

Eurofleets^{EF}

**A NEW PERMANENT
EUROPEAN COORDINATION
STRUCTURE FOR
EUROPEAN
OCEANOGRAPHIC FLEETS**



25 years of shared history

Today, marine science in Europe relies for the most part on work at sea supported by European research fleets : 99 vessels operated by 62 operators in 23 different countries [ref. EMB 25, 2019].

At European level, the ship time exchange mechanisms set up by the Ocean Fleets Exchange Group (OFEG), the annual meetings of the European Research Vessels Operators (ERVO), the EU supported projects Eurofleets, Eurofleets 2, and Eurofleets+, have strengthened cooperation of fleets operators for over 25 years now.



WHAT IS OUR AMBITION?

As European public operators, it is our great responsibility to maintain and develop our research infrastructures, and to ensure that they evolve so that they keep European countries among the leaders of marine research.

We believe that better serving our scientific communities requires greater cooperation and closer links between us if we are to meet these challenges.

To move forward, we believe that we must take a new step in European cooperation. That is the reason why we are proposing this long-term alliance of European fleets through a new legal entity : Eurofleets.



A NON-BINDING INITIATIVE

The first mission of Eurofleets will be to animate the European fleet network by encouraging exchanges between the various pre-existing networks.

The idea is to welcome the national Public bodies engaged in the operation of the national fleets.

While retaining their independence, they will be able to strengthen their mutual knowledge, get to know each other and thus encourage the development of joint initiatives.

Joining Eurofleets does not commit to taking part in all the initiatives, but by creating this association we want to enable operators to organize new initiatives together.



Our missions

Be an 'incubator' of ideas for Europe's oceanographic fleets:

- Based on Europe's priority scientific themes, propose a strategic vision (range of facilities, geographical distribution, opportunities for collaboration) for the future of European fleets. Make a follow-up to the 2019 report on European fleets?
- Make ERVO the place to showcase these strategic orientations, share them and gain support for them.
- Become the European hub of IRSO?

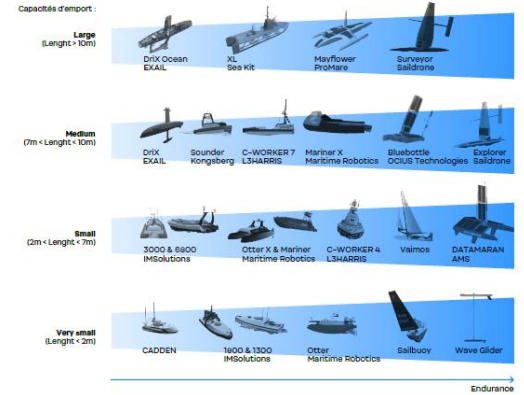
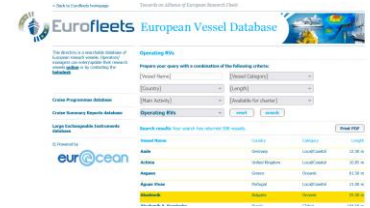


Our missions

Make documentary resources available (database, previous Eurofleets documents, etc), via a regularly updated information portal.

To host permanent or temporary working groups :

- Levers for accelerating the environmental transition of our activities : technical solutions, changes in practices, etc. How to do?;
- Prepare new initiatives for transnational access
- Pave the road to coordinating European training mechanisms and programs to support the empowerment of early-stage researcher's careers.
- ...



Eurofleets^{sf}



The legal entity was formally established the 26th of March 2025 in Bruxelles.

The legal form of Eurofleets is an international non-profit association under the Belgian law (AISBL).

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences kindly offered to host the statutory seat of the association.

E-mail address: info@eurofleets.eu

Website address: <https://www.eurofleets.eu>



General Assembly

The strategic decision-making body of the Association is the General Assembly. The General Meeting of GA shall be composed of one (1) representative for each Member. Representatives may be assisted by advisers.

Public bodies (agencies, institutes and organisation) actively engaged in research vessel operations and associated marine science activities that align with the goals of Eurofleets AISBL may apply for membership. This includes public bodies from European states that are not members of EU.

The General Meeting may invite non-member organizations with aligned interests to participate as observers. Observers have no voting rights.

Governance

A Directors board is the steering body of the AISBL. This body is made up of 6 members qualified in the field of research vessel fleets. The Chair of ERVO and a representative of OFEG are members of the Directors board.

Eurofleets sustainable services will be delivered by an executive secretariat that shall :

- support the organisation of the ERVO annual meeting,
- Support the dedicated working groups,
- manage the documentary resources and a regular updated fleet information portal and common referential.

The secretariat's operating costs will be covered by membership fees or contributions in kind.

Joining Eurofleets

We are therefore pleased to invite you to join us at the latest by taking part in a general assembly that will formalize the enlargement of Eurofleets to include all European fleet operators wishing to join.

This General Assembly will be held in Brussels, 9th December 2025.

Contact persons

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