

*Defining a common vision on the marine research priorities and strategies for Europe*

## History and Evolution

On the occasion of the Autumn 2009 Plenary Meeting  
(13-14 October 2009, Sopot - Poland)



# The Marine Board - A Short History



**Lars Horn**

(Marine Board Chair:  
2006 - present)  
Director, Research  
Council of Norway

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

**1989 – 1995:** The Marine Board 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 organisations, these latter organisations, 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 Organisations, 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**.

**1999-2009:** Since 1999, the Marine Board has evolved into a dynamic, innovative and creative organisation 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. The creation of Expert Working Groups, the publication of Strategic Position Papers, the facilitation of major marine science conferences (e.g. **EuroOCEAN Conferences**, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2007) and the publication of the Galway (2004) and Aberdeen (2007) Declarations have all contributed to the development of a *European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research* adopted by the European Commission in September 2008. In addition, Marine Board’s influential ***Navigating the Future Series*** (2001, 2003, 2006) provides a broad perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing marine science and technology and the societal issues that need to be addressed.



In 2007, the Marine Board took another leap forward moving its Secretariat from Strasbourg to a maritime location within the aptly named InnovOcean site in city of Ostend (Belgium), courtesy of the Government of Flanders.

## *Quo Vadis* the next 10 years: A Changed European Landscape?

Much has changed on the European marine research landscape since the Marine Board entered the stage in the early 1990s. The EU Framework Programme, including the *Ocean of Tomorrow* cross-cutting research initiative (2009), has become a major source of funding for collaborative marine research. The European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) are playing an important role in bringing together national Marine Research Funding Organisations (e.g. MarinERA, 2004-2009). At a policy level, the *European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research* (2008) has been established as the science pillar of the *Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union* (2007). In this new landscape, the Marine Board must continually adapt its strategy and *modus operandi* so that it can continue to influence and contribute to this exciting new dawn of marine science and technology.





|      |  |  |
|------|--|--|
|      | <u>SEAS-ERA (FP7 ERA-NET) approved</u>   |  |
| 2009 | <u>MarinERA completed</u>  |  |
| 2008 | <u>Marine Board-EuroGOOS statement on EMODNET (Marseille)</u><br><u>1<sup>st</sup> Marine Board Forum (Ostend)</u> | <u>European Strategy for Marine &amp; Maritime Research published</u>   |
| 2007 | <u>Marine Board Secretariat moves to Ostend</u>  | <u>An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union published</u> <br><u>EurOCEAN 2007 Aberdeen Declaration</u> |
| 2006 | <u>Navigating the Future III</u>   |  |
| 2005 | <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Periodic Review</u>  | <u>Marine Board withdraw from mentoring role in ERVO</u>   |
| 2004 | <u>MarinERA (FP6 ERA-NET) commences</u>  | <u>EurOCEAN 2004 Gateway Declaration</u>   |
| 2003 | <u>Navigating the Future II</u>  |  |
| 2002 |  |  |
| 2001 | <u>Navigating the Future Series established</u>  |  |
| 2000 |  | <u>EurOCEAN 2000 (Hamburg)</u>   |
| 1999 | <u><b>European Polar Board</b></u><br>1999 - present   | <u>European Research Vessel Operators (ERVO) established</u><br><u><b>Marine Board</b></u>   |
| 1998 | <u>1<sup>st</sup> Periodic Review</u>  | <u>EurOCEAN 1998 (Lisbon)</u>  |
| 1997 |  | <u>EMaPS launch Marine Biodiversity initiative</u>   |
| 1996 |  |  |
| 1995 | <u>ECOPS disbanded</u>   | <u>EMaPS launch Ocean Drilling initiative</u><br><u>EMaPS formally launched (Paris) with joint Secretariat located in Strasbourg</u>   |
| 1994 | <u>ECOPS Conference "The Grand Challenges" (Bremen)</u>  | <u>Recruitment of Marine and Polar Secretaries supported by MO contributions and EU FP (MAST) grant-aid (1995-97)</u>  |
| 1993 |  | <u>Proposal to establish EMaP Secretariat</u>  |
| 1992 | <u>ECOPS 1st Open Meeting (Obernai)</u>  |  |
| 1989 | <u>ECOPS established by EC (DG Research) and ESF</u>   |  |





# Quotations



*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. I have been following with great interest the evolution since this initial impulse and am greatly heartened by the successes achieved by the EMaPS and the Marine Board.*

**Daniel Cadet** (Chair: 1995-1999) Deputy-Director, INSU, France. Vice-President External Affairs, Technical Directorate ALSTOM Transport

*One of the major contributions of the Marine Board has been the Navigating the Future (Perspectives on Marine Science & Technology in Europe) Series (2001, 2003, 2006). 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) Director, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, representing the Natural Environment Research Council, UK. Director, 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) Director, Ifremer, France. Senior Vice President, Scientific Development, Total S.A.

