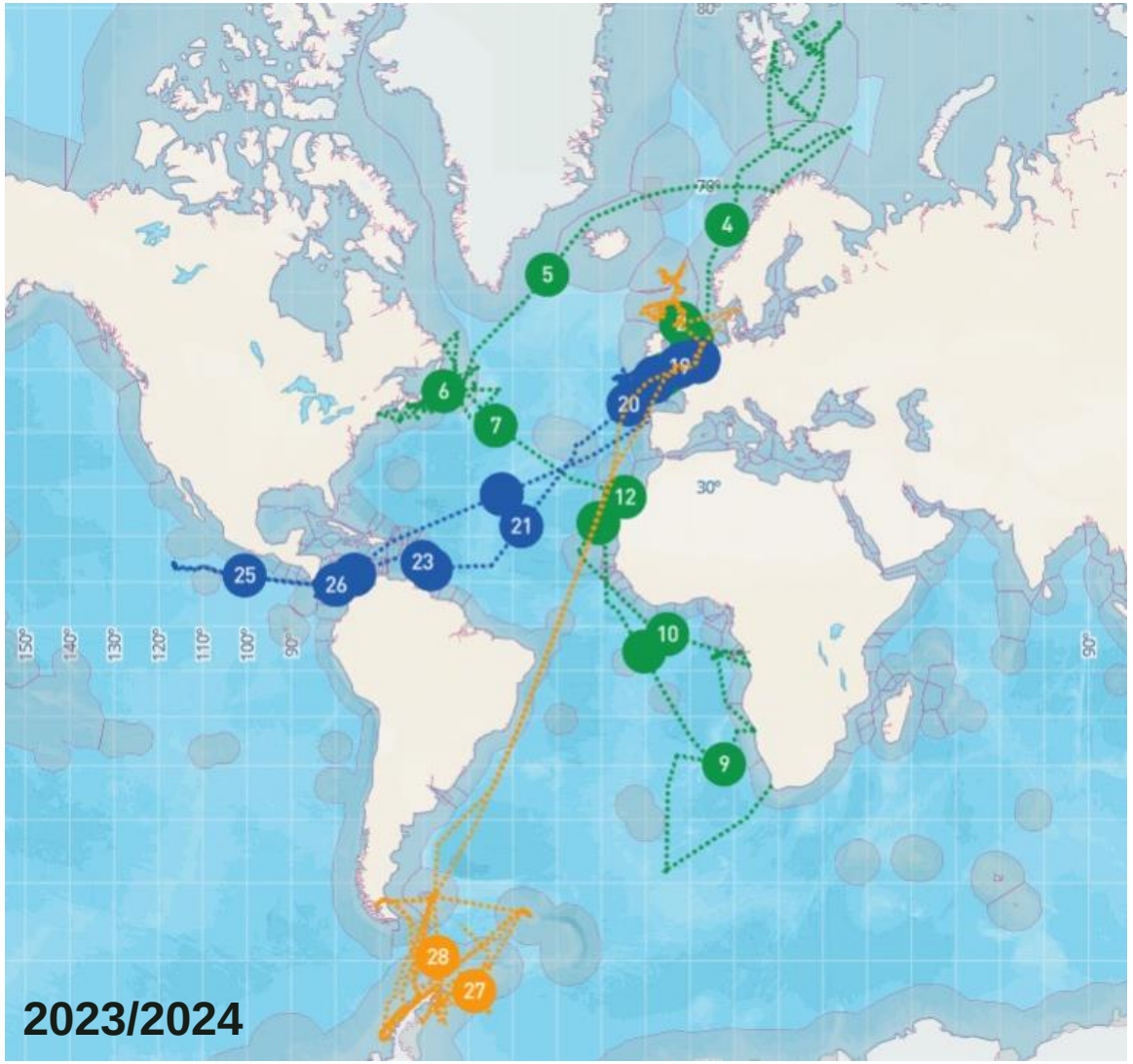
National Oceanography Centre

OPTIMISING SHIPTIME WITH INTERNATIONAL BARTER PARTNERS & COLLABORATIONS

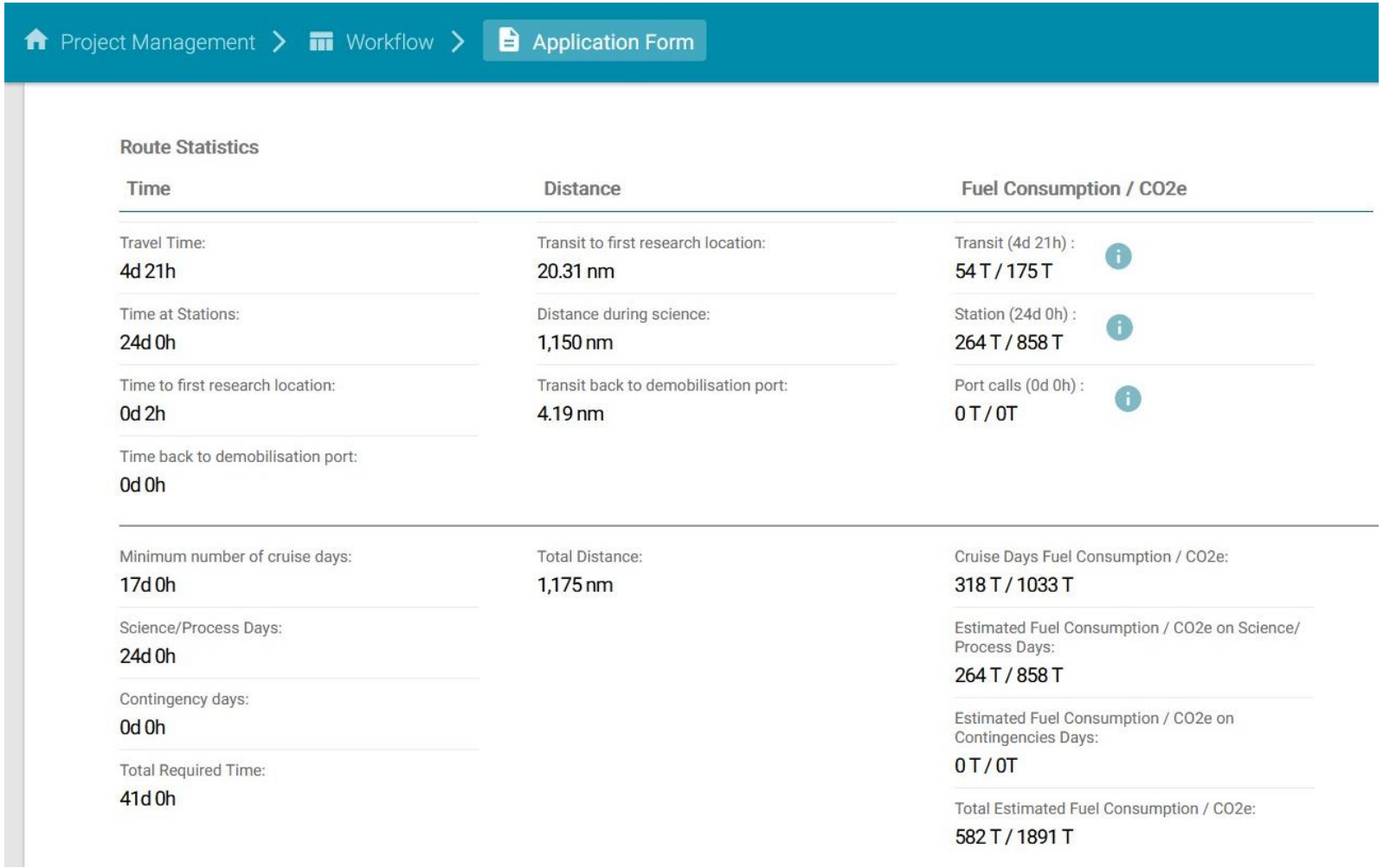
ELLA DARLINGTON

MOTIVATIONS

- ## EFFICIENCY
  - Financial ££ costs
  - Carbon costs
  - Reduce passage, increase science delivery
- ## INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES
  - Access to greater range of equipment and facilities
  - Access to other geographical locations
  - Delivery of smaller projects / tag on work / early career opportunities
- ## INTERNATIONAL RELATONSHIPS
  - Greater collaborations
  - Impactful outputs
  - Engagement at local and international levels



