

Minutes of the 34th meeting of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG)

22.-23. April 2015, NHM, London

Attendees: Juanjo Danobeitia, Miki, Erica Koning, Colin Day, Klas Lackschewitz, Odd-Jarle Pollen, Barbara Tanner, Olivier Quedec, Beth Woodward, Colin Day, Miguel Ojeda

Apologies: Per W. Nieuwejaar

1 Welcome & introductions

1.1 BH opening the meeting, welcomed all, and reflected on the departure of Jean-Xavier Castrec from the OFEG group, acknowledged his good work and contributions to the group in the past, and wished him well for his future endeavours.

2 Approval of minutes, action list

The group accepted the minutes from the 33rd meeting as presented. Most actions were completed or closed as they had been superseded. The list of Actions ongoing is appended to these minutes.

3 Update of the OFEG activity document and barter balances

3.1 See updated activity list.

Barters done 1Q 2015: NERC cruise on the Sonne. 7th Feb – 6th March Panama t/r. Sonne. One day demob at the end. (30 days, KL and BT verified this as the number of days used).

3.1.1 Action: BH to circulate activity list, all members to verify status.

CSIC – offered barter on Hesperides for AMT cruise to NERC, with days reserved. NERC confirmed they did not need support for this cruise as the JCR would not do it as the refit had progressed ahead of time.

4. TOR for OFEG

4.1 TOR for OFEG. Guidelines (draft) presented by BH. Enquiries concerning new member requests to go via the Chair. Put the TOR on the OFEG web page when text is agreed upon.

4.2 The group discussed requests to join OFEG, and agreed that we should have a process but not a specific timeline for this. The group agreed that the way to become involved with OFEG would first be through bilateral agreements with individual partners.

4.2.1 Action: BH to accept all additions to TOR as discussed in the meeting and ensure TOR are uploaded onto the OFEG website

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4.2.2 Action: OFEG Tech – CD to put on agenda for next meeting two “special” topics (wires and ropes plus environmental impact in connection with seismic cruises).

5 Setting barter points for ships and equipment.

5.1 - Ship barter points

BH reflected on the original protocol regarding how the original ship points were calculated as related by Mike Webb (original member of OFEG from NERC); there was no strict protocol from the beginning. Partners could/can set the points as they see fit, and as agreed within the group. Geographic Operational area, Capability of the ship, and whether equipment and/or technicians were supplied standardly with barter all were considered when points were originally set.

Discussion - Criteria for points:

- Area of operation (durability/ remoteness/duration of operations)??
- Fixed equipment (on board)
 - o Winches/ hydrographic echo's/laboratories/network/computing/SAT
- Deployment capability
 - o Ice capability (class notation)
 - o DP
 - o Deck space/ cargo holds
- Number of berths (scientific)
- Portable scientific equipment included with the ship at no extra barter point cost
- Technicians attached to vessel with no extra barter point cost
- 24 hr science capability of the vessel

Polarstern will not be a part of the new points matrix. Also Håkon Mosby is left out on purpose due to ongoing discussions at IMR if it is to be replaced with the existing Dr. F. Nansen. IMR to revert on the issue.)

Portable scientific equipment includes:

- Towed camera system
- CTD
- Piston corer
- Box corer
- Multiple corer
- MVP
- TV grab
- Dredges
- Mooring capability
- Towed CTD
- Trawling capabilities?

- Number of berths: up to and incl. 10/20/30
- 24 hr scientific operation

The group retrospectively looked at the points assigned to each ship and found that whilst largely a good measure, there were a few ships where the points were agreed to be inaccurate.

- All members then re-rated own ships in order to compare this to the matrix.

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- The revised numbers are considered to be the final one (IMR to confirm for orders sake). All members agreed that the new points as agreed at the meeting would be implemented for all barterers taking place from this date
- The new points would not be retrospectively applied to past barterers.
- The concept for the matrix seems right but the criteria may have to be looked more into.
- The scale used for each criteria was also not equal, so once the data are normalised there may be a better 'fit'.
- The group accepted that the algorithm, whilst not perfect, gave a very good indication once some common sense was applied by the group members. With further work to refine the algorithm this seemed to be something that could standardly be used for inclusion of new ships to the OFEG barter system, or indeed further review of those included in the future.

