

Editorial



The Marine Board herewith launches an electronic newsletter to help its members communicate better with marine scientists in their countries on the Board's activities.

Let us recall first that the Marine Board was created in 1999 – as a Board of the European Science Foundation (ESF). Its members are major national marine scientific institutes or funding agencies within European countries: at present it is composed of 25 Member Organisations from 17 countries, including from Eastern Europe.

The Marine Board's mandate is to provide a **forum**, bringing together Member Organisations and other players from the marine science community and from the European Commission; to develop common **strategies**; to carry the **voice** of marine scientists, including to the public; and to establish **synergies** between its members. While doing so, the Marine Board also voices the importance of marine research and technology in relation to European development.

In the recent years, the Marine Board has:

- Elaborated "Integrating Marine Science in Europe" (IMSE) and its abstract version "Navigating the Future II", providing for the first time a synthesis of marine sciences perspectives in Europe, including all scientific fields, as well as technologic, observatory and research infrastructure aspects; this report has been used in the definition of the content of many of the European Union (EU) 6th Framework Programme (FP6), and of national programmes;
- Contributed to the preparation of EurOcean 2004, the so-called Galway conference, and to a series of activities toward the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU Member States in order to raise the visibility of marine sciences and technology in the preparation of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7);
- Launched the development of the FP6 ERA-NET project MarinERA and provided the organisational support to it. MarinERA is an overarching ERA-NET in marine sciences, in which national programme managers are working towards the European opening and commonalities of national marine research programmes;
- Interfaced with the Commissioner in charge of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, so that the pending Green Paper on the Future European Maritime Policy which is being discussed between the European Commission and EU Member states includes marine sciences and technologies as a key strategic aspect of European development;
- Established, or supported in partnership, a number of working groups or workshops (either directly through its own funding, or indirectly via COST or other ESF mechanisms) to elaborate upon specific scientific or technical aspects; recent examples include "Innovative Modelling of Coastal and Shelf Seas" (report issued in June 2005), "Marine Mammals and Acoustics", "Investigating Life in Extreme Environments", "Impacts of Climate Change on European Marine Ecosystems", "Remote Sensing of Shelf Sea Ecosystems", or the "Ocean Fleet Working Group". These working groups are asked to provide reports with recommendations, which the Marine Board distribute widely. The Board also encourages and supports their recommendations, either at the national levels or through the EU's Framework Programme;
- Established fora, such as the "European Research Vessel Operators" and the "Communication Working Group" with the aim to help the persons in charge of these activities in their home organisations to establish routine with regards to working together.

ESF carried out an independent evaluation of the Marine Board in 2005. The output of this evaluation was very positive, and included a recommendation to extend the Marine Board's mandate for a further five years. Among other aspects, the evaluation report suggested that the Marine Board should improve its ways of communicating with scientists. This newsletter is one of the tools to achieve this. It intends to describe the burgeoning set of the Marine Board activities. It will probably result in increased pressure by scientists on the Marine Board. This is a challenge that the Board's members are willing to answer, with the aim of building the Marine European Research Area.

Jean-François Minster, Marine Board – European Science Foundation's chair.

The Marine Board: a unique asset for Europe's Marine Sciences

Historically, the European marine science and technology community has tended to be fragmented. The structures involved are heterogeneous, from national research councils, national agencies or research institutes.