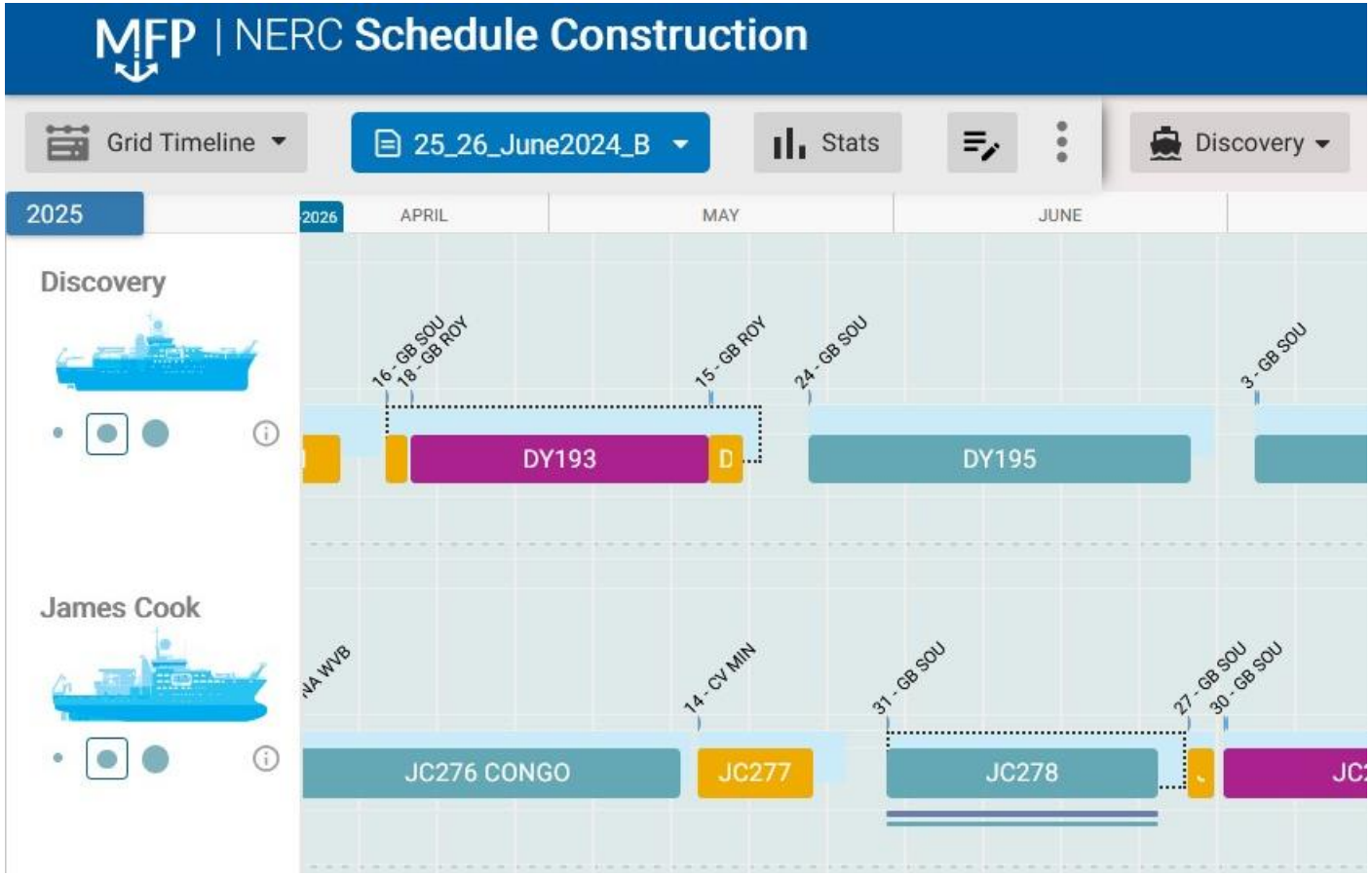
CARBON ACCOUNTING



- All UK grant applications for shiptime now have a carbon ‘cost’
- Fuel use is the same whether it’s 30 days out of Southampton, or 30 days out of Chile
- Accessibility to alternative fuels e.g. HVO
- Optimisation needs to happen at the programme schedule level
  - Greater impact than on individual projects