*It has been a challenging, pioneering and rewarding task to have been involved in the formative years of the EMaPS and the Marine Board and I am very proud of what we have achieved and contributed to building up a marine research area for Europe.*



**Laurent d'Ozouville** (Executive Scientific Secretary: 1994- 2001) Director, European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology (Lisbon, Portugal) (2001-2008) Retired 2009



*The Marine Board, acting as a voice for the marine scientific community, has made a major contribution to the development of the European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research (2008), a central pillar of the Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union (2007), and has laid a strong foundation for a European Marine Research Area.*

**Niamh Connolly** (Executive Scientific Secretary 2002 - 2009). Associate Vice Provost, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

# Secretariat



Ostend harbour  
location of the Marine Board Secretariat



**Marine Board Secretariat** team (from left to right):  
Maud Evrard, Jan-Bart Calewaert, Dina Eparkhina, Aurélien Carbonnière and Niall McDonough

# Publications

## Marine Board Position Papers

13. The Effects of Anthropogenic Sounds on Marine Mammals (June 2008)
12. Remote Sensing of Shelf Sea Ecosystems (February 2008)
11. Marine Board Responses to the EC's Green Papers on: Maritime Policy, and the ERA (November 2007)
10. European Ocean Research Fleets – Towards a Common Strategy and Enhanced Use (March 2007)
9. Impacts of Climate Change on the European Marine and Coastal Environment – Ecosystems Approach (March 2007)
8. Navigating the Future III (November 2006)
7. Modelling in Coastal and Shelf Seas – European Challenges (June 2005)
6. Navigating the Future II (March 2003)
5. Integrating Marine Science in Europe (November 2002)
4. Marine Biotechnology – A European Strategy for Marine Biotechnology (December 2001)
3. Navigating the Future – Towards a European Marine Research Area (March 2001)
2. Towards a European Marine Research Area (December 2000)
1. Establishing a Framework for the Implementation of Marine Biodiversity Research in Europe (May 2000)

### Vision Documents:

- Marine Board- EuroGOOS Vision Document on EMODNET (September 2008)

### Marine Board Fora:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Board Forum *Marine Data Challenges from Observation to Information* (15 May 2008, Ostend). Forum Proceedings

### Annual Reports/ Annual Activity Reports

- Marine Board-ESF Annual Activity Report 2008
- Marine Board-ESF Annual Report 2007

### EMaPS Reports:

- A European Science Plan on Marine Biodiversity (April 1998)
- European Initiatives in Science and Technology for Deep-sea Coring and Drilling (June 1997)
- EMaPS Annual Report 1997
- A Further Step in the Coordination of Marine and Polar Science in Europe (September 1995)

### Other Publications:

- EurOCEAN 2007 (22 June 2007, Aberdeen). Conference Report and Aberdeen Declaration  
Editors: O'Sullivan, G., Angell-Hansen, K., Connolly, N. Marine Institute, Ireland (2007)
- Investigating Life in Extreme Environments – A European Perspective  
Joint Marine Board - ESF Report. Editor: Nicolas Walter (2007)
- EurOCEAN 2004 European Conference on Marine Science & Ocean Technology (10-13 May 2004, Galway). Conference Proceedings. Editors: Cieřlikiewicz, W., Connolly, N., Ollier G. & O'Sullivan G.  
Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (2007)
- EurOCEAN 2004. Rapporteurs' Report and Galway Declaration  
Editors: O'Sullivan, G., Connolly, N., Ollier, G. Marine Institute, Ireland (2004)
- Transdisciplinary Euroconference on Coastal Management Research  
(6-10 December 1997, San Feliu). Conference Report and Extended Abstracts. Editor: Dronkers, J. (1997)
- Mediterranean forecasting: Grand Challenges for European Cooperation in Forecasting the Behaviour and Characteristics of the Oceans (21 – 26 October 1995, La Londe Les Maures)  
Conference proceedings (1995)

# Marine Board

The Marine Board was established in 1995 to facilitate 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 2009, the Marine Board represents 30 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 Commission is developed, with the objective of promoting the establishment of the European *Marine* Research Area.

The Marine Board operates via four principle approaches:

**FORUM:** to bring together European marine research performing and funding organisations to share information, to identify common issues and approaches, to develop common positions and perspectives, and to cooperate.

**SYNERGY:** to foster 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.

**STRATEGY:** to identify and prioritise emergent disciplinary and interdisciplinary marine scientific issues of strategic European importance, initiating analysis and studies (where relevant, in close association with the European Commission) in order to contribute to a European strategy for marine research.

**VOICE:** to express a collective vision of the future for European marine science in relation to developments in Europe and world-wide.



Wandelaarkaai 7 | 8400 Ostend | Belgium  
Tel: +32.59.34.01.63 | Fax: +32.59.34.01.65  
marineboard@esf.org  
www.esf.org/marineboard