

A large colony of albatrosses is shown in flight over a dark, turbulent ocean. A massive, white-capped wave is crashing in the background, creating a dramatic and powerful scene. The birds are scattered throughout the frame, some in the foreground and others further back, all appearing to be in motion. The overall atmosphere is one of wild, natural energy.

EUROPEAN
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Expert Committee
Marine Board – ESF

Expert Committee

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Fulmars in a Force 11 gale, mid Atlantic
© Mick Mackey

What is the Marine Board?

Established in 1995, the Marine Board facilitates enhanced cooperation between European marine science organisations (both research institutes and research funding agencies) towards the development of a common vision on the research priorities and strategies for marine science in Europe. In 2010, the Marine Board represents 31 Member Organisations from 19 countries.

The Marine Board provides the essential components for transferring knowledge for leadership in marine research in Europe. Adopting a strategic role, the Marine Board serves its Member Organisations by providing a forum within which marine research policy advice to national agencies and to the European policy makers is developed, with the objective of promoting the establishment of the European *Marine Research Area*.

The Marine Board is an Expert Board of the European Science Foundation (ESF). The ESF is an independent organisation, owned by 79 Member Organisations among which are funding organisations and research organisations, academies and learned societies from 30 countries. ESF promotes collaboration in research itself, in the funding of research and in science policy activities at the European level.

Mission statement

The Marine Board provides a pan-European platform for its member organisations to develop common priorities, to advance marine research, and to bridge the gap between science and policy in order to meet future marine science challenges and opportunities.





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Marine Board mission

The Marine Board operates via four principle approaches which underpin the Board's main objective of bridging the gap between science and policy.

Forum: bringing together European marine research stakeholders to share knowledge, to identify common priorities and approaches, to develop common positions and perspectives, and to collaborate;

Synergy: fostering European added value to national programmes, facilitating access and shared use of national marine research facilities, and promoting synergy among international programmes and organisations;

Strategy: identifying disciplinary and inter-disciplinary marine scientific issues of strategic importance for Europe, initiating analysis and studies, and providing high-level recommendations for European and national programme managers, research funders and policy makers as well as the scientific community;

Voice: expressing a collective vision of marine research priorities towards a European strategy for marine research, in order to meet future science and societal challenges and opportunities.

Maintenance work
on a marine
observation buoy

© Mick Mackey

Below:
Hywind being towed
to its anchoring site
off the island
of Karmøy, Norway
© Øyvind Hagen/Statoil

Right:
Analysing
cultures of marine
microorganisms
in the laboratory
© Henk Bolhuis and
Veronique Confurius,
NIOO-KNAW, Yerseke,
The Netherlands



Main activities

Marine Board Working Groups

gather European and international experts to address topical issues of strategic importance in European marine science and technology. They are the primary science foresight and priority setting instrument of the Board. A Working Group (WG) is established for a 12 to 18 month period and usually results in a Position Paper.

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- ▶ www.esf.org/marineboard/workinggroups

Marine Board Position Papers

aim to provide clear strategic recommendations for science managers, policy makers and for the scientific community itself, to influence marine research policy and programming as well as broader maritime policy at both national and European levels. To date (2010) the Marine Board has published 15 Position Papers.

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- ▶ www.esf.org/marineboard/publications

Vision Groups are established for a shorter period than Working Groups. They bring together experts to address topics which require an urgent response to scientific and policy developments within a short time frame. Vision Groups (VG) work for 6 to 8 months to produce a short (approximately 10-12 pages) Vision Document.

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- ▶ www.esf.org/marineboard/visiongroups

Marine Board Vision Documents

tackle their chosen topics in a concise way and use high quality images and diagrams to promote a high-level message. They deliver high-level recommendations to European and national decision makers in order to best impact on marine science policy and programming, and broader maritime policy.

