from 2008-2010 (lifetime of Euro Argo PP). The MI are WP leaders for Implementation Strategies in the ESONET NoE project and are WP leaders for the Business Plan and Legal Work in the EMSO PP. It is envisaged that mechanisms to leverage additional funding for large scale infrastructures may be identified in these projects which may also benefit the case for Euro Argo.

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

The MI runs the Rutgers Ocean Model (ROMS) on an operational basis. Argo profiles are used to provide a near real time check on model output profiles of temperature and salinity within the model domain.

<http://www.marine.ie/home/services/operational/oceanography/OceanModelSimulation.htm>

Martin White in the National University of Ireland, Galway has also deployed Argo floats (one of which is still operational). Both he and research students have used the data in their research activities.

We envisage that operational uses of Argo data will become more relevant when we receive the first profiles from the floats.

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

As discussed at the Euro Argo kick off meeting in Brest in January, if there is a cost benefit to Ireland in procuring floats centrally, then this could be considered by the AST. It has been beneficial to the MI to use the BODC data delivery and processing facility as it would not be feasible to set up a similar process here given the small number of floats involved.