

31st OFEG Meeting

14th November 2013, Papenburg Germany

Attendees: Colin Day, Erica Koning, Klas Lackschewitz, Olivier Lefort, Odd-Jarle Pollen, Karl-Robert Roettingen, Barbara Tanner, Beth Woodward

Apologies: Juanjo Danobeitia, Jean-Xavier Castrec

1.0 Welcome and introductions

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 The minutes were not available prior to or at the meeting, BT and OL to try and pull minutes or actions arising together swiftly following this meeting.

Action 2.1 – BT and OL to send minutes and/or actions from 30th OFEG meeting to partners before 31st December 2013

3.0 Management issues

3.1 EK highlighted the need to decide on the progression for the chair/vice chair roles, considering that OL is unable to take on Chair role due to other commitments. It was agreed the group continue on the previously agreed three year succession schedule previously. BW will take minutes at this meeting and the vice chair position to be discussed and agreed formally at the next meeting.

Action 3.1 – EK to put Formal Agreement of next Vice Chair on the agenda of the next meeting.

3.2 NSF contact

The group discussed the mechanism for barter point exchange once other OFEG partners aside from NERC start to exchange shiptime with the NSF whilst they are not formally part of OFEG. The NSF are scheduled to barter the RV Pelagia in January recovery of 8 OBS (The barter previously to be run on NERC Discovery, that had to be cancelled due to delay in the trials programme), and it was decided that in this case then NERC will take the points from NSF and then owe NIOZ equivalent points.

The group decided that in the case that NSF starts to conduct more than one barter per year then we should reconsider whether NSF join OFEG formally. Next meeting Rose to be invited to attend, and Jon Alberts to join via Teleconference.

Action 3.2.1 - BW and EK discuss the points balance for the NSF-NERC-NIOZ arrangement.

Action 3.2.2 - EK to invite Rose Dufour to attend the next OFEG meeting, and also to invite Jon Alberts to join via teleconference.

Action 3.2.3 - BW to circulate the list of NSF ships available for barter.

3.3 NOAA contact

The group noted that some ad hoc activity exists, but NERC have turned down the opportunity for formal bilateral at present as it seems of only one way benefit currently.

4.0 Update on OFEG cruise programmes

Partners gave update on current programmes and outlook for 2014/15

Key Points:

- CD invited OFEG partners to take part in the planned RRS Discovery trials cruise in January 2014 (DY006).
- RRS Discovery will be operational and available for science cruises following the January 2014 trials cruise.
- The 14/15 RRS Discovery programme is currently unfilled from December 2014 onwards largely due to technician availability.
- JC111 currently unfilled, therefore NERC offering a barter in Caribbean/East Pacific for c.30 days. Partners strongly requested to consider this option!
- Meteor currently planned until August 2014, as there was a temporary lack of demand of science proposals.
- Meteor currently uncommitted in the second half of 2014 and available for barter
- Maria S. Merian currently planned until October 2014, and currently open for barter past this point; areas including Central Atlantic available.
- Sonne – The old ship will complete her last cruise in August 2014 in Colombo.
- The New Sonne is due to be delivered ahead of schedule. Naming Ceremony currently planned last week of May 2014.
- From Mid-October the Sonne is available for science.
- There is the potential for the Sonne to visit OFEG partner countries and/or stop in Nantes to coincide with the OFEG and IRSO Meetings.
- Pelagia uncommitted in March 2014 – currently available for barter (local to Netherlands/Europe).
- Pelagia currently planned until mid-November, dependent on call for proposals for work in the Caribbean region.
- The Ifremer Vessel Gwen Drez (25m Regional Vessel) has no activity in 2014 due to lack of science demand and funding.
- KL asked whether the Fridjof Nansen would be available to the group (Per had indicated that this may be possible at last OFEG); IMR to confirm.

Action 4.1.1 -OFEG partners to speak directly with CD if they would like to join DY006

Action 4.1.2 - NERC (and any others this is applicable to) to make a list of cruises they would need technician support for and circulate to OFEG partners to see if they can help support these cruise(s) by bartering technicians.

Action 4.1.3 - NERC to send official barter request for second ship exercise in Costa Rica Rift.

Action 4.1.4 - Barbara to investigate whether it is possible for the Sonne to visit OFEG partner countries in October 2014.

Action 4.1.5 - IMR to confirm how and if the Fridjof Nansen would be available for barter.

5.0 New barter opportunities

5.1 The barter bids/options document was updated

Action 5.1 All to check the circulated barter balances and activity documents and notify EK of any discrepancies.

6.0 OFEG Members: ship issues, fleet and equipment changes

6.1 CD noted that all members should bring a note of new equipment to each meeting as a standing item

Action 6.1 - All to ensure that they provide information on new equipment/equipment changes to the next meeting.