CHALLENGES

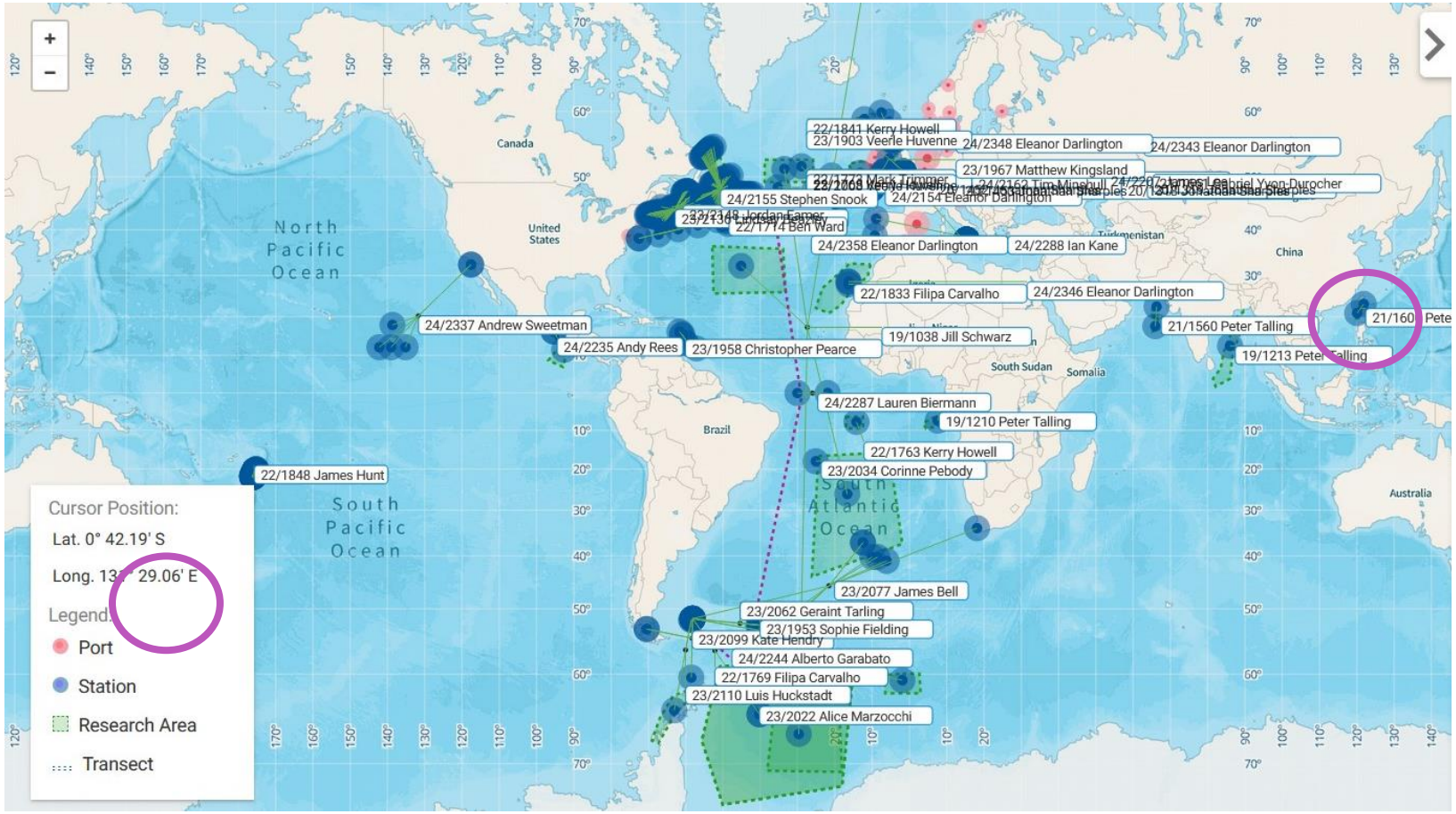
- **PLANNING TIMELINES**
  - Funding decisions
  - Programme decisions
  - Short notice funding calls
- **NATIONAL PRIORITIES**
  - Drives decisions
  - Timeframe for delivery usually fast
- **FUNDING MODELS**
  - E.g. UK grants charged heavily subsidised rate



GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

National Oceanography Centre

NIWA
Taihoro Nukurangi



TORI

OCEAN FACILITIES EXCHANGE GROUP

OFEG consists of: UK (NERC) – (CSIC) – Netherlands (NIOZ) – Germany (BMBF) – Norway (IMR) – France (IFREMER)

UK-NERC is a barter conduit between OFEG and USA – UNOLS

https://www.ofeg.org

Recent NERC activity

NERC – BMBF – CSIC (JC228 December 2022)

RRS James Cook used to deliver programme of work for BMBF off the coast of Costa Rica, using 6 km seismics streamers from CSIC

NERC – NIOZ (DY182 August 2024)

RRS Discovery used to deliver NIOZ & US sections of the North Atlantic OSNAP programme

UNOLS – NERC (April 2023)

RV Atlantic delivered ROV survey in Galapagos on behalf of NERC

UNOLS – NERC (August 2024)

