

New Zealand National Report March 2011

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 20 floats and deployed 18 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) and 2873 (5903333) can be found at: http://sio-argo.ucsd.edu/weqpac_web.html.

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 and Scripps Institution of Oceanography. CSIRO (Australia) has now joined this collaboration.

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.

These voyages, dating back to 2004 have deployed around 850 floats, primarily in the South Pacific but also in the eastern Tropical Pacific and Indian oceans.

Additional R/V Kaharoa deployment voyages are in planning stages.

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