6.2 Ifremer – demand from scientists has prompted them to look into purchase of Motion Velocity Profiler (c.500K euro). Regarding developing seismic capability, the original proposal was to purchase a full seismic complement, 6km streamer etc. However the project was not considered innovative when reviewed, and so the money was not granted to purchase this equipment. Ifremer are concerned that within 1-2 years they will not be able to deploy/use current streamers as they are too old. Ifremer have requested 2 million euros to replace the acquisition systems in next year's budget, but this is yet to be confirmed.

6.3 IMR – University of Bergen now have the money to build a new 6000m ROV (6mill euro), IMR will be the operator, to be used on new Ice going vessel and GO Sars.

6.4 NIOZ – will purchase a shallow portable multibeam; 10-500m. Tender now out (c.200K euro).

6.5 NERC – recent capital influx: spending approximately 1million euros on geophysics equipment, c. 800K euros on towed instruments, c.600K euros portable winch systems and cables.

7.0 Update on Cruise Planning Software

7.1 NIOZ and NERC will be announcing a mid - sized tender. The dates have slipped slightly from going to tender in October, but NIOZ and NERC now gaining momentum again to announce in the next couple of months. The software will be built based upon the technical statement of requirements that was produced following initial consultation of all OFEG partners, and so would still be potentially available for use by other partners, and be fit for this purpose, should this be decided at a later date.

7.2 Ifremer are now building a cruise planning system, to be compatible with several other internal functions they use. Several functions needed, including programme management, publication of cruise reports, etc. The general specification has been written and discussed with scientists and cruise operators, to be presented at the relevant board 15th November 2013. The system will be built in three steps – the database, module for planning and general administration/programme management sections. The Estimated budget including

module for mapping is approximately 120K euro. Subject to confirmation, Ifremer plan to move onto developing a detailed statement of requirements as soon as possible, to be built by September 2014.

It is proposed that the planning software will probably be built through Eurofleets 2. Ifremer proposed to NERC and NIOZ that they try to merge the way that information is described in each system so information can be exchanged more easily.

Action 7.2.1 - NIOZ and NERC to discuss if and how they would like to integrate with the development of the Ifremer system, and perhaps arrange a meeting to speak with Ifremer about this, as appropriate.

Action 7.2.2 - when standards are established for the content of the NERC-NIOZ build, then they may be circulated to All, depending on future developments.

Note: Olivier Lefort left the meeting at this point

8.0 OFEG-tech

8.1 CD outlined proposed agenda for OFEG-Tech (to be held the week following OFEG).

8.2 The group discussed the use of TOBI; TOBI is increasingly not used as often as in the past, and there is currently no funded research within the NERC programme to use it in the immediate future. If there is demand within OFEG, then it was proposed that it would be more cost effective to maintain within the OFEG partnership, but OFEG partners need to give their position on whether they believe maintaining TOBI as a resource is valuable to us as a group.

Action 8.2.1 - CD to produce a document to outline the situation with TOBI, and present the costs and implications of maintaining TOBI within OFEG, including an outline of the specifications and current capability of TOBI.

Action 8.2.2 – EK to add discussion of TOBI and the associated paper to the next OFEG agenda.

9.0 Feedback on Recent/Planned Barter Cruises

9.1 EK noted that for the recent NERC Cruise on Pelagia (Peakall), the Cruise report not returned as yet

Action 9.1 - BW to chase PS Peakall for Cruise Report (CC Sally Heath and Erica Koning)

10.0 AOB

10.1 There was an open discussion of the MLC and compliance and implementation across OFEG.

10.2 Contact details were updated.

Action 10.2 - CD to send contact numbers of the new Discovery to EK

10.3 Future Meetings – dates and locations agreed as per circulated document

10.4 OFEG Website – invoices have been sent to partners for the yearly payment, and all are asked to make their payments to NOC as soon as possible.

It was noted that the Website News section was still not being updated on a regular basis if at all.

Action 10.4.1 - All to send at least one news item from 2012 and/or 2013 to CD and Sally Heath by end December 2013.

Action 10.4.2 - All to keep website up to date by providing News stories regularly.

Summary of Actions

ACTIONS	DETAIL
Action 2.1	BT and OL to send minutes and/or actions from 30 th OFEG meeting to partners before 31 st December 2013
Action 3.1	EK to put Formal Agreement of next Vice Chair on the agenda of the next meeting.
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Action 4.1.4	Barbara to investigate whether it is possible for the Sonne to visit OFEG partner countries in October 2014.
Action 4.1.5	IMR to confirm how and if the Fridjof Nansen would be available for barter.
Action 5.1	All to check the circulated barter balances and activity documents and notify EK of any discrepancies.
Action 6.1	All to ensure that they provide information on new equipment/equipment changes to the next meeting.

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