

**National Research Vessel Task Team
Meeting – 09/10/20**

Last updated: February 18, 2021

Present:

Douglas Bancroft, CSSF
Douglas Wallace, MEOPAR
Rodrigo Menafra, MEOPAR
Bridget Graham, MEOPAR
Richard Dewey, Ocean Networks Canada/University of Victoria
Guillaume St. Onge, ISMER
Erin Bertrand, Dalhousie University
Casey Hubert, University of Calgary
Suzanne Carbotte, Columbia University
Clare Reimers, Oregon State University
Alexandre Forest, Amundsen Science
Rachel Sipler, Memorial University
Calvin Campbell, NRCan on behalf of Daniel Lebel on behalf of Stephen Locke
Marcel Babin, Takuvik International Research Laboratory (U Laval & CNRS) and Amundsen
Science
Rachel Chang, Dalhousie University
Erik Lapointe, Reformar
Elizabeth Boston, NSERC
Carey Ryan, Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Research Association
Philippe Archambault, ArcticNet
Kent Moore, University of Toronto
Feiyue Wang, University of Manitoba
Anne de Vernal, UQAM
John Jamieson, CCOD and Memorial University of Newfoundland
Melissa Anderson, University of Toronto
Paul Myers, CNC-SCOR
Geoff Green, Students on Ice and C3

Regrets:

Jennifer Vollrath, DFO
Jay Cullen, University of Victoria
Mark Hannington, GEOMAR
Erin MacNeil, DRDC
Aaron Plamondon, Irving
Philippe Tortell, University of British Columbia
Adrian Schimnowski, Arctic Research Foundation
Greg Cutter, Old Dominion University

Welcome:

Minutes from the Meeting to be approved moving forward.

Update from Alexandre Forest on the possible partnership between Canada and France for ship-time:

Members and observers were also asked to fill out the form circulated from the MEOPAR Administrative Centre.

Questions:

Liz Boston – NSERC and funding for ship-time

Doug Wallace – workshops to discuss France-Canada cooperation

John Jamieson – definition of North Atlantic

Possible MORI Project Substantial Funding Opportunity – discussion led by Doug Wallace

Modular Ocean Research Infrastructure (MORI). Doug Wallace provided a summary of the Ocean Supercluster expression of interest (EoI) which was submitted but not funded. MEOPAR has secured \$2 million value proposition funds to MORI, MEOPAR also has money put aside for this initiative. These funds would be used to support the design and construction, and testing and demonstration phases of MORI. There would be equipment made available across Canada and the MEOPAR would establish a Technical Team to assist with this work. The testing and demonstration would focus on the Northwest Atlantic, including the Scotian Shelf, Newfoundland, as well as the Labrador Sea. This will benefit the science programs for a number of organizations.

MEOPAR is currently looking to develop and foster partnerships, while also seeking champions for this initiative. We understand that it will be crucial to coordinate effectively with organizations such as NSERC, CFI and other government agencies. Doug Bancroft expressed his willingness to provide assistance given his experience with MORI. MEOPAR's Managing Director, Rodrigo Menafrá mentioned that this information is being shared in confidence and nothing has been signed as of yet. He also stressed the need for different groups to come together to make this initiative work.

Questions:

Richard Dewey asked about the timeline for funds, and Doug Wallace mentioned that the funds would need to be spent by March 2023. Richard also indicated that he would be interested in participating but he was curious about long term funding and operating of the capital. Doug Wallace mentioned that this is not something that MEOPAR should take on, while MEOPAR will manage the initial project, it would be handed over in the future, hopefully to a national organization that is closely aligned with federal initiatives.

Casey Hubert asked about CFI and how this project fits with their timelines. Doug Wallace mentioned that he was not familiar with CFI's timelines.

Doug Bancroft asked about the funds in phase 2 and Doug Wallace said that the money cannot be used to pay for ship time, it is money for infrastructure.

Rodrigo Menafrá mentioned that MEOPAR has set aside \$500,000 for ship-time, which will hopefully help leverage funds from other partners.

Erin Bertrand mentioned that without a better source of funding to take advantage of these initiatives it will be a challenge

Alexandre Forest asked if there was an in-progress document about this project that could be shared?

Clare Reimers congratulated the team, but also mentioned that \$2 million does not go very far. Doug Wallace said that we are always looking for ways to leverage funds.

Rachel Sipler mentioned an ice breaking ferry and how it would be beneficial to have communities on the proposal. The Morley Knight is donating ship and crew time, and perhaps this could be a good match.

Erik Lapointe mentioned the Coriolis II and said that he would be interested in providing support. Doug Wallace mentioned that it would be great to learn from Reformar to get guidance on what has been done.

News Roundtable

Doug Wallace shared information about a CSPC Panel which MEOPAR is organized.

Title - Research Infrastructures as Multisectoral Research Aggregators: An Ocean Research Case Study

Abstract - This panel will share experiences and concepts regarding the best techniques for utilizing research infrastructure in overcoming barriers to multi-sectoral research cooperation in Canada. While relevant to other areas of science, ocean science and technology will be used as a case study. The discussion will focus on ownership, planning, funding, risk, access and coordination of research infrastructure. Barriers exist among sectors for ocean research, and shared planning, acquisition and use of research infrastructure could help overcome them. The main objective of the panel is to identify solutions and approaches that can be promoted at the policy level in Canada.

Doug Wallace mentioned the need for a communication Strategy for NRVTT.

Paul Myers mentioned that it would be beneficial to have an update in the CNC SCOR newsletter to inform the community of the work which is being done on the NRVTT.

Carey Ryan mentioned that it has been hard for OERA to secure a vessel.

Melissa Anderson mentioned that these kinds of problems, as well as lack of infrastructure and lack of funding will inevitably result in a loss of Canadian talent as researchers go to places where they can actually do research. Erin Bertrand echoed Melissa's sentiments.