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- ▶ www.esf.org/marineboard/publications

Marine Board Panels

are established on an open-end basis to address operational issues in areas where the panel members, and by extension their institutions, benefit from interacting with each other and with the Marine Board. On-going Marine Board Panels include: the Marine Board Communications Panel (MBCP) and the Marine Board European Scientific Diving Panel (MB ESDP).

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- ▶ www.esf.org/marineboard/panels

The Marine Board Biennial Forum

provides a platform for Marine Board members, partner organisations, individual scientists and European and national policy makers to interact on a topic of strategic importance for European marine science. For each selected topic or theme, the Marine Board Forum aims to:

- reduce duplication of initiatives;
- limit the fragmentation of the European research efforts;



- facilitate the exchange of information and ideas;
- enhance synergy among actors;
- provide a focal meeting point for institutions and individual scientists; and
- agree a common position amongst scientists, policy makers and stakeholders to stimulate progress on the issue in hand.

Output from the presentations and discussions of the Marine Board Forum are published as proceedings.

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- ▶ www.esf.org/marineboard/forum

Marine Board Statements

are developed as a rapid response to European marine science and policy developments, e.g. when new policies and tools are being developed and/or response to open consultations.

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- ▶ www.esf.org/marineboard/statements

Right:
The RV Celtic
Explorer, a sixty-five
metre ocean-class
research vessel
© Marine Institute, Ireland

Right page:
AUV AsterX on board
RV Meteor during
BIONIL cruise,
November 2006
© Ifremer



Marine Board Member Organisations and Delegates

- **Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen (FWO)** – *Research Foundation Flanders, Belgium*
Dr Jan Mees
- **Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS)** – *Fund for Scientific Research, Belgium*
Professor Jean-Marie Beckers
- **Cyprus Oceanography Centre**, Cyprus
Professor Georgios Georgiou
- **Det Frie Forskningsråd – Natur og Univers (FNU)** – *The Danish Council for Independent Research – Natural Sciences, Denmark*
Professor Kirsten Christoffersen
- **Eesti Teaduste Akadeemia** – *Estonian Academy of Sciences, Estonia*
Dr Tarmo Soomere
- **Suomen Akatemia – Finlands Akademi** – *Academy of Finland, Finland*
Kyösti Lempa
- **Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)**, Finland
Professor Markku Viitasalo
- **Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)** – *National Centre for Scientific Research, France*
Professor Jean-Marie Flaud
- **Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer)** – *French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea, France*
Mr Antoine Dosdat
- **Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft deutscher Forschungszentren (HGF)** – *Association of National Research Centres, Germany*
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- **Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)** – *German Research Foundation, Germany*
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- **Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)**, Greece
Dr Kostas Nittis
- **Marine Institute**, Ireland
Mr Geoffrey O'Sullivan
- **Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)** – *National Research Council, Italy*
Dr Guiseppe Cavarretta
- **Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS)** – *National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics, Italy*
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- **Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)** – *Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal*
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- **Institutul National de Cercetare – Dezvoltare Marina “Grigore Antipa” (INCDM)** – *National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa”, Romania*
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- **Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC)** – *Council for Scientific Research, Spain*
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- **Havsmiljöinstitutet** – *Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment, Sweden*
Professor Michael Thorndyke
- **Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastırma Kurumu (TÜBİTAK)** – *The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Turkey*
Professor Colpan Polat-Beken
- **National Oceanography Centre, Southampton (NOCS)**, United Kingdom
Professor Edward Hill
- **Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)**, United Kingdom
Dr Mike Webb



Marine Board Executive Committee

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- **Mr Antoine Dosdat** (Vice-Chair)
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- **Professor Edward Hill** (Vice-Chair)
National Oceanography Centre (NOC), United Kingdom
- **Dr Niall McDonough** (Marine Board Executive Scientific Secretary)
- **Dr Jan Mees** (Vice-Chair)
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- **Dr Beatriz Morales-Nin** (Vice-Chair)
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