

## **Deployment of OFEG Research Ships in 2013-2014**

It is anticipated<sup>1</sup> that the twenty European research ships of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG), which provides ship-time and equipment exchanges for UK, French, German, Spanish, Norwegian and Dutch scientists under the Tripartite Agreement, will be operating in the following regions in 2013 - 2014:

### **Dutch research ship**

- PELAGIA: North Sea, Mediterranean, Black Sea, Caribbean

### **French research ships**

- POURQUOI PAS?: North Atlantic (W & E), Mediterranean Sea
- L'ATALANTE: N. Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea,
- THALASSA: North Atlantic (E)
- LE SUROIT: North Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea

### **German research ships**

- ALKOR: Baltic & North seas
- HEINCKE: North & Baltic seas
- POSEIDON: Red Sea, Med, Subtropical N. Atlantic (E)
- MERIAN: South Atlantic
- METEOR: Mediterranean, North Atlantic, Baltic, open from sep on
- SONNE: SW Pacific

### **Norwegian research ships**

- G.O. SARS: Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea, North Sea, East Atlantic
- JOHAN HJORT: Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea, North Sea, East Atlantic
- HAKON MOSBY: Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea, North Sea

### **Spanish research ships**

- HESPERIDES: North Atlantic (E & W), Southern Ocean
- SARMIENTO DE GAMBOA: North Atlantic (E), Mediterranean Sea

### **UK research ships**

- DISCOVERY: subtropical to subpolar North Atlantic (E), E. Pacific
- JAMES COOK: North Atlantic (E&W), South Atlantic
- JAMES CLARK ROSS: Arctic, North & South Atlantic, Southern Ocean

The Agreement allows for no-cost exchanges of ship-time and major marine equipment. It promotes the efficient and cost-effective use of each country's resources by giving the scientific communities access to a wider range of marine facilities and geographical areas in a given year than would otherwise be possible. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of days exchanged each year by OFEG – with around 200-days a year exchanged – and it is expected that OFEG exchange activity will continue at this level. The scientific community is therefore encouraged to take advantage of the anticipated positioning of the OFEG fleet.

For more information on the Tripartite Agreement and OFEG's marine facilities see: <http://www.ofeg.org>

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<sup>1</sup> NB. This is only a forecast but it is hoped that by providing this information as early as possible the scientific community may have the opportunity to take advantage of the geographical positioning of the OFEG fleet.