

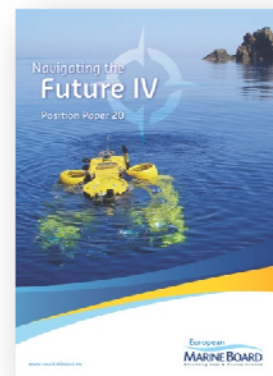
PRESS RELEASE

Navigating the future for European marine research

Innovative marine research can solve some of Europe's greatest policy challenges according to Navigating the Future IV, a new position paper from the European Marine Board.

European policy makers have some big issues to grapple with: climate change, food and energy security, human health, and a loss of economic momentum resulting from the financial crisis. The seas and oceans, with their vast resources, can provide a sustainable supply of food; energy from wind, wave and tide; new drugs through marine biotechnology; valuable raw materials from the ocean floor; and much more. According to the EC Communication on Blue Growth¹, the EU blue economy delivers a gross added value of €500 billion per year and supports 5.4 million jobs. There is a clear recognition that to make maritime activities sustainable, will require a significant investment in collaborative and cross-disciplinary marine research.

In its new position paper, Navigating the Future IV, the European Marine Board scans the horizon to anticipate emerging societal challenges and corresponding future research priorities concerning the seas and oceans. The paper demonstrates the key role of marine science in addressing societal challenges and supporting blue growth. It outlines the tools and technologies that will be needed to realize these opportunities including the next generation of ocean observation infrastructure. It also examines the training and skills that will be required by tomorrow's marine experts, and the importance of creating better interactions between marine scientists, policy makers and the general public.



Niall McDonough, EMB Executive Secretary, Maria da Grace Carvalho, MEP & Rapporteur for the Horizon 2020 Programme, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science and Kostas Nittis, European Marine Board Chair

"Navigating the Future IV provides a blueprint for the next phase of seas and oceans research in Europe," explains Dr Niall McDonough, Executive Scientific Secretary of the European Marine Board and editor of the paper. *"A huge number of scientists, science networks and stakeholders contributed to this paper so the final product represents the collective voice of a large marine community."*

At a special launch event in Brussels on Thursday 20 June, attended by representatives of 44 stakeholder organizations, *Navigating the Future IV* was presented to Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science and Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament and Rapporteur for the EU Horizon 2020 Programme².

In an opening speech, Dr. Kostas Nittis, Chair of the European Marine Board, stressed that *"we have to support science excellence in Europe and communicate our passion for marine research"*. *Navigating the Future IV* represents a flagship publication that demonstrates how marine science can support policy and tackle socio-economic challenges."

¹ Blue Growth opportunities for marine and maritime sustainable growth (EC COM(2012)494 final)

² <http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020>

Speaking at the event, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science explained, *“The Marine Board plays a major role in promoting marine science and technology in Europe which is vital for achieving sustainable ocean science and management. The launch of Navigating the Future IV is particularly timely as we prepare for the first Horizon 2020 programme. Navigating the Future IV will be a valuable source of ideas and common priorities in the area of marine sciences, providing a vision for science and technology in Europe.”*



Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science

Navigating the Future IV also calls for a quantum leap forward in the integration of European marine research to allow for the scale of investment and collaboration necessary to meet the major challenges in achieving effective ocean stewardship, while creating a platform for blue growth.



Maria da Graça Carvalho, MEP & Rapporteur for the Horizon 2020 Specific Programme

Responding to this, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament and Rapporteur for the EU Horizon 2020 Programme highlighted the vital role that the marine sector plays in the blue economy which is *“central to Europe’s prosperity and well-being”*. She also announced that *“a separate, visible and new activity named Cross Cutting Marine and Maritime Research, has been introduced in the Horizon 2020 programme. This separate activity will maximise the synergies between research areas when conducting research in the marine and maritime environments.”*³

Navigating the Future IV makes a link between applied, market-driven research which can deliver early economic gains, and more fundamental research, which is necessary to improve our understanding of the natural ocean system which provides us with so many benefits.

Kostas Nittis summed up this point: *“In Navigating the Future IV, we show that understanding marine ecosystems and how they are changing will be essential for achieving sustainability in growing maritime sectors. We must continue to support both applied and fundamental marine research and to reward scientific excellence; these are the ingredients for generating the transformative knowledge and technologies which can shape our future”*.

The event on 20 June also launched EuroOCEAN 2014, a major conference focusing on marine science grand challenges to be held in Rome on 7-9 October 2014. The announcement was made by Prof. Enrico Brugnoli, European Marine Board delegate for the National Research Council in Italy (CNR) on behalf of the three Italian Marine Board member organizations, CNR, CoNISMa and OGS, co-organizers of the conference. *“EuroOCEAN is one of the most important events in marine and maritime research for both scientists and policy makers”* he said.



Enrico Brugnoli, CNR, Italy

In looking forward to the EuroOCEAN 2014 conference, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science noted that *“EuroOCEAN is considered as a top science conference in Europe which delivers concrete messages to science and policy. These are instrumental in strengthening the knowledge base for Europe and developing common priorities in the area of marine sciences”*.

Ends

³ <http://www.gracacarvalho.eu/en/Launch-event-of-Navigating-the-Future-IV-and-the-EuroOCEAN-2014-conference-a5582,z60.htm>

Notes to editors

Marine Board Position Paper 20, *Navigating the Future IV*, was officially launched on 20 June 2013 at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts in central Brussels at 16.00 CET on Thursday 20 June 2013.

Copies of the newly published *Navigating the Future IV* report can be downloaded online at: <http://www.marineboard.eu/publications>

The report is organized around a framework of key societal challenges related to the seas and oceans focusing on areas such as climate change, human health, food security, energy, and sustainable use of marine space. Strategic and enabling issues such as the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS), graduate training, the science-policy interface and ocean literacy are also addressed in this key Marine Board strategic paper.

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The European Marine Board provides a pan-European platform for its member organizations 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.

The European Marine Board (established in 1995) facilitates enhanced cooperation between European organizations involved in marine science (research institutes, research funding bodies and nationally-based consortia of third-level institutes) towards development of a common vision on the research priorities and strategies for marine science in Europe. In 2013, the Marine Board represents 36 member organizations from 20 countries.

The European Marine Board works in association with the European Science Foundation (www.esf.org).

www.marineboard.eu