

National Research Vessel Task Team
Meeting – 06.02.21
Last updated: June 8, 2021

Present:

Douglas Bancroft, CSSF
Douglas Wallace, MEOPAR
Melissa Anderson, University of Toronto
Rodrigo Menafra, MEOPAR
Bridget Graham, MEOPAR
Dan Gibson, MEOPAR
Alexandre Forest, Amundsen Science
Elizabeth Boston, NSERC
Kent Moore, University of Toronto
Marlon Lewis, Dalhousie University and Amundsen Science
Geoff Green, Students on Ice and C3
Jay Cullen, University of Victoria
Greg Cutter, Old Dominion University
Anthony Redican, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Stéphanie Lanoix, NSERC
Rachel Chang, Dalhousie University
Feiyue Wang, University of Manitoba
John Jamieson, CCOD
Clare Reimers, Oregon State University
Marcel Babin, Takuvik International Research Laboratory (U Laval & CNRS) and Amundsen Science
Randy King, DFO

Absent:

Suzanne Carbotte, Columbia University
Paul Myers, CNC-SCOR
Philippe Tortell, University of British Columbia
Erik Lapointe, Reformar
Erin Bertrand, Dalhousie University
Casey Hubert, University of Calgary
Jennifer Vollrath, NRCan on behalf of Daniel Lebel on behalf of Stephen Locke
Anne de Vernal, UQAM
Philippe Tortell, University of British Columbia
Carey Ryan, Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Research Association
Richard Dewey, Ocean Networks Canada/University of Victoria
Guillaume St. Onge, ISMER
Mark Hannington, GEOMAR
Stephen Locke, NRCan

Adrian Schimnowski, Arctic Research Foundation
Rachel Sipler, Memorial University
Philippe Archambault, ArcticNet
Kenn Rankine, NSERC
Erin MacNeil, DRDC
Marcel Babin, Admunsen Science and Université Laval

Welcome:

Doug Bancroft welcomed all the members and observers of the NRVTT and thanked them for their on-going support.

Welcome to new NSERC Observer (Stéphanie Lanoix) and new DFO observer (Anthony Redican): Doug Bancroft welcomed the new federal observers.

Modular Ocean Research Infrastructure Initial Development and Demonstration (MORI IDD) Project Update: The Managing Director introduced Dan Gibson, the new MORI IDD Project Manager.

Dan presented the following update. On May 25, 2021, MEOPAR's Board of Directors approved signing of a Value Proposition Agreement with Irving Shipbuilding Inc. for \$2 million in support of the MORI Initial Development and Demonstration project. That agreement has been signed by MEOPAR and returned to Irving Shipbuilding Inc. for their final signatures. Funding will begin flowing to MEOPAR with an initial release of \$1,000,000 in June 2021; an additional \$500,000 in October 2021, and the remaining \$500,000 in April 2022.

Those funds will enable the purchase of several key assets for the MORI project including a 20-ton A-frame module, Deck crane, winch bases and lab modules. In addition, the funds will support MORI's Naval Engineering Technical Team for further design and development of equipment for use during the second year of the project. Development work will include a custom CTD winch and launch and recovery system, and additional lab modules.

Negotiations have commenced with a number of equipment and service suppliers. Our expectations are that purchase orders will start being released by the week of June 7, 2021. In addition, the project will initially be supported by several pieces of loaned equipment including a heavy winch from NRCan, a CTD winch from BIO and a transducer pole mounting system from DRDC. Formal loan agreements with most of these organizations are currently being reviewed by MEOPAR's legal counsel.

With respect to Scientific Cruises, the initial schedule proposed in March has slipped to the right somewhat due to a combination of factors, particularly protracted negotiations with the Value Proposition Agreement and vessel availability. Currently the first cruise is scheduled to commence on August 12, 2021. This effort will be led by the Offshore Energy Research Association (OERA) and will focus on the collection of push core samples using 24 hour per day

Remote Operated Vehicle operations. The plan is to use the Atlantic Condor, an offshore supply type vessel owned by Atlantic Towing Ltd. This vessel is currently in Vancouver and is expected to depart around the end of June for a 28-day transit and an ETA in Halifax by the end of July. If the schedule holds, this should provide an adequate window for mobilizing the ROV and associated scientific equipment onboard.

The OREA cruise will be followed by 3 additional scientific cruises scheduled for September and October – and perhaps into November 2021. And then a full slate of cruises for the 2022 season. Although some initial schedule slippage has occurred, meeting the Project's primary objective, that is to **implement, test and demonstrate** the MORI concept, should be completely achievable.

Update from Alexandre Forest re: possible partnership between Canada and France and Amundsen Science: Amundsen Science is in the process of drafting the agreement with IFREMER for this initiative. Letters of interests are being accepted using an online portal of the French Fleet. A joint review committee will be created to review projects for 2023 to 2027. Amundsen Science will remain the main point of contact for this initiative from a Canadian perspective.

Pending actions:

- Publicize the initiative to the community prior to its official launch
- Upcoming discussion with DFO and NRCan that could make good use of the initiative before the new OOSV comes online
- Discussion through the NRVTT with NSERC to make STAC funds for universities available to the initiative

For more information, please see Alexandre's presentation from this meeting. Please contact [Alexandre](#) directly, should you have questions about this initiative.

Need for a near future discussion with NSERC on STAC pressures from MORI and the emerging Canada and France partnership above: It was proposed to have a meeting with representatives from NSERC. Elizabeth Boston requested that Alexandre write down some of the details so that she could better understand how this would work before scheduling a meeting. Alexandre Forest agreed to do so. It was noted that no money is being exchanged between the two countries. Doug Wallace noted that this is a very important initiative given the beginning of the UN Decade of the Ocean.

Presentation and Q&A with Geoff Green, Founder and President of the Students on Ice Foundation: Geoff Green presented on behalf of the Students on Ice Foundation (SOIF). He provided an overview of the organization as well as its various initiatives, including the Bridge, and the Port through the Blue Future Pathways project. There may be opportunities for ship-time onboard two vessels moving forward.

For more information, please see Geoff's presentation from this meeting. Please contact [Geoff](#) directly, should you have questions about this initiative.

News Roundtable and Further Business:

- Jay Cullen mentioned funding through NSERC and RTI for a trace metal and clean rosette system.