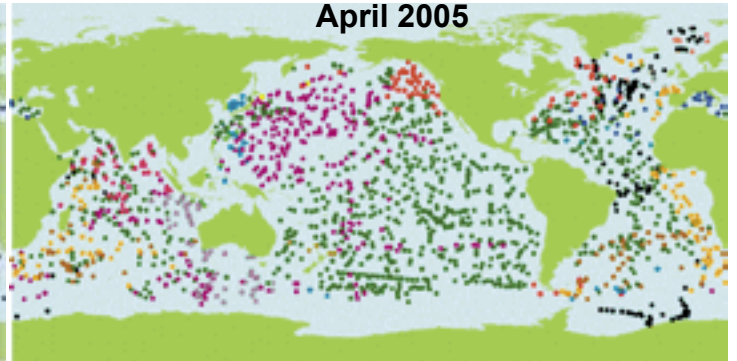




Newsletter of the international Argo project

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	N Pacific	S Pacific	N Atlantic	S Atlantic	Indian	Southern <40S	Global
April 2002	183	47	149	21	51	14	465
April 2003	296	48	196	26	141	90	797
April 2004	375	159	232	81	189	122	1158
April 2005	492	307	288	135	255	311	1788
Increase '04 to '05	117	148	56	54	66	189	630

Editorial

I apologise for the delay since you received the last Newsletter in December 2004. I am now in Hobart, Tasmania where I have been made very welcome by the CSIRO Marine Research Division - a founder contributor to Argo. Their first four Argo floats were deployed in the Indian Ocean in October 1999 and each collected over 80 profiles. Australia now has 56 operating floats. It also has a collaborative programme with the UK on float reliability. On page 4 is an article on Bluelink an Australian ocean forecast system that uses Argo data. The Bluelink and MedArgo articles continue our theme of Argo use and describe two prototype assimilation systems that rely on Argo.

So what has happened to Argo in the past months? Well, the array has grown by almost 300 floats and most of these have been deployed in the Southern hemisphere. The growth of the array is well demonstrated in the table above that shows the number of active floats on April 1 each year. There are now very few ocean areas that are float-free (there are holes in the South Atlantic and West Pacific but steps are being taken to fill these). The two maps on this page and the associated statistics tell the story.

We are developing a web page that will bring together a number of measures of Argo "performance" that are presently scattered in a number of places on Argo web sites. This will cover, not just the simple statistics like "How many floats are operating", but information about "How many of those are producing data that pass quality control tests", "How quickly do the data appear on the GTS" and "How have the lifetimes of floats increased and early float failures been reduced". The first version of this page will appear within the coming month. In

recent weeks we also detected some deficiencies in the GTS delivery of data to operational centres and will now put in place a monitoring system that will give an early indication if such problems appear again.

There have been two important meetings both of which are reported on in this Newsletter. The Argo Executive met in Perth in February and in mid-April Argo held its workshop on Delayed-Mode Quality Control. Both these meetings made decisions that have wide-ranging consequences.

We are also starting to plan a second Argo Science Workshop in 2006 (date and venue are not yet fixed). The first Workshop in Tokyo in November 2003 was a great success and at the second there will be even more science and Argo applications to discuss.

This growth is reflected in the bibliography of Argo and neutrally buoyant float papers that continues to grow. The papers deal with both the technical performance of Argo and with the scientific and operational use of the data.

On the weekend of May 1 "The Weekend Australian" newspaper had an article with the headline "**Robots 'confirm' global warming**". This and many other press articles described a paper in *Science* by James Hansen and co-workers about the earth's energy imbalance. Those 'robots' are the Argo floats. So, while you shouldn't believe everything you read in the newspapers, a lot of people around the world now know about the role that Argo plays in addressing these important issues.

John Gould
Hobart