5.1.1 Action: BH to investigate if the data can be normalised and what parameters could be applied to give a better representation of the barter point spread.

5.1.2 Action: BH to circulate completed matrix

Points for large equipment.

- For ROVs: include operational capabilities to the depth capability.

5.1.3 Action: KL to complete ROV capability matrix and circulate to the group

- ROVs: 2/3/5 points (2000m/4000m/6000m respectively)
- AUVs: 3 points except for the JAGO (2 points)
- Multi Channel Systems (MCS): 2 points (up to 3000m), 3 points (up to 6000m) plus:
 - o Small/ large airgun array – 1 and 2 point(s)
 - o Air compressors for small/large array – 1 and 2 point(s)
 - o EM seismics: SYSIF EM source – 2 point
- MeBo: 5 points
- PENFELD: 4 points
- TOBI: 2 points

The group discussed what guidance should be given for Equipment/technicians outside the barter agreement that are needed to support a barter. It was agreed that these would/could be charged at cost.

It was agreed that all Members can propose new equipment which they want to add to the existing barter list along with corresponding barter points that they would like to charge. This 'charge' would be agreed by the OFEG partners before that equipment were added to the barter pool.

5.1.4 Action: CD to write some wording around adding new equipment to the barter pool to be agreed by group and uploaded onto the OFEG website.

Day 2 (Juanjo Danobeitia absent)

BH opened the second day of the meeting with a brief discussion concerning yesterday's new barter points. All members are in agreement, IMR to confirm.

5.2.1 Action: BH will prepare a document which tracks/explains the background for the points.

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5.2.2 Action: IMR to verify points for its ships, and also inform about status concerning a swapping “Håkon Mosby” with existing “Dr. Fridtjof Nansen”.

6 Update and discussion on Seismic Operations and EIAs

Due to time constraint this discussion will be held either in a separate meeting or alternatively put on the agenda for the next meeting.

6.1.1 Action: All: two examples of EIA-notes (application) from a seismic cruise from each member (what is being submitted to the government) to be sent to CD.

6.1.2 Action: CD to investigate the arrangement of a separate meeting on seismic operations and policies within OFEG

7 Update on work on MLC & the Polar Code

7.1.1 Action: Members to advise whether they are planning to certify their vessels according to the Polar Code (and which ones).

7.1.2 Action: Create a matrix for Polar code adherence/standards and put on the OFEG web page – MO/PN/OJP

8 NERC/NIOZ Cruise Planning Software

CD advising that the project is progressing well and a sandbox environment (test-site) is expected to be available at the end of May. Expect to present the software at the next meeting in Barcelona.

9 Discussion over adding new members to OFEG and recent requests

The group discussed a request from Mr Angelo Camerlenghi to join OFEG, and concluded that this would not be accepted, but he should be encouraged to explore a bilateral agreement with an OFEG partner as per the agreed process.

9.1 Action: BH to formally respond to the request from Mr. Angelo Camerlenghi.

10 OFEG cruise programmes 2015/2016

See updated **INFORMATION PAPER 1** – Proposed Barter Cruises

10.1.1 Action: BH to circulate updated Information Paper 1

CD emphasized the importance of regular cruise planning meetings and communication ahead of planned (complex) barter cruises. Example is a barter cruise between NERC and BMBF on the new “Sonne”.

10.1.2 Action: BT to produce first draft for obligations for science users accepting a barter, to be agreed by all and put onto OFEG website.

Update on 2015/16 cruise plans, noting available time in 2016 in the Spanish calendar.

10.2 Action: transit on the “Sonne” (opportunity for barter Indian Ocean?): BT to provide details for the members.

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French vessel (don't recall name!) to be decommissioned in 2016.

Comment [WBK1]: Olivier – please comment

NERC – 50th anniversary in 2016: the Discovery will be on display in London!

