

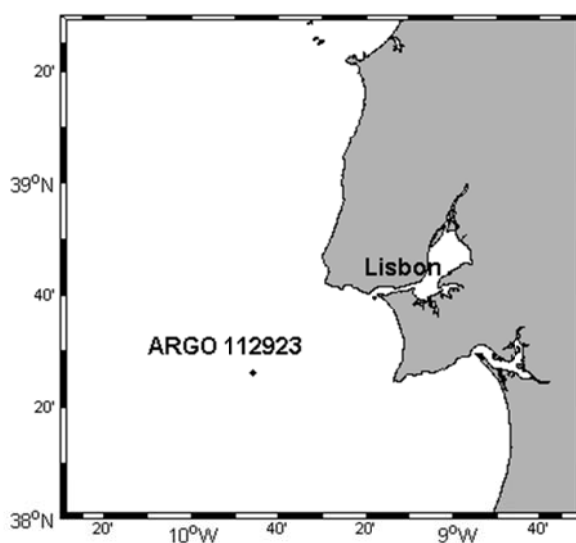
Ireland – National report (06/06/2013)

1. The status of implementation (major achievements and problems in 2012)

- floats deployed and their performance

WMO Code	Type	Deployment Date	Performance
6901915	Arvor	06/09/2012	Good
6901913	Arvor	12/09/2012	Good

A third float was donated to Portugal for training purposes under the European SIDERI project. The Marine Institute conducted training via video conference with Prof. Isabel Ambar of Centro de Oceanografia, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. They had hoped to deploy it late in 2012, but Filipe Neves deployed it in March 2013 on board the IPMA vessel.



The deployment site was:

Lat: 38° 26.076' N

Lon: 9° 46.018' W

Date: 2013-03-26

Time (local): 17h00

Meteo conditions: rain, strong wind from SW, swell from SW with 2-2.5 m

- technical problems encountered and solved

In order to overcome a lengthy procurement process in the MI, we borrowed two Arvor floats from Coriolis for deployment on a trans Atlantic cruise scheduled for May 2013. Just after the vessel had departed, we were contacted by Nke to say that there was potentially a problem with the floats and that they needed to have the floats returned to factory to reinstall the firmware. This was done but it has delayed the Irish deployments for this year – the two floats provisionally scheduled for deployment this year will now be deployed in 2014 (with additional floats). The two borrowed floats from Coriolis will be returned by Nke to Coriolis directly.

- status of contributions to Argo data management (including status of pressure corrections, technical files, etc)

Carried out by BODC for us.

- status of delayed mode quality control process

Carried out by BODC for us.

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

Ireland is seeking observer membership of the Euro Argo ERIC (legal consortium) and has made a commitment to a contribution of €10k per annum to the central coordinating office. There are some technical/legal difficulties with the ERIC framework at national level so the MI will become a candidate member of the ERIC. It is also our intention to continue to deploy three floats per annum, subject to funding availability.

Ireland has now received Government approval to sign up to the European Social Survey ERIC, the first ERIC to be signed up to by Ireland.

Those involved in the ERIC application process should note that it requires the ERIC application to be championed by the parent Department (in the instance of the ESS ERIC, it was the Department of Education and Skills) who, satisfied that it can meet the long-term commitments, financial or otherwise, drafts a Memo for Government to be laid before Cabinet. Cabinet has given their approval and Department Education and Skills has devolved sanction to its agency (Irish Research Council) to sign on behalf of Ireland.

In this way, it has now been clarified that the appropriate way in which to progress approval from Government to sign an ERIC, is for the parent Department to present a Memo to Cabinet.

From a Euro Argo perspective, it should be noted that this still requires a very high level of sign off within the Irish government (the Cabinet includes the equivalent of the Irish Prime Minister). The MI will continue to work with the appropriate departments and government agencies in relation to the Euro Argo ERIC for Ireland to gain observer status of the ERIC.

3. Summary of deployment plans (level of commitment, areas of float Deployment, low or high resolution profiles) and other commitments to Argo (data management) for the upcoming year and beyond where possible.

Capital funding was more restrictive this year than last – two Arvor floats are being procured with an intention to increase the contribution next year. Note that due to technical difficulties with the Arvors as indicated by Nke, the two floats provisionally intended for deployment this year will be deployed next year instead.

