



THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN CARBON COORDINATION PROJECT

A joint project of Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and an affiliate program of the Global Carbon Project.

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Subject: Instructions on naming of surface water measurements on ships of opportunity (SOOP)
From: Rik Wanninkhof, responsible SSG Member IOCCP, Surface water CO₂ observations
Concurrence: The IOCCP Scientific Steering Group, and the JCOMM SOT Executive Panel

The International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project (IOCCP) recognizes the ship of opportunity nomenclatures as set forth by the Ship Observations Team (SOT) of JCOMM, and encourages its operators and users to adhere to the nomenclature and associated acronyms. This will avoid misunderstandings as to purpose, and clarify observational programs on ships. Specifically, the term Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) or variations thereof shall not be used for surface water biogeochemistry measurements, including underway pCO₂. These activities fall under the Ship of Opportunity Program (SOOP) with recommended suffixes of SOOP-BGC and SOOP-CO₂.

The SOT consists of successful and enduring interconnected data collection programs, involving VOS and SOOP that support a number of research and operational applications. The VOS scheme is an international program comprising member countries of the WMO/IOC that recruit ships to take, record and transmit marine meteorological observations while at sea. Currently about 3000 ships routinely provide real-time weather observations. The VOS Scheme is a core observing program of the SOT in the Observations Program Area of JCOMM. SOOP ships collect a range of predominantly oceanographic data, including upper ocean thermal and salinity data; atmospheric and ocean carbon; ocean fluorescence and pigments; and sub-surface temperature & salinity data.

When a ship of opportunity is recruited for SOOP-CO₂, it is recommended to establish if the ship participates in the VOS scheme, and to liaise with the appropriate groups involved in the VOS, including the Port Meteorological Officer (PMO).

Text and background information for these instructions were obtained from:

- <https://www.climate-policy-watcher.org/oceanography/voluntary-observing-ships.html>
- <http://sot.jcommops.org/vos/>
- <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/mmop/sot.html>
- <http://www.ioccp.org>