11 OFEG website

OFEG Mission Statement – draft provided by CD. All members are to contribute to the wording and logo.

11.1.1 Action: All members to send comments to CD.

11.1.2 Action: CD to Produce first options for OFEG logo and canvass OFEG partner opinions

11.1.3 Action: All: within the next month - barter “stories”, videos and pictures to be put on the web-site. Hobbs, link to IMRs web-site for the new icebreaker, new ROV, new science paper coming out from CSIC. Suggestions are to be sent to BH.

12 EU funding – postponed to next meeting.

13 AOB

Next meeting (autumn) in Spain. Timing: 2nd week of October, in Barcelona.

Spring 2016: Germany (Hamburg?), Norway in the autumn

Hosts in 2017: France (spring), Netherlands (autumn)

14. 1 Action: CSIC to propose dates for the meeting in October.

Ongoing Actions

Meeting	ACTIONS	DETAIL	RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
OFEG 30	Action 2.1	BT and OL to send minutes and/or actions from 30 th OFEG meeting to partners before 31 st December 2013	BT/OL	ASAP
OFEG 31	Action 3.2.3	BW to circulate the list of NSF ships available for barter.	BW	By next meeting

Actions from the 34th Meeting

Meeting	ACTIONS	DETAIL	RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
OFEG 34	Action 3.1.1	Circulate activity list, all members to verify status.	BH	ASAP

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OFEG 34	Action 4.2.2	OFEG Tech – CD to put on agenda for next meeting two “special” topics (wires and ropes plus environmental impact in connection with seismic cruises).	CD	Next OFEG-Tech
OFEG 34	Action 5.1.1	Investigate if the data can be normalised and what parameters could be applied to give a better representation of the barter point spread.	BH	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 5.1.2	circulate completed matrix for ship points	BH	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 5.1.3	complete ROV capability matrix and circulate to the group	KL	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 5.1.4	Write wording around adding new equipment to the barter pool to be agreed by group and uploaded onto the OFEG website.	CD	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 5.2.1	Prepare a document which tracks/explains the background for the ship points allocation/algorithm.	BH	Next meeting
OFEG 34	Action 5.2.2	IMR to verify points for its ships, and also inform about status concerning a swapping “Håkon Mosby” with existing “Dr. Fridtjof Nansen”.	PN/OJP	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 6.1.1	two examples of EIA-notes (application) from a seismic cruise from each member (what is being submitted to the government) to be sent to CD	All	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 6.1.2	investigate the arrangement of a separate meeting on seismic operations and policies within OFEG	CD	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 7.1.1	Advise whether individual OFEG partners are planning to certify their vessels according to the Polar Code (and which ones).	All	Next Meeting
OFEG 34	Action 7.1.2	Create a matrix for Polar code adherence/standards and put on the OFEG web page	MO/PN/OJP	Next Meeting
OFEG 34	Action 9.1	formally respond to the request from Mr. Angelo Camerlenghi to join OFEG	BH	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 10.1.1	Circulate updated Information Paper 1	BH	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 10.1.2	Produce first draft for obligations for science users accepting a barter, to be agreed by all and put onto OFEG website.	BT	ASAP

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OFEG 34	Action10.2	Transit on the "Sonne" (opportunity for barter Indian Ocean?): Provide further details for the members.	BT	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 11.1.1	All members to send comments to CD on draft mission statement. CD to get agreed mission statement uploaded on the website	All	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 11.1.2	Produce first options for OFEG logo and canvass OFEG partner opinions	CD	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 11.1.3	barter "stories", videos and pictures to be put on the web-site. Agreed stories include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hobbs cruise (CD/BT) - link to IMRs web-site for the new icebreaker, new ROV etc. (OJP) - Talling barter on Pelagia (EK) - Spanish paper (referenced by JD in meeting) All Stories to be sent to BH.	All	By end May 2015
OFEG 34	Action 14.1	CSIC to propose dates for the meeting in October.	JD/MO	ASAP