



## International Research Ship Operators

<https://irso.info/>

**International Research Ship Operators (IRSO)** – represents 50 organisations from 32 countries who manage or operate approximately 100 of the world's leading marine scientific research vessels. IRSO membership is open to all research ship operating institutes or national research programmes that are engaged in marine science.

IRSO members meet annually to share information, solve problems and discuss matters of mutual interest to better support marine scientific research efforts at sea.

Main topics and objectives of the annual agenda are:

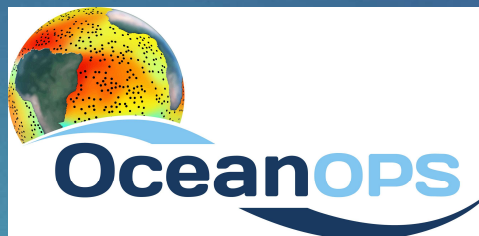
- ▶ Vessel operations and future technologies
- ▶ Developments in national research fleets and activity reports
- ▶ Cooperation and Outreach
- ▶ Compliance/Legal/Insurance
- ▶ Manning, Training, Health and Wellbeing

# Update on RV Operations

- ▶ RV operations are mostly back to pre-COVID19 schedules. The pandemic affected all vessel schedules, some countries worse than others. Efforts to catch up on postponed science cruises continues with protocols to prevent Covid-19 coming aboard still in place, but are gradually being reduced as the risks reduce.
- ▶ Many national organisations have, or are in the process of replacing their aging RV's. The new technologies and versatility of these new research platforms will enhance the capability and efficiency of marine science data acquisition.
- ▶ IRSO membership is expanding and we have some recent new members from Peru, Chile and India.
- ▶ Selected Industry participation at IRSO meetings is also welcomed as we seek to learn about emerging technologies that can enhance our science activities and improve vessel operating efficiencies.



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## **Exchange of information between OCG/OceanOPS and IRSO - collaboration progress so far;**

- ▶ Through cooperation with IRSO and discussions with the developers of the MFP (Marine Facilities Planning) software tool, there has been some progress to obtain meta-data to help plan asset deployment and servicing.
- ▶ The goal is to roll the project out at global scale, and include additional metadata (e.g. contact information and science operations)
- ▶ Martin Kramp (for OceanOPS with IRSO since 2014) has made progress through collaboration with MFP users in the UK, and more recently with Sweden and the USA (UNOLS)
- ▶ At the next IRSO meeting in October 2023 we plan to discuss with Martin the important link between SOT/OCG and IRSO and seek ways to share meta-data from RV cruises.



