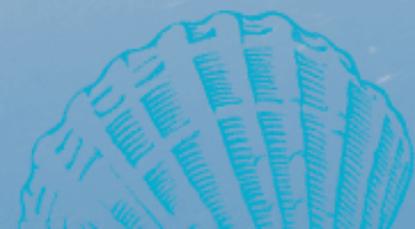


 **INSTITUTE OF MARINE RESEARCH**
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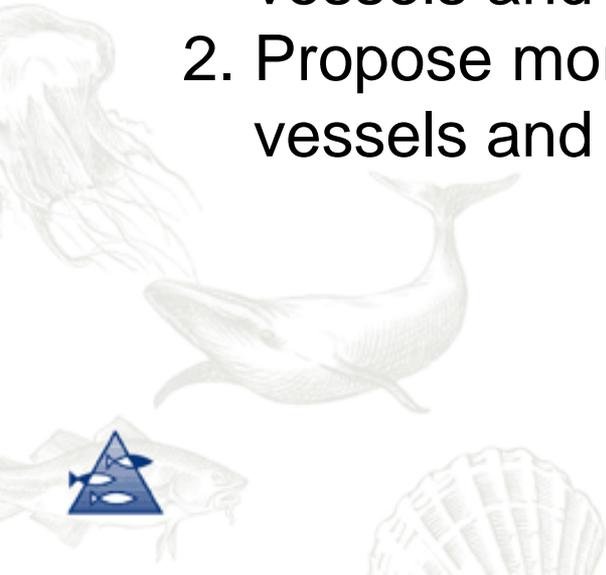


Ocean Fleet Working Group

OFEG-TECH
Bergen, 24-25 October 2007

Background

- Established by ESF/Marine Board
- Mainly members from OFEG countries
- Report published in 2007
- http://www.eurocean.org/files/OFWG_FINAL_report.pdf
- Two objectives:
 1. Describe the current situation regarding research vessels and large, exchangeable equipment in Europe
 2. Propose more efficient ways to procure, own and use vessels and equipment in the future



Position Paper 10

European Ocean Research Fleets

March 2007

Towards a Common Strategy and Enhanced Use



www.esf.org/marineboard



Findings

- Both research vessels and large instruments are unevenly distributed across Europe
- A few nations (OFEG-members) owns and operates most of the large, sophisticated vessels and instruments
- Global and Ocean class fleets are in good shape, it is the Regional class vessels who is the challenge in terms of utilisation and replacement frequency



Recommendations

<i>Enhanced means of using the European fleet more efficiently</i>	
Recommendations concerning vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Enhance coordination of fleet scheduling;– Promote bartering to avoid long passage time between cruises;– Encourage chartering process to use the non-funded time;– Create a ‘scrap premium’ to get rid of old and underutilised vessels;
Recommendations concerning equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Enhance coordination of equipment scheduling;– Achieve interoperability of equipment;– Transnational deployment teams;– Sharing of spare parts;
Proposals for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Towards funding agencies and National authorities;– Available ship and equipment time to be published;– Reinforcement of the OFEG organisation;– A European initiative for interoperability;– Creation of new marine facilities bartering groups;– Development of national equipment pools;

Recommendations cont'd

<i>How to widen access to European scientific fleets</i>	
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Joint cruises;– Rare systems;– New Member States access;
Proposals for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Through MarinERA;– Through the European Union;– Through the Marine Board;



Recommendations cont'd

Long-term investment strategies

Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Develop a flexible and adapted framework to better integrate strategies and favour the development of partnerships;– Facilitate co-ownership of RVs, favour adequate conditions to maximise relationship between managers and owners and on a bilateral/multilateral basis;– International cooperation in cost-sharing for the construction and operation of rare equipment;– Facilitate equipment availability for European Union Framework programme funded projects;– Facilitate the access to equipment to scientists from new Member States;
Proposals for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Through funding agencies and National authorities;– Through the European Union;– Through the ERVO group;– Through the OFEG;– Through the EurOcean website

