



**EUR-OCEANS Network of Excellence
Network's Steering Committee meeting
Paris, 16 April 2005**

Participants:

P-F Baisnee (IRD, France - observer)
M. Barange (PML, United Kingdom)
P. Cury (IRD, France)
M. Diepenbroek (University of Bremen, Germany)
C. Duarte (CSIC, Spain)
C. Fox (CEFAS, United Kingdom)
P. Freon (IRD, France)
C. Gernez (CNRS, France – Executive Director, non-voting)
S. Ghiron (Oceanopolis, France)
R. Harris (PML, United Kingdom)
F. Köster (DIFRES, Denmark)
R. Lampitt (NERC-SOC, United Kingdom)
L. Legendre (CNRS, France – Deputy Scientific Director)
C. Le Quere (NERC-BAS, United Kingdom)
K. Lochte (IFM-Geomar, Germany)
P. Monfray (CNRS, France)
G-K. Plattner (University of Bern, Switzerland – representing F. Joos)
M. St John (University of Hamburg, Germany)
I. Siokou-Frangou (HCMR, Greece)
S. Sundby (IMR, Norway)
F. Thingstad (University of Bergen, Norway)
P. Treguer (CNRS, France - Scientific Director)
D. Turner (University of Göteborg, Sweden)

Excused:

F. Joos (University of Bern, Switzerland)
C. Lancelot (ULB, Belgium)
E. Murphy (NERC-BAS, United Kingdom)
K. Richardson (University of Aarhus, Denmark)
J. Ruiz (CSIC-University of Cadiz, Spain)

1. Open discussion on the role of the NSC

A majority of the participants agreed that the main role of the NSC should be to encourage and coordinate the participation of the PIs in the network. The NSC should avoid micro-management and concentrate its efforts on agreeing on principles, general procedures, and deadlines, and on providing appropriate and updated information regarding scheduled activities (workshops, meetings, etc) and practical information (budget, procedures to apply to

internal competitions, etc) to the PIs through the website. In addition, a high degree of transparency on the NSC's discussions and decisions is needed.

The NSC felt that a longer meeting would be needed to discuss and define its role more carefully.

2. Setting up of the various committees and councils

Executive Committee

Several participants asked for clarification as regards the election of the three delegates from the General Assembly to the Executive. As there were no spontaneous candidates for these positions, the Scientific Directors contacted directly several members of the Assembly and asked them whether they would agree to be candidates. It was suggested that should any member of the Executive resign in the future, the Scientific Directors should consult the NSC before approaching potential candidates.

The NSC elected Roger Harris to the Executive among the WP and System Leaders. The details of the vote are as follows: Total number of votes: 20. Number of votes for Roger Harris: 10, for Katherine Richardson (who was not present): 5, for David Turner: 4. Blank vote: 1.

Scientific Council

The Scientific Directors will propose names to the NSC by e-mail as soon as possible.

Intellectual Property Council (IPC)

The Executive Director suggested that this council be composed of the people who have contributed to the preparation of the consortium agreement, who are intellectual property and technology licensing specialists in their member organisations: Mercedes Costi (CSIC), Kitty Tverra and/or Morten Oien (U. Bergen), Denise Martin (NERC-SOC), Sara Hughes (CEFAS), Sara Dahlberg (U. Göteborg), as well as a representative of the administrative and financial coordinator (Joseph de Macedo, FIST). The NSC agreed upon the proposed names. The Executive Director shall contact these persons and inform the NSC about the final composition of the IPC.

Gender Equality Council

The NSC agreed upon the six of the seven members of this council appointed so far. K. Lochte suggested that the last member be someone from the Network of Aquariums.

EUR-OCEANS Institute Council

The Scientific Directors stressed the fact that this council will have a major role in designing the future of the network, and that its progress will be taken into account by the reviewers who will evaluate the network after the first year. Thus, the EIC should include high-level representatives of major member organisations of EUR-OCEANS.

