

## 6th French Oceanographic Fleet SAB meeting

<b>Purpose:</b>	Minutes of the 6th meeting of the French Oceanographic Fleet Scientific Advisory Board
<b>Date:</b>	28/11/2022
<b>Reference :</b>	DFO 2023.07
<b>Meeting secretary</b>	Michael KLAGES

### PARTICIPANTS

- DAVID-BEAUSIRE Christine      Ifremer – DFO/DIR –Fleet deputy director
- LEFORT Olivier                      Ifremer – DFO/DIR –Fleet director
- NIXDORF Uwe                         AWI, Germany – Deputy director - Physics, polar areas
- KLAGES Michael                      AWI, Germany – SAB secretariat
- FIRING Yvonne L.                    NOC, UK - Physical oceanography
- RUIZ-VILLAREAL Manuel           Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Spain - Coastal physical oceanographer
- TOAL Daniel                            University of Limerick, Ireland - Director, Centre for Robotics & Intelligent Systems
- JEANDEL Catherine                   CNRS, LEGOS, France - Biogeochemistry and Marine Chemistry
- KISSEL Catherine                    CEA, LSCE, France - Paleo oceanography
- DUCASSOU Emmanuelle            Univ. de Bordeaux, EPOC, France - Geosciences
- BRIND'AMOUR Anik                   Ifremer, RBE, France - Fisheries
- GUIEU Cécile                          CNRS, LOV, France - Biogeochemistry and Marine Chemistry
- FABLET Ronan                         IMT, Lab-STICC, France - Data, recovery, analysis, treatment
- CEULENEER Georges                CNRS, GET, France - Chair of France ECORD-IODP Committee - Geosciences
- BERTRAND Sophie                    IRD, MARBEC, France - Marine Ecology

## 1. Agenda item 1 – Round table and presentation of new members and new Fleet scientific direction

Welcome by Uwe Nixdorf.

Three new SAB members:

- Manuel Ruiz Villareal from Spain physical Oceanographer.
- Sophie Bertrand (University Brest) marine Ecologist on megafauna (mammals, birds).
- Yvonne Firing from NOCS is physical oceanographer using observations to study Southern Ocean circulation and dynamics.

### **Recommendations**

The SAB did not hear any comments against the reviewers already installed nor against the new candidates. The SAB recommends verifying if the number of Reviewers from single organization is to be set at max. 3. Obviously, a list of criteria for “conflict of interest” is needed. External reviewers should preferably not act anonymous. The SAB recommends furthermore a certain diversity of experience / scientific knowledge.

## 2. Agenda item 2 – Renewal of the National Evaluation Commissions: thematic, institutions and gender distributions (presenter: Christine David-Beausire)

The SAB recommends establishing a working group to communicate the crisis control mechanism and consequences. The working group should also evaluate the results of the oceanographic campaigns. It is proposed to establish two commissions: one for the Deep Sea Fleet and another one for the Coastal Fleet. Both commissions should be balanced between scientific domains and between organization’s members and gender’s parity should also be considered. One important discussion was about the topic “conflict of interest” (see also Agenda item 1). The SAB agreed that there is a need to define criteria what a “conflict of interest” might be if it comes to a decision about cruise proposals and how to act under such circumstances.

### **3. Agenda item 3 – Update on the energy crisis and its impact on the 2022 and 2023 Fleet programs and on the call for proposals open in 2022 (for campaigns to be scheduled from 2024)**

Olivier Lefort reported that since 2018 the budgetary support from the ministry for the operation of the fleet was received. This covered 450 days of scientific cruise days (*Thalassa*, *Marion Dufresne II*, *Pourquoi pas ?* and *L'Atalante*) and 960 days on coastal and regional vessels.

Preparing the 2022 schedule the costs for salaries and fix costs went up in price by 9 Million Euros (10% of total budget). According to a decision from the responsible French ministry, the budget was increased, thus all proposals with priority 1 can be carried out.

#### **Recommendation of the SAB:**

In order to evaluate the forthcoming scientific questions primarily from younger scientists the SAB expects a list of questions from the French scientific community including younger scientists. These scientific future questions may than be evaluated by the SAB. According to some members of the SAB, the marine scientific community is depressed (effects of Covid, energy prices, etc.). It was proposed to set-up a group, which may develop ideas how to motivate younger researchers and how to overcome the Covid effects.

### **4. Agenda item 4 – Projecting the Fleet towards the future in this new context, reflections on the implementation of a forward planning on the Fleet evolution (presenter: Christine David-Beausire and Olivier Lefort)**

**The SAB felt satisfied with the presentation on that topic.** However, it seems to be necessary to communicate the necessity of the importance regarding the French marine scientific fleet in all its parts for the French society.

### **5. Agenda item 5 – Update on all finalized and ongoing scientific working groups (presenter: Christine David-Beausire)**

**The SAB acknowledges the efforts.**

## 6. Agenda item 6 – Progress report on the Channel Atlantic Regional Vessel and on the Mid-Life overhaul of *Pourquoi pas ?* (presenter: Olivier Lefort)

The research vessel *Thalia* shall be replaced first (2025). First offers from shipyards came in May 2022. Ifremer has a budget of about 30 Mio. Euros for the new building, but the offers account for ca. 42 Mio. Euros. After some negotiations, the new offers now account for 38 Mio. Euros. The difference between the budget and the offers is primarily explained by price increases in steel and other compartments. In order to stay within in the allocated budget, the new ship will be reduced in length by a few meters. The laboratory space will be slightly reduced. In order to reduce the total number of passengers to 22, the number of scientists would be 10 instead of the 12 initially planned. A decrease in transit speed and (slightly) range will be considered.

The mid-life overhaul of *Pourquoi Pas ?* is scheduled for autumn 2024. The vessel will be back in service in 2025. The budget for this overhaul of 25 Million Euros seems to be appropriate.

### **Recommendations:**

The SAB was in principle satisfied with the presentation on that topic. It was recommended to follow the suggested actions to stay within the budget limits for “Thalia”. The expected costs for mid-life overhaul of “Pourquoi pas?” will be an issue for upcoming SAB meetings

## 7. Agenda item 7 – Progress of ROV projects and DeepSea´Nnovation project (Presenter: Jan Opderbecke)

### **Recommendation of the SAB:**

The presentation was very informative. The SAB congratulates the Ifremer staff in Toulon and the other related departments at Ifremer for this trendsetting project.