4. Summary of national research and operational uses of Argo data as well as contributions to Argo Regional Centers. Please also include any links to national program Argo web pages to update links on the AST and AIC websites.

Argo data is primarily used to validate ROMS models in the Oceanographic Services section of the Marine Institute.

<http://www.marine.ie/home/services/operational/DeepSeaResearch/EuroArgo.htm>

Two Argo floats were deployed by NUIG PI Dr Brian Ward during the Sub-Tropical North Atlantic Sea Surface Salinity Experiment in September 2012. This experiment is a European component to the Salinity Processes in the Upper Ocean Regional Study (SPURS) and was conducted on the R/V Thalassa in collaboration with our French collaborators from the LOCEAN Paris Laboratory. The data from these two Argo floats will contribute to the array of instrumentation whose objective is to understand the processes driving the North Atlantic Salinity Maximum.

5. Issues that your country wishes to be considered and resolved by the Argo Steering Team regarding the international operation of Argo. These might include tasks performed by the AIC, the coordination of activities at an international level and the performance of the Argo data system. If you have specific comments, please include them in your national report.

N/A as can be dealt with through Euro-Argo personnel.

6. To continue improving the number of CTD cruise data being added to the reference database by Argo PIs, it is requested that you include the number and location of CTD cruise data uploaded by PIs within your country to the CCHDO website in the past year. These cruises could be used for Argo calibration purposes only or could be cruises that are open to the public as well.

No CTD data are uploaded to the CCHDO website. However, all CTD data are emailed to Else Juul Green (else@ices.dk) who checks the data before it is uploaded to the ICES Oceanographic data portal annually:

<http://ocean.ices.dk/HydChem/HydChem.aspx?plot=yes>

The screenshot displays the ICES Oceanographic Data website interface. At the top, the browser window title is "ICES Oceanographic Data - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL: <http://ocean.ices.dk/HydChem/HydChem.aspx?plot=yes>. The page features the ICES CIEM logo and a navigation menu with links: Home, About us, ICES Work, Advice, Publications, Data, Projects, and Marine World.

The main content area is titled "CTD and Bottle data" and contains the following information:

- The ICES Oceanographic database currently contains 1145227 stations and of these, 245684 are high resolution CTD stations.
- Last Updated: 2012-02-22

The search form includes the following fields and options:

- Period:** From 1912-02-24, To 2012-02-24
- Area:** 63
- Longitude:** -45
- Latitude:** -8
- Parameter:** CTD (selected), with options for Temperature/Salinity, Oxygen, and Phosphate.
- Other:** Country: IRELAND, Ship: CELTIC EXPLORER
- Buttons:** Reset, Submit

Search results: 1943 public CTD stations match your query. Use the button below to download these data. All data is exported to file in a comma separated values format, zipped with WinZip.

Options for the search results:

- I will wait for the data file to be generated.
- Send me an email with a link to the datafile.

The right sidebar contains a "Oceanography" menu with links to Home, Data Essentials (Data Submission, Data Request, Data Guidelines, Data Policy), Data Collections (CTD & Bottle data, Distribution maps, Underway data, Surface data, HELCOM data, Project data, ROSCOPs), and Formats & Codes (Formats, Codes). It also lists Tools & Software (Ocean Calculator, Unit Conversion, Software).

7. Keeping the Argo bibliography (<http://www.argo.ucsd.edu/Bibliography.html>) up to date and accurate is an important part of the Argo website. This document helps demonstrate the value of Argo and can possibly help countries when applying for continued Argo funding. We are almost to 1000 papers published using Argo data! So, please include a list of all papers published by scientists within your country in the past year using Argo data, including non-English publications. Unfortunately, none that I am aware of.

8. I am also attaching a spreadsheet of the commitments table which I updated on January 17, 2013 using the AIC website. Almost 100% of estimated floats were actually deployed (881 estimated vs 854 Argo only deployed).

One float donated to Portugal in 2012 was deployed in March 2013. It was the intention of the MI to deploy two floats in the North Atlantic in 2013 on a transect between Ireland and Newfoundland. However, due to the Arvor technical problems, these deployments are deferred until next year.