

**EUR-OCEANS Consortium Council meeting
22 January 2009, Brussels, Belgium**

Participants:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Member Organisation</i>	<i>Country</i>
Patrizio Mariani	DTU Aqua and University of Hamburg	Denmark
Henn Ojaveer	Estonian Marine Institute	Estonia
Caroline Gernez	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique	France
Philippe Gaspar	CLS	France
Maurice Héral	Ifremer	France
Cyril Moulin	Institut National des Sciences de l'Univers	France
Philippe Cury	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	France
Patrick Prieur	Océanopolis	France
Bernard Quéguiner	Université Aix-Marseille 2	France
Paul Treguer	Université de Bretagne Occidentale	France
Fauzi Mantoura	Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris VI)	France
Manfred Reinke	Alfred Wegener Institute	Germany
Michael Diepenbroek	University of Bremen	Germany
Ioanna Siokou	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research	Greece
Alessandro Crise	Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale	Italy
Said Taleb	Institut National de Recherche Halieutique	Morocco
Jacek Beldowski	Institute of Oceanology	Poland
Xabier Irigoien	AZTI Foundation	Spain
Eugene Murphy	British Antarctic Survey and National Oceanography Centre	United Kingdom
Icarus Allen	Plymouth Marine Laboratory	United Kingdom

Excused:

Alexandra Neyts	Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)	Norway
Yngvar Olsen	Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)	Norway

Member Organisations of the Consortium not represented:

CNR, CoNISMa, SZN (Italy); ULPGC (Spain); UCT (South Africa)

1) Election of the Chair of the meeting

E. Murphy was unanimously elected chair of the meeting.

2) Presentation of the Consortium by Paul Tréguer (objectives and organisation)

P. Treguer recalled the objectives, activities and structure of the Consortium. He stressed that it is crucial that the activities of the Consortium start rapidly in 2009, in order to demonstrate the added value of the Consortium before the end of 2009.

With this in view, it was proposed and agreed:

- to produce a document setting priorities for the Consortium, and
- to establish links with other groups (including ICES, IPCC, ESF Marine Board, ESF Polar Board, IMBER, SESAME, CIESM) and stakeholders.

M. Heral accepted to represent the Consortium in the group writing a proposal for the future marine ERA-Net to be selected and funded by the European Commission.

It was agreed that the new Consortium Coordinator would produce a document setting out priorities for the Consortium, which would be circulated amongst the members for comment as soon as possible.

3) Budget of the Consortium; validation of the vote rights

C. Gernez recapitulated the contributions from the Core Members, which range between 5 and 40 kEuro, corresponding to 1 (5 kEuro) to 8 (40 kEuro) voting rights. For the time being, the total amount of planned contributions is 192 kEuro for in-cash contributions, and 106.5 kEuro for in kind contributions.

It was proposed and agreed to use formal votes as last resort, and rather make decisions through consensus.

It was recalled that in-kind contributions are supposed to be institutional resources dedicated specifically to the Consortium, including participation of scientific, technical and administrative staff, and access to and maintaining databases and equipment. It was suggested that each Member Organisation contributing in-kind resources draw a list of these resources, for more clarity. The resources made available to the Consortium should be relevant to its strategy.

It was agreed that the annual budget and its management should be audited and results should be presented to the Council in a transparent way.

4) Selection of the Consortium Coordinator and Project Office

The only proposal was put forward by IRD, with support from Ifremer. In their offer, IRD – Ifremer are proposing office space and salaries for a full-time secretary and a quarter-time web designer in Sète, France, with P. Cury as Scientific Coordinator (dedicating approximately 25% of his time to the Consortium, as he is already Director of CRH and UMR EME 212). This proposal was unanimously accepted by the Council, for an initial duration of 2 years.

As stated in the Consortium's agreement, and felt by the meeting's participants, a third person is needed in the Project Office, with the role of Executive Director.

It was agreed that this position will be funded by the Consortium's budget (80 kEuro for the salary, and 10 kEuro for daily expenses of the Project Office), and the call for applications will be published as soon as possible.

