



At the heart of European marine science strategy: Celebrating 15 years of the European Marine Board

Official EuroOCEAN 2014 reception

Tuesday, 07 October 2014, 18:15

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Piazzale Aldo Moro 7, 00185 Rome, Italy
Marconi Room

PROGRAMME

Moderated by **Jan Mees**, EMB Chair

- 18:15 Welcome
 Jan Mees, EMB Chair
- 18:20 Celebrating 15 years of the European Marine Board
 Geoffrey O'Sullivan, EMB founding member, Irish Marine Institute
- 18:35 EMB and pan-European research collaboration
 Sigi Gruber, Head of Marine Resources Unit, EC DG Research and Innovation
- 18:50 Advancing science and delivering impact
 Jan Mees, EMB Chair
- 19:10 EMB Position Paper 21 'Land Beneath the Waves: Submerged landscapes and sea level change.
 A joint geoscience-humanities Strategy for European Continental Shelf Prehistoric Research'
 Nicholas Flemming, EMB WG SUBLAND Chair, NOC, UK
- 19:30 Closing
 Jan Mees, EMB Chair
- 19:35 Photo shoot
- 19:40 Reception at Ruiz Room (lunch area)



The European Marine Board

A short history

The European Marine Board is a platform of leading European marine research performing and research funding organizations established to promote enhanced cooperation in marine science at a European level. EMB is independent, self funding (through contributions from its member organizations) and has its own secretariat located in Ostend, Belgium. EMB operates in association with the European Science Foundation (ESF).

1989 – 1995 EMB can trace its origins to the European Committee for Ocean and Polar Sciences (ECOPS), a forum of leading European marine scientists. ECOPS was established jointly by the ESF and the European Commission (DG Research) in 1989 to identify the 'Grand Challenges' in ocean and polar science. During discussions between ECOPS and the directors of Europe's research institutes and funding organizations, these latter organizations, recognising the advantages of networking, decided to set up their own forum. Discussions on the establishment of this forum began in 1993.

1995 – 1998 In 1995, an offer from the European Commission to co-fund a preparatory action under the EU FP MAST Programme, with matching funds from member organizations, resulted in the setting up of the European Marine and Polar Science (EMaPS) Board. In 1998, an independent review of the EMaPS Board led to the establishment of two separate entities, the European Polar Board and the Marine Board.

1999 – 2014 The Marine Board has evolved into a dynamic, innovative and creative organization drawing on its membership and the wider marine science community to advance the European marine research and policy agenda and to promote the importance of science and technology in sustainable ocean development and governance. In 2007, the Marine Board relocated its Secretariat from Strasbourg to a maritime location within the aptly named InnovOcean site in city of Ostend, Belgium. The move was made possible by a generous offer from the Government of Flanders, which continues to provide invaluable support to the hosting of the Secretariat today.

The creation of expert working groups, the publication of strategic publications, the facilitation of major marine science-policy conferences (e.g. EurOCEAN conference series) have all contributed to the development of a more coordinated and integrated policy framework for marine science and ocean stewardship, contributing to societal needs. In 2010, the Ostend Declaration, the main output of the EurOCEAN 2010 conference, facilitated by the Marine Board, provided strategic guidance to Europe in setting the main priority areas including support for a JPI on Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans, an integrated and sustained European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) and transferring knowledge from marine research for societal benefit.

In 2013, the EMB published Navigating the Future IV, the fourth in this series of high-level marine science strategy publications. Navigating the Future IV provides a blue print for seas and oceans research addressing societal challenges including climate change, food and energy security, oceans and human health, and safe and sustainable use of marine space. Navigating the Future IV brought together expert contributions from EMB members, several partner marine networks and a very large number of experts from across Europe. Launched just before the outset of the Horizon 2020 programme, Navigating the Future IV provides the most detailed set of seas and oceans science priorities to guide EU and national marine research investments over the timeframe of Horizon 2020.

Also in 2013, the Marine Board changed its name to the European Marine Board (EMB), introduced a new logo and expanded its Secretariat to six staff members. In 2014, the EMB is working with the European Commission and the Italian Presidency of the European Union to organize the EurOCEAN 2014 conference. The conference is an event of major importance in the marine science-policy agenda and will deliver high-level strategic recommendations for political support in the form of the Rome Declaration. These high-level activities are continually complemented by the work of EMB working groups delivering thematic position papers and policy briefings. In 2014, EMB working groups are in the process of preparing papers on deep sea research, valuing marine ecosystems, Continental Shelf Prehistoric Research and marine graduate training.

Looking ahead, the EMB will continue to operate as the foremost platform for seas and oceans strategy and foresight in Europe. The Board has built a strong reputation through development of rigorous processes for delivering science policy advice and will continually adapt to the changing landscape for marine science policy. The EMB will work with key partner networks to advance marine science and identify emerging challenges and opportunities of societal importance.

Quotes

"I was honoured when asked to be the first chairperson of the European Marine and Polar Science (EMaPS) Board in 1995. This was an exciting period as we were working on the emergence of a unified European Marine R&D strategy and agreeing a common vision."



Daniel Cadet

(Chair: 1995-1999) – Director, ALSTOM Transport

"One of the major contributions of the Marine Board has been the Navigating the Future. In reviewing emerging marine science and science based opportunities and addressing societal challenges, Navigating the Future provides a strategic vision for both researchers and science policy makers."



Fauzi Mantoura

(Chair: 1999-2002) – Former Director the Oceanographic Observatory in Villefranche-sur-Mer University of Pierre & Marie Curie, Paris

"The success of the Marine Board has always depended critically on the commitment and intellectual contributions of its Member Organisations. They have always given generously of their time to this task and were deeply convinced that the ocean deserves much more attention in view of its importance for humankind and that ocean knowledge is critical to the future of Europe."



Jean-François Minster

(Chair: 2002-2006) – Senior Vice President and Scientific Director, TOTAL S.A.

"EMB's impact as an independent think-tank, generating marine science foresight and science policy recommendations, is as effective and visible as ever."



Lars Horn

(Chair: 2006-2011) – Director, Research Council of Norway

"For very many years the Marine Board has played a major role in promoting science and technology for sustainable ocean management and governance. Through its numerous activities the EMB has provided invaluable insight to the challenges and opportunities facing marine science and technology in Europe. EMB also play a very crucial role developing and communicating common positions on research priorities and strategies for European marine science. As well as facilitating cooperation between stakeholders involved in supporting, developing and using marine research and technology."

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn

European Commission for Research, Innovation and Science, June 2013



European Marine Board and official EMB plenary observers, European Commission and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, May 2014