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ARGO



**RV Kaharoa – built 1981**

Length – 28m

Beam – 8.2m

Draft – 3.4m

Range – 6000nm

Berths – 10

At 40 years old Kaharoa is approaching the end  
of her useful life



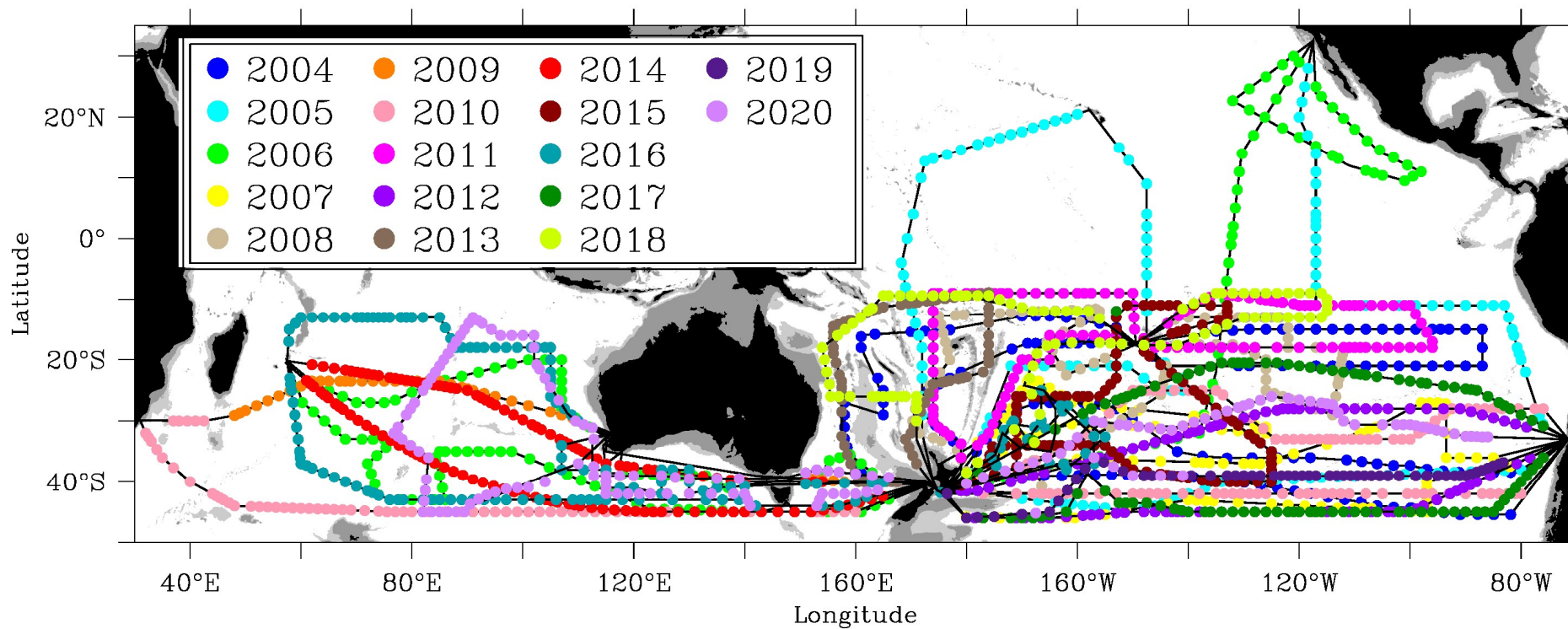
**NIWA**

Taihoru Nukurangi





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RV Kaharoa – ARGO voyages undertaken since 2004



**NIWA**

Taihoru Nukurangi

Kaharoa II – under construction in Spain, delivery early 2024.

Length – 36m

Beam – 9.5m

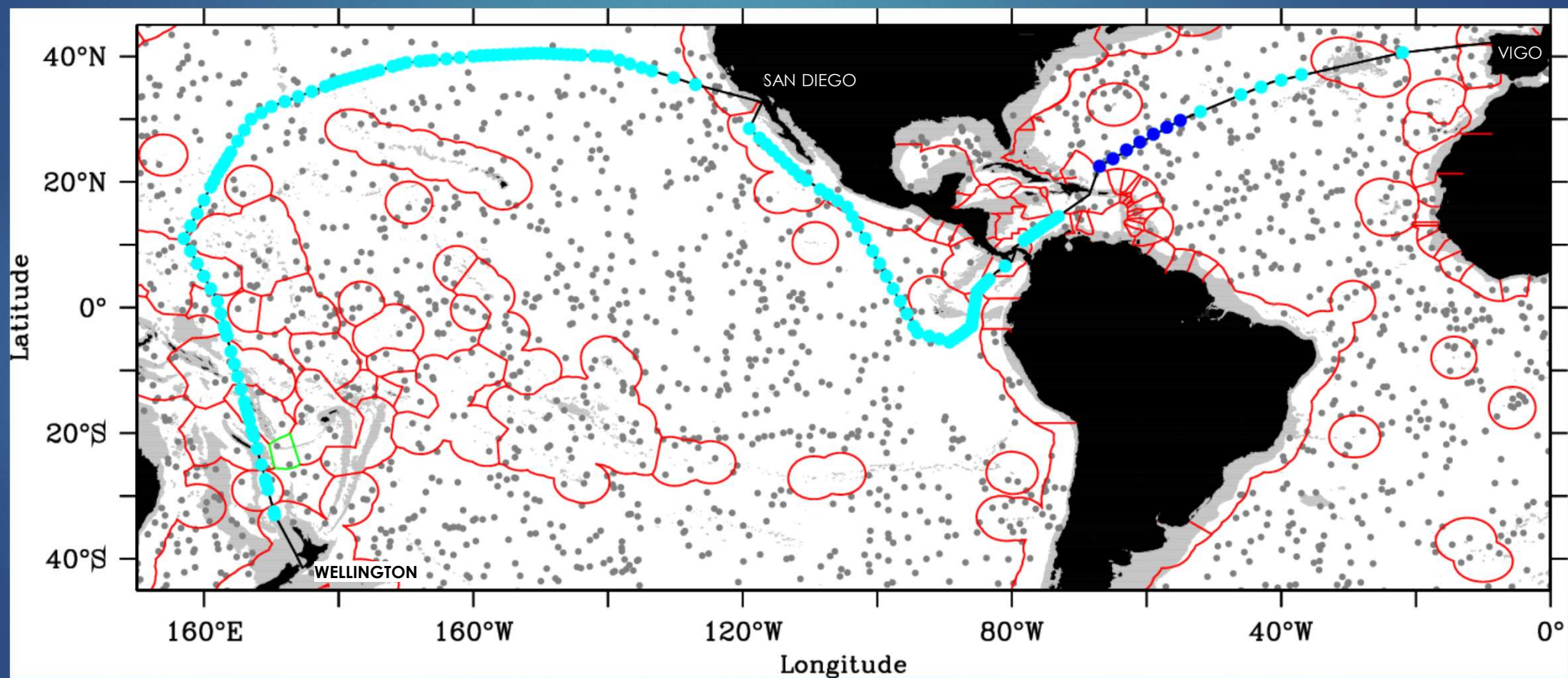
Draft – 3.5m

Range – approx. 6500nm





# 153 ARGO deployments planned for Kaharoa II delivery voyage from Spain to New Zealand early 2024





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