The NSC suggested the following persons: Phil Newton (NERC), Robin Cook (FRS), Montserrat Torne (CSIC), Peter Herzig (IFM-Geomar), Kirsten Broch-Mathiesen (Norwegian Research Council), Tore Nepstad (IMR). The Scientific Directors shall contact these persons shortly. In case relevant persons are not eventually included in the group, they could be invited to EIC meetings.

3. Review of progress reports from the Work Packages and the Systems

Due to lack of time, the Scientific Directors proposed to focus the review on the WP activities, and to exchange about the activities of Systems with the leaders by e-mail later.

The Scientific Directors presented for each WP a proposed "Minimum Evidence of Integration" (MEI), which should serve as a reference to assess progress over the first two years of the Network. This MEI should be met in the first two years, although the work done in the first year is of outmost importance as we are bound by the deliverables listed in the technical annex for the first twelve and eighteen months.

WP 1.1 Sharing facilities

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below:

- ♦ MEI: List of shared facilities ; Networking of facilities ; Definition of access Protocols
- ♦ Deliverables: **D1.** Report of the first meeting of the Facilities Sharing management team (Month 9). **D2.** Publication of results of EUR-OCEANS facilities questionnaire containing lists of infrastructure e.g. mesocosms and mass spectrometers; documentation (Month 12). **D3.** Contribution to EUR-OCEANS primary web site (Month 9) **D4.** Report of workshop containing draft agreements for obtaining access to different types of infrastructure (Month 16).

It was suggested to examine the preparation of a proposal for the sharing of infrastructures in the 7th Framework Programme.

WP 1.2 Mobility and communication

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below:

- ♦ MEI: Tasks as in the technical annex
- ♦ Deliverables: **D5.** EUR-OCEANS web domain and primary web site established (Month 2). **D6.** Framework for the implementation of a mobility, communication and awards programme (Month 6). **D7.** Edition of the quarterly EUR-OCEANS bulletin (Month 6).

C. Duarte will soon circulate a draft mobility programme including mini-sabbaticals, short stays, and technical visits (to be linked to the sharing of facilities). The website shall be updated to include all recent documents such as the technical annex for instance.

WP 2.1 Observing systems

R. Lampitt explained that no progress has been made so far, for lack of precise information regarding the budget allocated to this WP. L. Legendre recalled that the 200,000 euros allocated to this WP should not be used for buying new equipment *per se*, but instead be spent to encourage integration among the existing European observing systems. It was suggested to organise a workshop shortly to define the needs and thus decide upon the use of the funds.

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below:

- ♦ MEI: Comparative analysis of the data already available (4 Eulerian stations) ; Publications, PhD or post-doc
- ♦ Deliverables : **D8.** Workshop report identifying the main problems preventing exploitation of data from the various observing systems by biogeochemical models (Month 12). **D9.** Workshop report on solutions to the problems of observatories in platform design, sensor function, data telemetry and data management (Month 12). **D10.** Report on the status of existing Eulerian observatories to assess potential for future support (Month 12).

WP 2.2 Networked databases

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below:

- ♦ MEI: Identification of data to be rescued (mostly ecosystems) ; All interfaces for users of the data bases ready ; Data synthesis and meta-analyses: PhD, publications
- ♦ Deliverables: **D11.** Report on historic data (*circa* 50 years) to be rescued / reviewed / meta-analysed (Month 6). **D12.** Priority list of data sets for the development of targeted rescue activities (Month 9). **D13.** Homogenizing digital data sets conforming to international data standards and protocols, and release of data via the electronic portal (Month 12). **D14.** Operational EUR-OCEANS data and information portal and infrastructure (Month 18).

M. Diepenbroek recalled that his team will need input from the participants to ensure the linkage between science and data management. He explained that the equipment budget (200,000 euros allocated for 4 years) was needed for computers, licenses, and also common services provided by the World Data Centre.

WP 3.1 Model interfacing

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below:

- ♦ MEI: Development of “modelling environment”: publications
- ♦ Deliverables : **D15.** Synthesized review of coupled models interfacing different trophic levels (Month 18). **D16.** Identification of a suite of interface variables (Month 18). **D17.** Development of one prototype of generic food-web/ecosystem model from end to end for the open ocean (Month 18).

