

New Zealand National Report January 2007

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. Two further floats will be purchased before July 2007. 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 ten floats to date and is committed to purchasing two further floats before July 2007. 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) and 2585 (5901271) can be found at: http://sio-argo.ucsd.edu/wegpac_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. These voyages, dating back to 2004 have deployed nearly 450 floats, primarily in the South Pacific but also in the eastern Tropical Pacific and Indian oceans. NIWA's larger research vessel, R/V Tangaroa deployed 45 floats between 45°S and 55°S during 2005 in the western Pacific as part of the same collaboration.

Two additional R/V Kaharoa deployment voyages are in planning stages. The first of these planned deployments are included in the Pacific Planned deployments figure on the Argo webpage: (<http://www.argo.ucsd.edu/FrDeploy.html>).