

## **New Zealand National Report February 2009**

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 sixteen floats and deployed 14 floats to date. The last two floats will be deployed in March 2009. 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) and 2860 (5902225) can be found at: [http://sio-argo.ucsd.edu/weqpac\\_web.html](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. NIWA's larger research vessel, R/V Tangaroa has also deployed floats in the southern ocean as part of the same collaboration. These voyages, dating back to 2004 have deployed around 550 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- an example being acting as the shipping contact and storage facility for floats loaded on the Australian vessel "Southern Surveyor" in January 2009.