

**36th meeting of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG; Hamburg April 2017)**

**Minutes from meeting:**

1. It was agreed to review all barter cruises at the OFEG meetings in the future. This followed a discussion about a NERC/NIOZ barter cruise, which presented particular compliance and conduct issues by the PSO. It is agreed that each operator will bring his or her own post cruise reports to be reviewed at the next meeting following the cruise. The ship operator and the partner bartering the ship should provide a review of the barter activity.

**Action: All partners**

2. Erica produced a brief 'barter obligations' document for OFEG 34 which is currently uploaded on the web site, it was agreed that Erica will review and develop this document to firmly advise future PSOs of the obligations to manage a barter cruise. This may include reference to PSOs needing to adhere to the operating policy and practices of the ship owner, and the need for barter PSOs to be suitably experienced to lead science cruises on foreign ships. This follows a NERC barter cruise on the Pelagia where there were issues with getting the PSO to conform with the NIOZ planning process and protocol.

**Action: Erica**

3. Internet Voyage Planning Tool (VPT):

3.1. NERC/NIOZ will provide information of the cost of access to the new internet based planning system currently being built by NIOZ and NERC

3.2. NIOZ/NERC will give a presentation on the VPT at the next OFEG meeting

**Action: Erica / Colin**

4. The OFEG web site was discussed and it was agreed that it is time to update and refresh the site. CSIC offered to allocate some staff time to look at options to upgrade the website. Ideas such as ability to upload short video, some animation on the home page etc. CSIC will propose some ideas at the next meeting. It was also discussed that an improved web site may cost more money to host on EurOcean, and will need some additional money from the OFEG partners to fund the update by the EurOcean web designers, but this would only be a small amount between all the OFEG partners.

**Action: CSIC**

5. IMR advised that the Haakon Mosby will be coming out of service so should be removed from the OFEG barter list. Colin to confirm this with IMR and arrange for it to be removed.

**Action: Colin / OJ**

6. Colin/Natalie to contact NSF to confirm which US ships are within the barter arrangement, and OFEG will discuss at the next meeting

**Action: Colin / Natalie**

7. Colin to produce a table for the 'barter ship requests' and 'barter ship availability' to replace the text documents we have previously been using, all OFEG partners can then

use this format and the information can then be collated before each meeting, this should make reviewing request and availability easier and clearer.

8. Erica will finalise the barter points excel spreadsheet and we will use this as the primary document at the next OFEG meeting. The barter activity and barter points balance tables should be amalgamated into the new spreadsheet.

**Action: Erica / Colin**

9. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) workshop for OFEG & OFEG-TECH :  
9.1. The following people were nominated to be the EIA workshop attendees:

IFREMER : Cecile Ducatel

NERC : Rolly Rogers

CSIC : Arturo

NIOZ : Henk

Germany : Christian Hubscher

Cecile will run the workshop, and will contact the nominated people to advise on the next course of action.

10. At OFEG 35 all partners were asked to provide a copy of one of the EIAs they have previously produced for a seismic cruise as an example, but at this point this has not happened. If all partners will send Colin a copy of one EIA, Colin will collate the EIAs and send them all to Cecile, this will be a start of the process.

**Action: All partners send 1 EIA to Colin**

**Action: Colin forward names of the workshop members and all EIAs to Cecile**

11. The introduction of the Polar code was discussed and it would be useful to know which barter vessels will go by the Polar Code when it comes into effect in Jan 2017 for new ships and Jan 2018 for older ships. It was advised that it is relatively easy to get polar sign off for sailing in open polar water compared with polar ice. We need to be clear where the Polar Code applies and what ships are capable of sailing where. IMR to arrange a presentation on this at the next meeting.

**Action: All partners**

12. The Group discussed EU Funding and Ship time and agreed that this does not need to be a standing item on the agenda. However, there is potential for OFEG to highlight a problem associated with EU funding. EU grants provide funding without giving any acknowledgement of allocation for ship time. Applicants should send a letter of intent to submit to ship operators before they apply for EU funding. Ship time and equipment costs associated with EU funded grants is fixed at the time of application, and so any future increases in costs are not accounted for in the funds provided.

13. We discussed the issue of insuring mobile equipment at previous meeting particularly insuring our equipment when on other partner's ships. We have again decided that each partner should advise what equipment they currently insure, who is they insurer and some indicative costs; Colin will produce a draft letter to send to insurance companies based on the equipment items in the OFEG barter arrangements as an investigative step to insuring OFEG equipment on each other's ships.

**Action: All partners / Colin**

14. IFREMER/NERC discussed diplomatic clearance issues around the Martinique area and the problems IFREMER have previously encountered. They have been refused diplomatic clearance on one occasion and although successful on a second occasion it proved very challenging to get the necessary permissions.

15. NERC will run a seismic cruise in this region in 2017 so it will be useful to understand the experience of IFREMER to improve the chances of success.

**Action: NERC engage with EIA workshop to understand the Dip' Clear' issues**

16. IFREMER advised that they have recently purchased 4.5km of Sercel Sentinel MCSS and a portable handling system of similar concept to the CSIC containerised system

17. NERC technical trials cruise – OFEG berths:

17.1. In the second half of 2016 there will be 3 technical trials cruises on the RRS Discovery; ROV, Piston coring, seismic. There will be available berths on these trials cruises for OFEG partners if required.