The role of the Scientific Coordinator will be to define the Consortium's strategy and take the lead in implementing it. He/she will also make links with other groups. The role of the Executive Director will be to implement the decisions made by the various bodies of the Consortium, to manage the administration and finances (including the search for external funding), and to organise the daily life of the Consortium (meetings, events, etc).

P. Cury agreed to write and circulate as soon as possible a 'vision document' presenting the strategy and priorities of the Consortium. As proposed by P Cury, this vision will focus on the development of scenario testing for forecasting future of marine ecosystem dynamics. The document will be circulated for comment during March.

The composition of the other governing bodies of the Consortium was recalled, as stated in the Consortium's agreement:

- the Council is composed of representatives of the Core and Invited Members;

- the Scientific Steering Committee will be composed of the Leaders of the various activities (Flagship Institutions, Foresight Workshops, etc); This will be developed in consultation by P. Cury with the Consortium Council through email;
- the Executive Committee will be composed of 5 members of the Council: P. Cury, C. Gernez (until the end of March 2009) then the Executive Director, X. Irigoien, F. Mantoura, and P. Tréguer.

5) Gordon-like conferences and Flagship institutions: presentation of the letters of intent and selection of the topics for 2009-2010

Flagship Institutions:

There was only one proposal for a topic of Flagship Institutions, by P. Cury (“Ecosystem Approach to Marine Resource”). Since IRD was already chosen as the Consortium Coordinator, it was decided not to select it as a Flagship Institution in addition, but to develop the concept carefully for a call for proposals later in the year.

Gordon-like Conferences:

There were five proposals for topics of Gordon-like Conferences:

- by IMBER and BAS, (1) “Integration of Biogeochemistry and Ecosystems: Comparison across Regional Programs”,
- by IRD, Ifremer and UBO/CNRS, (2) “Dynamics and role of mesoscale and/or sub-mesoscale activity in ocean productivity in a global change context”,
- by CNRS, (3) “Climate Change Impacts on Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystems: a Zooplankton Perspective”,
- by IRD and Ifremer, (4) “Ecological surprises and global change - from anecdotes to drastic ecosystem shifts” and (5) “Indicators for an ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM)”.

It was proposed and agreed to support two types of events: “EUR-OCEANS Conferences” and ‘EUR-OCEANS Foresight Workshops”.

- “EUR-OCEANS Conferences”. These are conferences that EUR-OCEANS wish to support as they closely address the goals of EUR-OCEANS and they maintain important links to other groups or bodies.

It was agreed that for this year financial support will be granted to the first proposal (10 kEuro), the second (20 kEuro), and the fifth (10 kEuro).

The funds allocated to these events should be used in particular in support to the participation of students and young scientists.

- “EUR-OCEANS Foresight Workshops”. These workshops are a new concept. The aim is to focus on new and emerging topics in marine ecosystem studies that address the EUR-OCEANS scientific themes. The format for these may be different and more informal and interactive than standard conferences or workshops.

It was agreed that financial support will be granted to organise those workshops (the fourth proposal might be one of them), with a total budget available of 60 kEuro. The EUR-OCEANS Foresight Workshop will focus as much as possible on the development of the concept of scenario testing for marine ecosystem studies, developed and implemented through the Consortium Coordinator over the next 2 years. This will be developed based on the Vision Document to be generated by P. Cury (see above). The workshop proposal document will be generated for comment by the 1st of May.

The organisers of the events should report on the use of these funds, as well as on the results of the Workshops or Conferences, and acknowledge the Consortium's support in any publication that may come out of those.

6) Cooperation with ICES

ICES General Secretary sent a letter to P. Tréguer shortly before the meeting, offering to collaborate closely with the Consortium. This was considered a really positive development and one that the consortium should work to developing strongly. A number of major opportunities were noted and discussed.

It was agreed that a small group of people (involved in ICES working groups) will work on a positive and detailed response to this letter. This will be coordinated by P. Cury.

7) Conclusions of the meeting by the Chair

E. Murphy thanked all the participants and in particular P. Cury for accepting his new role of Scientific Coordinator.

P. Treguer and C. Gernez were thanked for all their work in developing the Consortium. C. Gernez was thanked for all her work over the last several years in making the EUR-OCEANS Network a success.

It was agreed to organise the next meeting of the Consortium's Council in January 2010, in Sète, France.