WP 3.2 Global Ocean

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below:

- ♦ MEI: Tasks as in the technical annex
- ♦ Deliverables : **D18.** Fully available model results, code, and documentation enabling collaboration between partners via web site (Month 12). **D19.** Results from simulations of the effect of climate variability and climate change on five selected plankton functional types for at a minimum the past and future 50 years (Month 18). **D20.** Article describing the key Plankton Functional Types (PFTs) in the *Dynamic Green Ocean Model*, and the available and gaps in knowledge on parameterisation and validation approaches (Month 12)

WP 3.3 Earth System

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below:

- ♦ MEI: Tasks as in the technical annex
- ♦ Deliverables: **D21.** Output protocol for comparable simulation with three coupled climate-ocean ecosystem models defined (Month 18). **D22.** A comparison of model results of changes in marine productivity over the next 100 to 200 years (Month 18).

WP 4 Ecosystems end-to-end, WP 5 Biogeochemistry, WP 6 Ecosystem approach to marine resources

The Scientific Directors proposed the following common MEI for the first three Themes:

- ♦ MEI: Syntheses of data and meta-analyses: publications, review-papers; coordination of nationally funded projects/programmes
- ♦ Deliverables **WP 4: D23.** Joint proposals to national and international funding agencies (Month 18). **D24.** Internet page for discussions of trophic interaction parameterisation in ecosystem models, with links to ecosystem modelling groups in the EU and internationally (Month 6). **D25.** Report of Desk study on validation and/or quantification of key species vital rates (Month 18). **D26.** Report on identifying and coordinating activities relevant for advancing model parameterisation (Month 12). **D27.** Incorporation of food quality parameterisation into ecosystem modelling approaches (Month 12). **D28.** Report of an International symposium on “Parameterisation of Trophic Interactions in Ecosystem Modelling” (Month 18).
- ♦ Deliverables **WP 5: D29.** Workshop report on the similarities and differences between existing food-web-focused and biogeochemistry-focused models, and their application in the 7 EUR-OCEANS Systems (Month 12). **D30.** Addition to the primary EUR-OCEANS web site of a page for exchanging biogeochemical data and models within EUR-OCEANS (Month 12). **D31.** Report on EUR-OCEANS-supported participation in experimental workshops (e.g. mesocosm experiments) relevant to Theme II Biogeochemistry (Month 18).
- ♦ Deliverables **WP 6: D32.** Meta analyses about the effects of climatic and trophic interactions on the dynamics of exploited marine populations and the survival of early life stages (recruitment of exploited fish species) or/and abundance of adult fish stocks (Month 12). **D33.** Summer school on system specific spatially explicit individual- and population-based models of key exploited populations (communities), incorporating trophic interactions and climatic processes, with emphasis on regime shifts (Month 18). **D34.** Publication of proceedings of the SCOR-IOC International Symposium on “Quantitative ecosystem indicators for fisheries management” (Month 12).

It was agreed that the Themes should define a scientific vision with regards to the questions initially formulated, and it was suggested that they act as think-tanks, thus providing the Systems with questions to address.

WP 7 Within-system integration

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below:

- ♦ MEI: Synthesis of data from various sources : PhD, post-docs, publications ; Evaluation by previous synthesized datasets of coupled food-web/ecosystem models developed within WP3-6: publications ; Workshops including modellers and experimentalists: publications
- ♦ Deliverables: **D35.** Integrated realistic ecosystem model prototype imbedding some trophic models on advanced physical models (Month 18). **D36.** Recommendation for an

advanced integration strategy to be submitted in 2008, including data assimilation within coupled models (Month 18).

WP 8 Training of researchers and other key staff

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below:

- ◆ MEI: Tasks as in the technical annex
- ◆ Deliverables: **D37.** Inventory of Ph.D. training resources within the EUR-OCEANS consortium (Month 12). **D38.** Links to Internet-based graduate and post-graduate training programmes including the main EUR-OCEANS Institutes (Month 12). **D39.** Recommendations to address gaps and opportunities for training on *Global Change and Marine Ecosystems* (Month 9). **D40.** Curriculum outline for Ph.D. summer schools (Month 6). **D41.** Reports on EUR-OCEANS summer schools and plans for the next 18-month period (Month 12). **D42.** Annual summary of EUR-OCEANS research workshops given and participants (Month 18).