17.2. CSIC suggested they may want to trial their Geometrics Hi-resolution streamer system on the seismic trials cruise

**Action: All partners advise if they want to send anyone on the trials cruises**

**Action: Colin assess if the CSIC Hi-res system could be trialled**

18. CSIC advised that they have used the RV Sarmiento de Gamboa to supply some of their Antarctic bases. It was discussed if it would be possible for the UK vessels to also do this for the UK Antarctic bases.

**Action: NERC to consider**

19. OFEG web site: All partners to check that the link to their cruise programmes is the correct link and is working ok, if not advise Colin and we will check the link with EurOcean

**Action: All partners check link**

20. OFEG web site: All partners to provide news items for the website and advise Colin and we will arrange for upload onto the website

**Action: All partners provide news items**

21. MARUM have purchased a new 2000m ROV; Klas to check if this is to be part of the barter equipment

**Action: Klas check with MARUM**

22. OFEG chair: Colin to remain Chair of OFEG for the next rotation; OJ to confirm he plans to remain secretary

**Action: OJ to confirm**

Old actions

Meeting	Actions	Detail	Responsible	Due date
OFEG 31	Action 3.2.3	Colin / Natalie to circulate the list of NSF ships available for barter.	Colin / Natalie	By OFEG 36 meeting
OFEG 33	Action 5.2.3.1	All partners to send their operating policy for MLC to all OFEG partners; Erica will collate and a suitable format to be uploaded to the OFEG website	All send MLC policy. Erica collates. Colin uploads.	By OFEG 36 meeting
OFEG 34	Action 5.1.1	Erica will review the ship barter points comparison spread sheet and report and discuss at the next meeting. This follows the proposal at OFEG 35 that the data could be normalised and which parameters could be applied to give a better representation of the barter point spread.	Erica	By OFEG 36 meeting
OFEG 34	Action 7.1.1	All partners identify which ships they operate will be certified under the new Polar code	All	By OFEG 36 meeting

Actions from the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Meeting	Actions	Detail	Responsible	Due date
OFEG 35	Action 4.1	EK to develop a new proposal for a "Barter cruise planning guide" to replace the "Obligations for barter cruise participants".	Erika	At OFEG 36

Actions from the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Meeting	Actions	Detail	Responsible	Due date
OFEG 36	Action 36.1	Wording around adding new equipment to the barter pool agreed by group and to be uploaded onto the OFEG website.	CD	ASAP

OFEG 36	Action 36.2	IMR to present on Polar codes updates and issues at OFEG 37. All partners to advise which ships will seek to get polar code certification and at what level.	IMR All partners	At OFEG 37
OFEG 36	Action 36.3	Barter "stories", videos and pictures to be put on the web-site. Agreed stories include: - Hobbs cruise (CD/BT) - link to IMRs web-site for the new icebreaker, new ROV etc. (OJP) - Talling barter on Pelagia (EK) - Spanish paper (referenced by JD in meeting). - 2015 / 2016 barter news All Stories to be sent to Colin.	All	On-going
OFEG 36	Action 36.4	Finalise the spread sheet (Excel) barter bank balance tool for 2016 and onwards, using the end of 2015 barter bank balance as the start values for each OFEG member barter point balance. Use this spread sheet as the new standard tool.	Erica	At OFEG 37
OFEG 36	Action 36.5	This action comes from the merged actions 6.1 & 6.2 from OFEG 35: All partners to advise if (and how) they currently insure equipment used for science cruises.	All partners	At OFEG 37
OFEG 36	Action 36.6	This action comes from the merged actions 6.1 & 6.2 from OFEG 35: Colin to collate a list of the existing equipment in the barter pool to be used for the insurance enquiry letter to be sent to insurance brokers.	Colin	At OFEG 37
OFEG 36	Action 36.7	Check in Hakon Mosby is to remain in service long enough to be part of the barter system	CD	ASAP

OFEG 36	Action 36.8	OFEG partners to review each barter cruise at the subsequent meeting using the operators own cruise report forms	All partners	OFEG 37
OFEG 36	Action 36.9	NERC/NIOZ to provide cost information for access to the web based programme planning tool; NEDRC/NIOZ to present on the new system	CD/EK	OFEG 37
OFEG 36	Action 36.10	All partners to send an example seismic EIA to Colin to collate and forward to Cecile Ducatel to progress the EIA workshop. Colin to forward nominated names to Cecile.	All / CD	ASAP
OFEG 36	Action 36.11	Each partner should advise what equipment they currently insure, who is they insurer and some indicative costs; Colin will produce a draft letter to send to insurance companies based on the equipment items in the OFEG barter	All partners  CD	OFEG 37
OFEG 36	Action 36.12	MARUM have purchased a new 2000m ROV; Klas to check if this is to be part of he barter equipment	Klas	OFEG 37
OFEG 36	Action 36.13	CSIC to review OFEG web site to propose upgrades and development	CSIC	OFEG 37

Attachments:

A - Activity list and barter bank balance

B - Barter equipment matrix

C - Barter vessel matrix