

Membership (February 2003)

Austria

- Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung
Austrian Science Research Fund
- Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Austrian Academy of Sciences

Belgium

- Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS)
National Fund for Scientific Research
- Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO)
Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders

Denmark

- Statens Naturvidenskabelige Forskningsråd (SNF)
Danish Natural Science Research Council

Finland

- Suomen Akatemia / Finlands Akademi
Academy of Finland

France

- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)
National Centre for Scientific Research
- Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER)
French Sea Research Institute

Germany

- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
German Research Society
- Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren (HGF)
Association of National Research Centres

Greece

- National Centre for Marine Research (NCOM)

Ireland

- Marine Institute

Italy

- Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
National Research Council
- Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS)
National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics

The Netherlands

- Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW)
Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

Norway

- Havforskningsinstituttet
Institute of Marine Research
- Norges Forskningsråd
The Research Council of Norway

Poland

- Polska Akademia Nauk (PAN)
Polish Academy of Sciences

Portugal

- Gabinete de Relações Internacionais da Ciência e do Ensino Superior (GRICES)
Portuguese International Relations Cabinet for Science and Higher Education

Spain

- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
Council for Scientific Research
- Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)
Spanish Institute of Oceanography

Sweden

- Vetenskapsrådet
Swedish Research Council

Turkey

- Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknik Arastirma Kurumu (TÜBİTAK)
The Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey

United Kingdom

- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

Executive Committee

- **Professor Jean-François Minster**, IFREMER, France (*Chair*)
- **Dr. John Marks**, NWO, Netherlands (*Vice-Chair*)
- **Mr. Geoffrey O'Sullivan**, Marine Institute, Ireland (*Vice-Chair*)
- **Professor Mario Ruivo**, GRICES, Portugal (*Vice-Chair*)
- **Dr. Silvana Vallerga**, CNR, Italy (*Vice-Chair*)
- **Dr. Niamh Connolly** (*Executive Scientific Secretary*)

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Marine Board

Recognising the need for improved co-ordination between European marine science organisations (both research institutes and funding organisations) and for the development of a strategy for marine science in Europe, the European Science Foundation (ESF), in association with the European Commission, established the ESF Marine Board in 1995 to address these issues.

To date, the principal achievements of the Marine Board have been to:

- facilitate the development of scientific strategies (organising and sponsoring workshops and conferences);
- improve access to infrastructure and the shared use of equipment;
- advise on strategic and scientific policy issues at the European level;
- publish position papers on key topics.

The fifth position paper: *Integrating Marine Science in Europe* (2002) is particularly significant in providing an overview of the status of marine science in Europe, and is a key contribution towards the establishment of the marine element of the European Research Area. It identifies key priorities for marine research and recommendations to maximise integration.

With its current membership of 25 marine research organisations from 17 European countries, the ESF Marine Board has the appropriate representation to provide a unique forum for marine science in Europe and world-wide.

Objectives

In developing its objectives, the Marine Board focuses its activities around four main themes.

Forum:

bringing together member organisations to share information, to identify common problems and, where appropriate, find solutions, to develop common positions, and to co-operate on scientific issues.

Strategy:

identifying and prioritising emergent disciplinary and interdisciplinary marine scientific issues of strategic European importance, initiating analyses and studies (where relevant, in close association with the European Commission) to contribute towards a European strategy for marine research.

Voice:

expressing a collective vision of the future for European marine science in relation to developments in Europe and world-wide, and improving the public understanding of science in these fields.

Synergy:

fostering European added value to component national programmes, facilitating access and shared use of national marine research facilities, and promoting synergy with international programmes and organisations.

Whilst the emphasis is on science, the Marine Board fully recognises the increasing interdependence between science and technology and, as a result, promotes the appropriate technological developments for the achievement of its scientific objectives.

Funding

The Member Organisations of the Marine Board annually contribute the funds necessary to finance the activities and the running costs of the Executive Secretariat. Where appropriate, the Marine Board explores access to other sources of funding.

Activities

The Marine Board published (November 2002) a strategy for marine science in Europe *Integrating Marine Science in Europe*. In implementing the recommendations of this position paper, the Marine Board continues to:

- promote the course of the Marine Board via: forum, strategy, voice, and synergy;
- be recognised as the multidisciplinary European marine science forum;
- identify the need for marine research in different fields;
- develop a European consensus on marine research;
- maintain and further develop close links with the ESF Life and Environmental Sciences Committee (LESC), European Polar Board, and other groups within the ESF and other European institutions.

Recognising the value of continuing to produce position papers on science policies and science strategic plans, the Marine Board will focus its unique strategic role on the following topics:

Key topics:

- Implementation of Integrating Marine Science in Europe
- European Research Vessel Operators Network
- Marine science communications network

New topics:

- Innovative modelling of coastal and shelf seas
- Coordination of oceanographic vessels

Emerging topics:

- GMES – exploiting remotely sensed data in the marine environment
- Climate change
- Industrial partnership
- Ocean governance

Recent publications

- *Navigating the Future –II– (summary of Integrating Marine Science in Europe)*, March 2003 (24 pages)
- *Integrating Marine Science in Europe*, November 2002 (148 pages)
- *Marine Biotechnology, A European Strategy for Marine Biotechnology*, December 2001 (27 pages)
- *Navigating the Future*, March 2001 (12 pages)
- *Towards a European Marine Research Area*, December 2000 (54 pages)
- *Establishing a Framework for the Implementation of Marine Biodiversity Research in Europe*, June 2000 (48 pages)

Structure

The Marine Board, operating within the ESF, is a non-governmental organisation. Its institutional membership is composed of organisations which are major national marine scientific institutes *and/or* funding organisations within their country in Europe. No more than two organisations per country can be members of the ESF Marine Board. The Marine Board has an Executive Committee, consisting of a Chairperson, four Vice-Chairs, and the Executive Scientific Secretary.

Executive Secretariat

A permanent Executive Secretariat, based at the ESF in Strasbourg, France, supports the activities identified by the Marine Board and its Executive Committee.