It was agreed to postpone the deadline for PhD applications until 15 May 2005. The information on the website will be updated accordingly.

The post-doctoral programme as well as the schedule for summer schools will be circulated soon to the NSC.

WP 9 Transfer to socio-economic users

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below (deliverable 44 being the main target):

- ◆ MEI: Tasks as in the technical annex
- ◆ Deliverables : **D43.** Database of socio-economic users of EUR-OCEANS results (Month 18). **D44.** Communication strategy for the transfer of EUR-OCEANS results (Month 12). **D45.** Production at least two issues of “EUROCEANS Fact Sheet” (Month 18). **D46.** Interactive web page on transfer of EUR-OCEANS results (Month 6).

C. Duarte suggesting to link these activities with similar ones conducted by MarBEF and Marine Genomics Europe. M. Barange shall be invited to the upcoming meeting on business opportunities on marine biodiversity organised by MarBEF.

WP 10 Public outreach

The NSC agreed on the MEI and the deliverables as listed below:

- ◆ MEI: Tasks as in the technical annex
- ◆ Deliverables: **D47.** Operational web page on EUR-OCEANS research for the general public on the primary web site (Month 9). **D48.** Movies and/or TV series on EUR-OCEANS topics shown in aquaria (Month 18). **D49.** Brochures on relevant discoveries made by EUR-OCEANS distributed to visitors of participating aquaria (Month 12). **D50.** Communication of major EUR-OCEANS goals and achievements to the European public, through press and public conferences (Month 6). **D51.** Educational material corresponding to the four previous groups of deliverables (Month 12).

There is a need to establish links between the aquariums and the scientists participating in EUR-OCEANS, and this could be achieved through two means: (1) a forum of discussion on

the website, and (2) the identification of a contact person for WP 10 in each System and Theme. It was also suggested to link with the public relations officers of member organisations.

4. Conclusions

As stated by Christos Fragakis, the new EC Scientific Officer for EUR-OCEANS, during the kick-off meeting, it is crucial to show clear evidence of **integration** as to December 2005 to ensure the continuity of the network after the first eighteen-month period.

The NSC will revise the budget and reconsider the membership at the end of the first year.

The Scientific Directors wish to thank all participants for their active contributions.

5. Next meeting of the NSC

The next physical meeting of the NSC will be held in mid-November 2005. The precise date shall be agreed upon via an interactive Internet tool.

Appendix: Action points

Action 1 [Scientific Directors]: Setting up of the Scientific Council: propose names to the NSC by e-mail as soon as possible.

Action 2 [Executive Director]: Setting up of the Intellectual Property Council: contact the persons identified (see point 2.) and inform the NSC about the final composition of the IPC.

Action 3 [Scientific Directors]: Setting up of the EUR-OCEANS Institute Council: contact the persons identified (see point 2.) shortly.

Action 4 *WP1.2 Mobility and communication*: [C. Duarte]: circulate a draft mobility programme including mini-sabbaticals, short stays, and technical visits (to be linked to the sharing of facilities). [Executive Director and Webmaster]: update website to include all recent documents such as the technical annex for instance.

Action 5 *WP8 Training*: [Executive Director and Webmaster]: update information on the website regarding the postponement of the deadline for PhD applications until 15 May 2005. [C. Duarte]: circulate the post-doctoral programme as well as the schedule for summer schools to the NSC.

Action 6 *WP10 Public outreach*: [S. Ghiron, Executive Director and Webmaster, in cooperation with System and Themes Leaders]: establish links between the aquariums and the scientists participating in EUR-OCEANS, through two means: (1) a forum of discussion on the website, and (2) the identification of a contact person for WP 10 in each System and Theme. Link with the public relations officers of member organisations.

Action 7 *All WP*: [WP Leaders]: prepare a report on progress towards the MEI for the next NSC meeting.