

participate after their first year, is the ideal place to focus on the European dimension.

The EMBC can help in the implementation of strategies for future sustainable use of natural marine resources, taking into account the natural ecological background of ecosystems.

EMBC Masters will be able to operate on a global scale, since there is no restriction in the programme regarding types of biotopes (from the coast to deep sea, or from Pole to Pole).

Language

Proof of knowledge of the English language has to be given by TOEFL test or equivalent. During the study period, the native languages (Dutch,

German, Portuguese, French, Spanish or Lithuanian) can be studied as part of the programme.

Who can apply?

The course is open to students with at least a Bachelor (or Master's) degree in biology, ecology, environmental sciences, oceanography, marine sciences, geography, geology, or other equivalent degrees with minimum 180 credits.

Further information on Scholarships, participating core universities and their main faculty members, linked institutions and application forms can be found at <http://emb.marbef.org>.

Contact information

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Cruising and matchmaking

By **Brian R. MacKenzie** and **Pascal Lorange**

A MarFISH initiative, born during a MARFISH RMP meeting in Estonia in 2006, came up with the novel idea of setting up a mechanism to inform students and scientists of vacant spaces on fishery research cruises.



R.V. Dana.

The plan, fully supported by MarBEF, is to allow students and others to come on board a fisheries research cruise and get some experience, ideally, though not necessarily, on a foreign vessel. They would learn some basic fish-sampling methods and some fish biology and the cruise leader would benefit by getting some extra assistance. Scientists could participate by getting samples for specific projects. Everybody (i.e. visitor and host) gets the inter-cultural experience of dealing with some foreigners, thereby facilitating possible

collaboration, integration and future networking.

The costs for the student onboard would be covered by the host institute as if the student were a member of the host's staff (e.g. the student would not have to pay for room and board on the ship). Travel costs to and from the ship would be covered by the student's institute, but not necessarily from MarBEF funds, unless the student's participation was essential to execution of the RMP. Other logistical arrangements (e.g. health status, insurance) would have to be resolved between the student and cruise leader.

The mechanism for facilitating contacts between potential cruise participants and the cruise leader will use the MarBEF news bulletin and the MarFISH website as described below:

1. Cruise leader sends a short message to MarBEF webmaster (Ward Appeltans;

ward.appeltans@vliz.be) several weeks in advance of the cruise. The message should:

- Identify the MarFISH contact person for the cruise or the cruise leader and their email addresses
- Give a short description of the cruise, such as where and when the cruise is leaving, what species they are sampling, brief purpose of the cruise (e.g. *RV Dana* will leave Copenhagen to sample coral reef fish in the Caribbean Sea, Feb. 1-28, 200x; space available for students and colleagues).

2. Ward will place the notice on the MarFISH website several weeks in advance of the cruise. A short announcement of the cruise will also be made via the MarBEF web news bulletin which will contain a link to the website where the contact and cruise details could be found.

3. Ward will also place the notice on the MarBEF JOB Portal, which is a mobility portal not only for real jobs, but also for voluntary work, training, etc. This will increase visibility of the cruise to potential participants.

In future, if you have cruises which have extra space for collaborators and you want to recruit some new investigators, please be sure to inform Ward. Who knows? Maybe you will find the student who will help you write that high-impact paper when she or he comes to do a PhD or PostDoc with you!



CEFAS Endeavour.

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