RV Langseth delivered seismic survey in North Atlantic on behalf of NERC

OCEAN FACILITIES EXCHANGE GROUP

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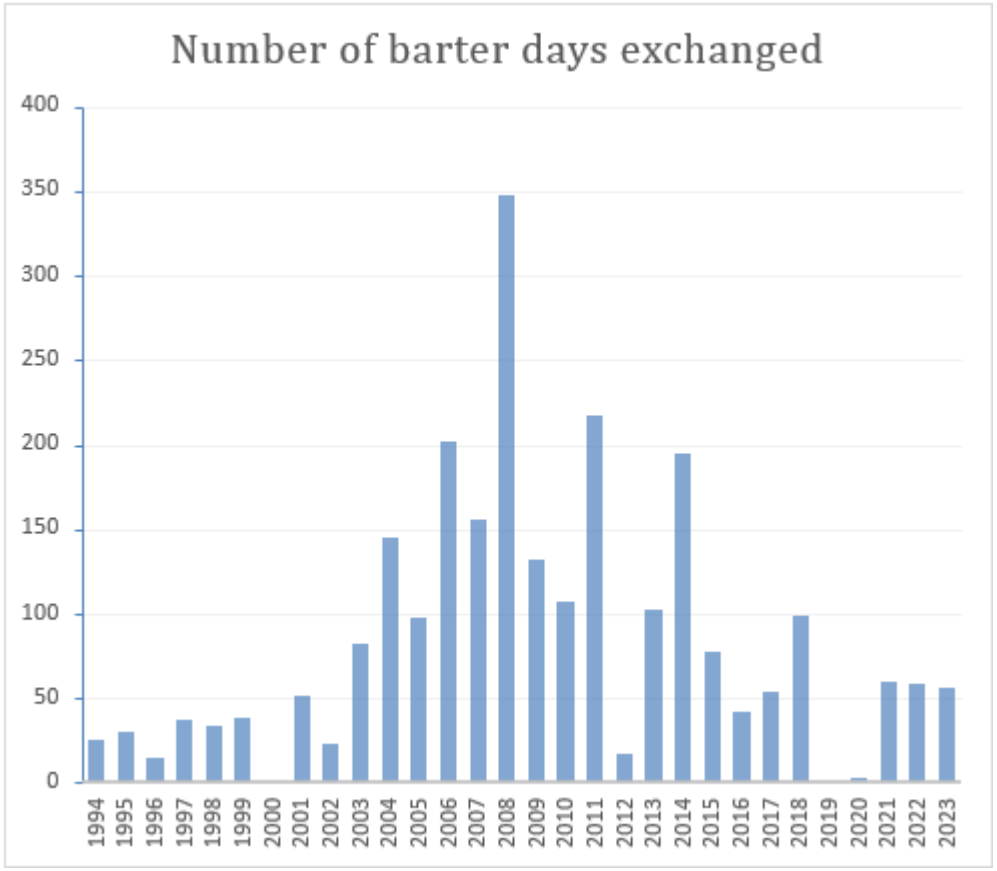

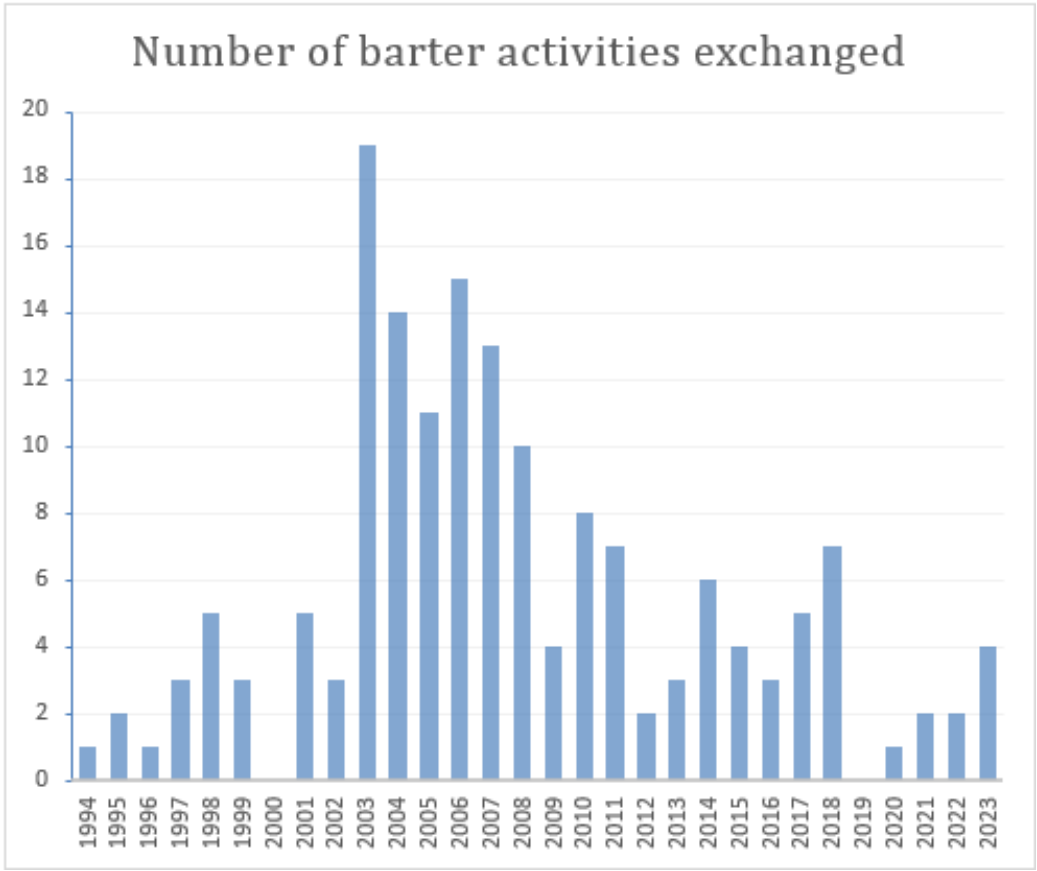

THE DREAM

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All funded applications globally are put into an AI bot