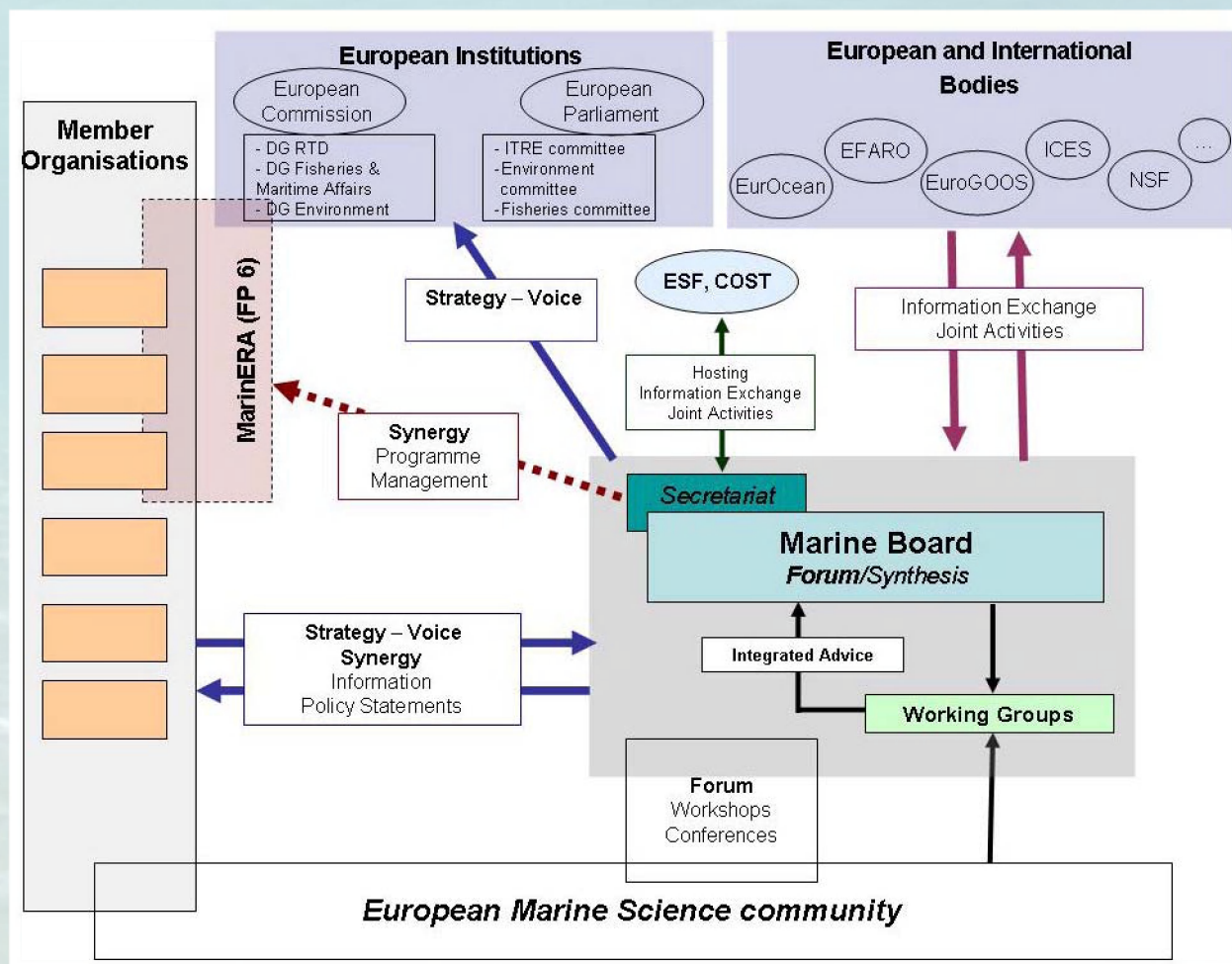


Fig. 1: Marine Board – ESF within the European marine sciences landscape.

Besides its internal structure, the Marine Board's impact relies also on effective interactions with the relevant structures at the national level (Marine Board Member Organisations), European level (political – European Commission, European Parliament and scientific – e.g. EFARO - *European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations*, EuroGOOS - *European Global Ocean Observing System* or EurOcean) and international level (e.g. ICES - *International Council for the Exploration of the Sea*, NSF - *National Science Foundation*); indeed the type of interaction is tailored to each structure, from information gathering and distribution to expertise and recommendation provision.

2005 Achievements

7th Framework Programme (FP7)

2005 has been a key year with regard to the preparation of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7, 2007 – 2013)¹, the European Union's main instrument for funding research and development. By its mandate from its Member Organisations and through its unique structure, the Marine Board sets itself as the main body to integrate marine research policy issues and priorities at the European level. Interacting with the European Commission in the preparation and shaping of FP7 is thus right in keeping with the Board's mandate and competencies.



Conference "European Marine Scientific Research: Perspectives 2007-2013" (17/10/05)

Left to right: J. Borg, E. Hill, J.-Y. Perrot, E. Suess, G. Quisthoudt-Rowohl, J.-F. Minster, P.H. Carstensen, P. Herzig, P. Heffernan

N. Schmidt / KDM

2005 key Marine Board actions

- Inviting the relevant committees of the European Parliament (STOA, Fisheries, ITRE) to stress the importance of marine science in policy development;
- Marine Board response to FP7 proposal issued on 6th April 2005 (16th May 2005);
- Scientific Secretary's presentation, following an EFARO (European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations) initiative, to the European Parliament Fisheries Committee profiling the Marine Board and MarinERA (see ERA-NETs section), and priorities to support marine research through FP7 (June 2005);
- Chair's presentation at the conference "[European Marine Scientific Research: Perspectives 2007-2013](#)", organised by KDM (German Marine Research Consortium), in association with Ifremer (French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea) and NOC (National Oceanographic Centre – UK) at the European Parliament (17th October 2005) (see picture above).