scheduled in the most cost efficient, both financially and carbon, way possible

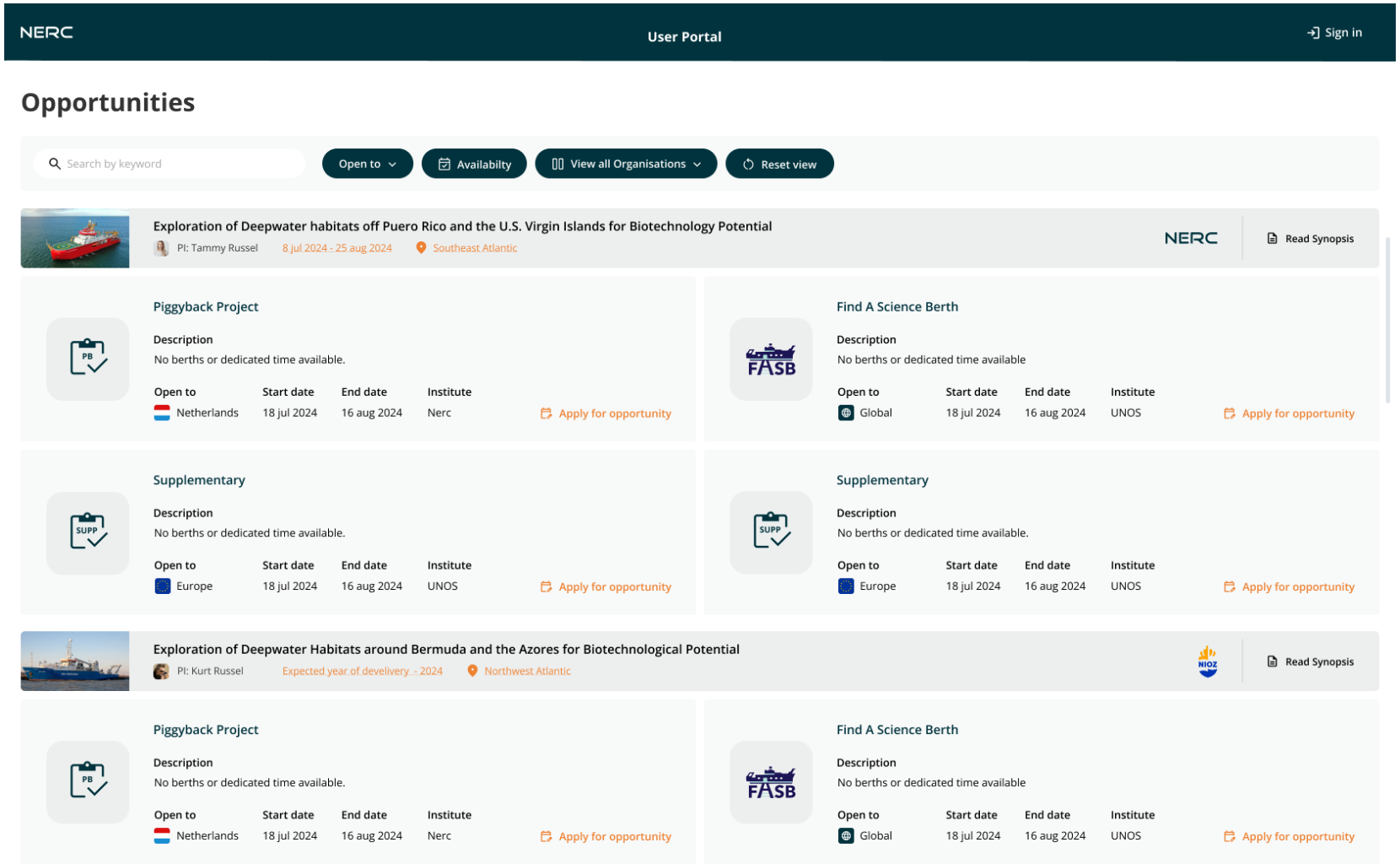
meets all the terms and conditions of all personnel contracts