For further information: Towards FP7 portal, <http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/>

Green Paper 2: "Towards a European Maritime Policy"

2005 key Marine Board actions

Besides the development of FP7, on 2nd March 2005, the European Commission started working on a Green Paper for an all embracing Maritime Policy (including maritime transport, fishing, aquaculture, oil and gas extraction, use of wind and tidal power, shipbuilding, tourism and marine research issues). Since then the Marine Board has been providing its input as the voice of the European marine science community. The Green Paper is due for publication in May 2006.

- A letter to Commissioner Borg (DG Fisheries & Maritime Affairs) to stress the importance of Marine Science in such a policy;
- Meeting between the Marine Board Executive Committee and Commissioner Borg and his cabinet (17th March 2005);
- Presentation at the conference [the New European Maritime Policy. Challenges and Opportunities](#) (17th November 2005)

For further information: DG Fisheries & Maritime Affairs site, http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/maritime/index_en.htm

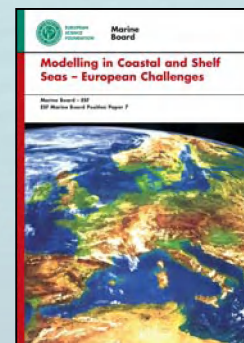
¹ Proposals for a [Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the seventh framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities \(2007 to 2013\)](#) & for a Council decision concerning the Specific Programmes implementing the Seventh Framework Programme ([Cooperation](#), [Ideas](#), [People](#), [Capacities](#))

² Commission Green Papers are documents intended to stimulate debate and launch a process of consultation at European level on a particular topic. These consultations may then lead to the publication of a White Paper, translating the conclusions of the debate into practical proposals for Community action.

Working Groups

One of the Marine Board's assets is its capacity to catalyse the identification of research priorities through the setting up and support of Working Groups (WG). These WG are composed of high level European scientists who elaborate on marine science and technology topics which need to be addressed. In principle the expected output is a position paper to be used subsequently at national or European levels. Working Group reports are available on the Marine Board website: www.esf.org/marineboard.

- **Innovative Hydrodynamic Modelling of Coastal and Shelf Seas:** This WG, chaired by Dave Prandle (Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, UK), dealt with the development and applications of models, ranging from 'nowcasting' of waves, tides and storm surges to coupled ocean-atmosphere-sea-river scenario, forecasting of the effects of Global Climate Change on terrestrial, fluvial and marine ecology over millennia. The [report](#) was published on **June 2005**.



Modelling in Coastal and Shelf Seas – European Challenges (cover)

- **Impact of Climate Change on European Marine Ecosystems:** This WG, chaired by Katja Philippart (NIOZ – Netherland Institute for Sea Research, NL), held its first meeting in September 2005. Its objective is to synthesise current observations and evaluations of future impacts of climate change on Europe marine waters and their ecosystems. This WG will describe the area-specific observed and predicted impacts of climate change on Europe's regional seas and identify future marine monitoring and RTD needs. The publication of a strategic position paper is planned for **autumn 2006**.
- **Remote Sensing of Shelf Seas Ecosystems:** This WG, chaired by Ian Robinson (National Oceanographic Center, UK), held its first meeting in November 2005. It will provide a strategic assessment of the current scientific understanding of remote sensing processes relevant to European shelf seas, and identify the priorities for further research needed in this field. It addresses remote sensing of the characteristics of shelf sea physical, chemical and biological properties, in particular pigments and primary production and their use for operational monitoring. The final report is planned for **end 2006**.
- **Ocean Research Fleets:** This WG, chaired by Jacques Binot (Ifremer, French Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea, France), held its first meeting in September 2003. A position paper on requirements for multidisciplinary ocean research vessel is to be published in **2006**, and will include an update of the Von Spee Nat Fleet 2000 report (see [WG meetings](#)).



Pourquoi Pas?, the newest French Research Vessel launched on September 2005

ERA-NETS

The ERA-NET scheme funded under the European Commission 6th Framework Programme (FP6) aims at facilitating the coordination and cooperation between national research programmes and the development of common programmes. While the Marine Board Secretariat provides the strategic and operational management in MarinERA, the Board itself has an advisory role in MarinERA. The Marine Board Secretariat is also a partner in AMPERA.

- **MarinERA:** operating from 2004 to 2008 MarinERA aims at facilitating co-operation and co-ordination of national and regional marine RTD programmes. It involves 15 partners (representing national marine RTD programme managers) and 15 Advisory Members. Ifremer and the Marine Board Secretariat provide the joint coordination. Topic-specific workshops are to be organised in 2006, which may be of interest to the Marine Board. Topics which may be covered include: support for policies (fisheries, water framework, maritime policy...); regional aspects; human mobility and training.
- **AMPERA:** aims to provide a platform where governmental policy makers and scientists from European coastal countries meet and discuss aspects of accidental marine pollution research and implement measures needed. The Spanish Ministry of Education and Science is the coordinator and the Marine Board is Task Leader for coordination with other ERA-NETs activities.