manages all the different funding agencies and grants

arranges all port calls and logistics

… I/we'll be out of a job…

OPPORTUNITIES

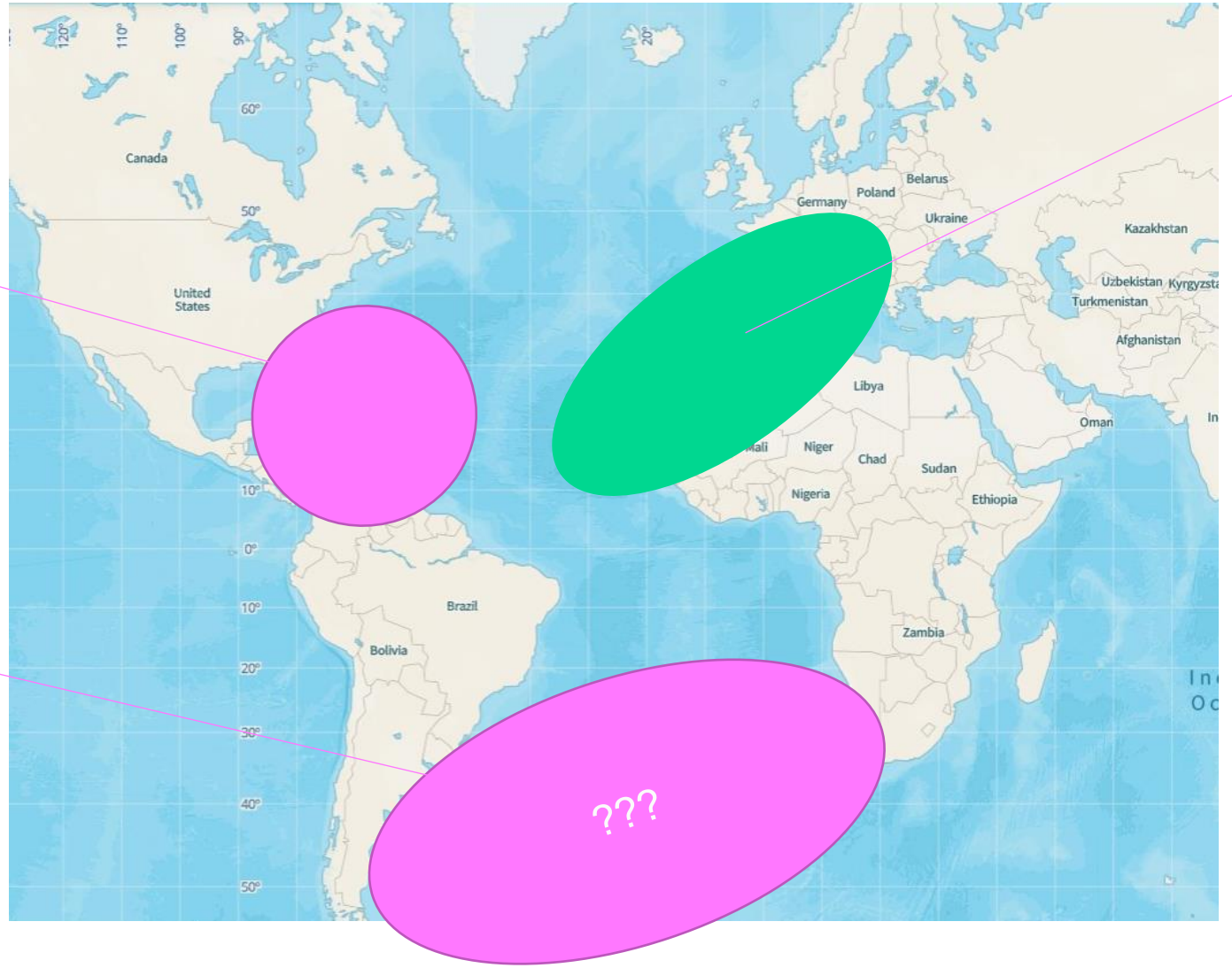


- Use MFP to:
  - Highlight ALL funded applications publicly
  - Give an approx. delivery timeframe
  - Advertise type of opportunities
    - Spare berths
    - Piggyback projects
- Streamline the process to reduce overhead on people resource

UPCOMING AVAILABILITY

RRS James Cook:
Nov 2026 – Jan 2027

RRS Discovery:
Nov 2026 – Mar 2027



RRS Discovery:
Nov 2025 – mid Jan 2026

TAKE AWAY MESSAGE

National Oceanography Centre

- National priorities underpin national programmes
- Programmes follow the funding lines
- It’s complicated!!!
- Early engagement needed to increase chances of optimal delivery
- Carbon reduction will come with programme/schedule efficiency
- Building long term partnerships and relationships is essential
- Asked to do “More for Less”
    - Streamline the process
    - Don’t let the extras become the noise that’s unmanageable

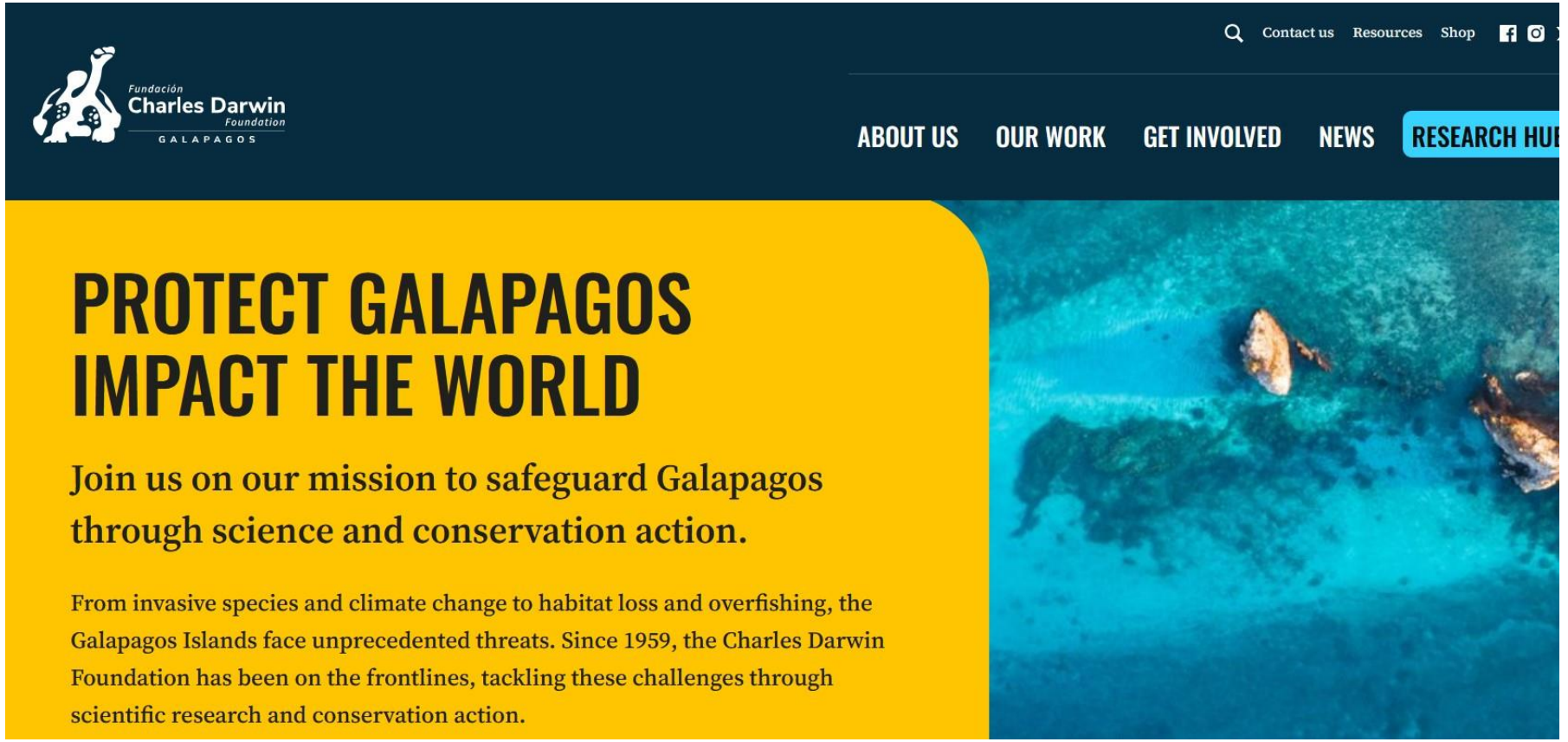
ENGAGEMENT

- Nuuk, Greenland
  - 160 members of the Greenlandic public aboard RRS *James Cook*
  - Collaborative discussions between NOC, the British Embassy in Copenhagen, the Greenlandic science community and Government of Greenland
  - Science exchange seminar between NOC science party and local researchers in Greenland
  - Offered spare berths to Greenlandic researchers

ENGAGEMENT

- Reykjavík, Iceland
  - 30 Ambassadors to Iceland onboard RRS *Discovery* for the British Embassy Reception on the occasion of its visit to Iceland
  - 35 Icelandic students came onboard for a Future Careers Tour on RRS *James Cook*

ENGAGEMENT



https://www.darwinfoundation.org/en/

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THANKS FOR LISTENING…

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