News from the Member Organisations

Ireland: Making Waves



With a heavy dependency on imported energy and being at the end of a very long European energy supply chain, Ireland is very susceptible to energy shortages. But, this may be about to change!

In April, Ireland launched its first test-scale wave energy device "WaveBob" at a special 37-hectare Wave Energy Test Facility, a mile and a half off the coast of Spiddal, County Galway. This marks a very visible step for Ireland in harnessing the potential power of the North Atlantic.

The quarter scale [Wavebob](#) energy converter is the result of co-operation between the private sector, the Marine Institute and Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI). The launch of Wavebob, the establishment of a national [Wave Energy Test Facility](#) and the preparation of a [Wave Energy Atlas](#) are testament to the importance Ireland is placing on renewable ocean energy.

Renewable ocean energy research is a key component of Ireland's new Marine Research and Innovation Strategy (2007 – 2013) and according to Geoffrey O'Sullivan, of the Marine Institute's International Co-operation Unit,

Ireland would like to see this priority better represented in the Energy Research Agenda (Priority 5) of the new EU 7th Framework Research Programme (2007 – 2013).

In addition to Wavebob, there are several other Irish ocean energy technology developers in operation, and it is expected that the Galway Bay test site will be used to field-test a number of these exciting Irish wave device designs over the coming years.

For further information: www.marine.ie

Forthcoming events

Navigating the Future III

The Marine Board has undertaken a major initiative for marine science, identifying the key scientific issues and integrating all relevant adjacent dimensions such as environmental and social sciences. Since 2000 this initiative has resulted in several publications:

- [Towards a European Marine Research Area](#) (Dec. 2000): strategy and science policy;
- [Navigating the Future](#) (March 2001): executive summary of the above mentioned publication;
- [Integrating Marine Science in Europe](#) (Nov. 2002): scientific and technical challenges;
- [Navigating the Future II](#) (March 2003): executive summary of the above mentioned publication.

Answering to the need for a constant update of research priorities and the current development of FP7, the Marine Board has gathered information and points of view from various European sources and will integrate them in ***Navigating the Future III*** (publication pending).



Navigating the Future II (cover)

Re-establishment of the Marine Board Communication Working Group

The Marine Board Communications Group is to be re-established to provide a mechanism to mobilise the communications-public relations expertise of the MB Member Organisations and to provide a mechanism to disseminate MB views and position papers. The **first meeting will take place on 10th June 2006 in Galway (Ireland).**

Marine Board Chair and Executive Committee

During the Marine Board Spring 2006 plenary meeting, Lars Horn was unanimously elected by the Board as Marine Board Chair so taking over Jean-François Minster who formally stepped down. The composition of the Executive Committee – the Marine Board governance body – also changed as three new Vice-Chairs were elected. From May 2006 the Marine Board Executive Committee members are:

Mr. Lars Horn, Chair, Norway
Dr. Kaisa Kononen, Vice-Chair, Finland
Prof. Jan W. de Leeuw, Vice-Chair, Netherlands
Prof. Jan Mees, Vice-Chair, Belgium
Dr. Kostas Nittis, Vice-Chair, Greece

This first issue of the Marine Board Newsletter then gives the opportunity to thank the former members of the Marine Board Executive Committee for their work and commitment:

Prof. Jean-François Minster, Chair, France
Dr. Philip Newton, Vice-Chair, United Kingdom
Mr. Geoffrey O'Sullivan, Vice-Chair, Ireland
Prof. Mario Ruivo, Vice-Chair, Portugal

Marine Board – ESF Forum

Over recent few years, an increasing number of European marine science-related bodies have expressed interest in establishing information exchange, Memoranda of Understanding and/or receiving endorsement for their activities or positions from the Marine Board. The need for a link with European universities has similarly arisen. Thus, the Marine Board has suggested to develop a scheme (i.e. the Marine Board Forum) enabling involvement and linkage with non-Member Organisations and individual scientists. The first Forum, which might be a joint Marine Board-MarinERA Forum, is likely to take place in **autumn 2006**.

Glossary

COST: European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical research;
DG: General Directorate;
EFARO: European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations
EuroGOOS: European Global Ocean Observing System;
ESF: European Science Foundation
FP6, FP7: 6th Framework Programme, 7th Framework Programme;
ICES: International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ITRE: Industry, Research and Energy (European Parliament Committee on);
NSF: National Science Foundation
RTD: Research and Technology Development;
STOA: Scientific and Technological Options Assessment;
WG: Working Group.

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Copies of this newsletter can be downloaded from the Marine Board website
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