

The Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG)



OFEG
OCEAN FACILITIES EXCHANGE
GROUP

A BOTTOM UP APPROACH TO RESEARCH FLEET COORDINATION AND HARMONISATION

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**National
Oceanography Centre**
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

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NERC SCIENCE OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

The Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG)

- *OFEG represents Europe's leading oceanographic research organisations*
- *OFEG provides a forum to programme ship and major equipment exchange opportunities for the Global and Ocean Class research fleet.*
- *OFEG aims to maximise the overall scientific output using its state-of-the-art facilities in support of the worldwide oceanographic community.*

What is the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group?

History of OFEG

- In 1996 NERC (UK), IFREMER (France) and BMBF (Germany) developed a collaboration to 'barter' ship time and equipment without the need to charter or exchange money.
- Between 2002 and 2006, the NIOZ (Netherlands), CSIC (Spain) and IMR (Norway) became members.
- With these expansions, the group became the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG).

Ships and equipment!

- Portable sampling and survey equipment is critical for effective science delivery.
- As the OFEG matured and expanded, opportunities to exchange major equipment increased.
- To support this requirement OFEG developed an equipment barter capability within OFEG to ensure the right people at the right level in each organization are engaged.
- **OFEG-TECH** was set up to develop communication and networking, supporting equipment exchange and improving cooperation between OFEG partners;
- Improve technical understanding of each others organizations
- Develop opportunities to exchange of technical knowledge and experience
- Promote 'bilateral training' and technician exchange

Benefits of OFEG

Greater access for scientists to ships, equipment and locations:

OFEG provides scientists wider access to ships and equipment than is possible from their home national capabilities.

OFEG includes 20 high spec. Global/Ocean class ships & associated equipment such as;

- Remotely operated vehicles,
- Autonomous vehicles
- Multichannel seismic systems
- Sea bed coring and sampling systems
- Shipboard, towed and vertical profiling and surveying systems

(Around a further 30 regional research ships also operated by European institutes which are not included within the OFEG exchange framework)

The collective global OFEG footprint increases efficiency of fleet deployment, reduces passage times, reduces costs, and allows scientists access to a wider range of geographical areas and research equipment in a given year.

OFEG Ships available for barter exchange

Germany	Norway	United Kingdom	France	Spain	Netherlands
RV Maria S. Merian	RV G.O. Sars	RRS James Cook	RV Pourquoi pas?	RV OV Sarmiento de Gamboa	RV Pelagia
RV Meteor	RV Johan Hjort	RRS Discovery	RV L'Atalante	RV Hespérides	
RV Alkor	RV Kristine Bonnevie	RRS James Clark Ross	RV Talassa	RV Garcia del Cid	
RV Heincke	RV Kronprins Haakon	RRS Sir David Attenborough			
RV Poseidon					
RV Sonne					

OFEG Equipment available for barter exchange

Germany	Norway	United Kingdom	France	Spain
ROV Kiel 6000	Ægir 6000	6000m ROV ISIS	Nautile manned submersible	MCS up to 6km
AUV - ABYSS 6000	ROV Aglantha*	AUV - ASUB 6000*	ROV Victor	Large Air Gun Array
JAGO manned submersible		MCS – up to 3km active	PENFELD Penetrometer	Air Compressor for Large Array
Large Air Gun Array		Large Air Gun Array	MCS – up to 3km	
Air Compressor for Large Array		Air Compressor for Large Array	Large Air Gun Array	
		Array	Air Compressor for Large Array	
			Array	
			SYSIF-EM Source	

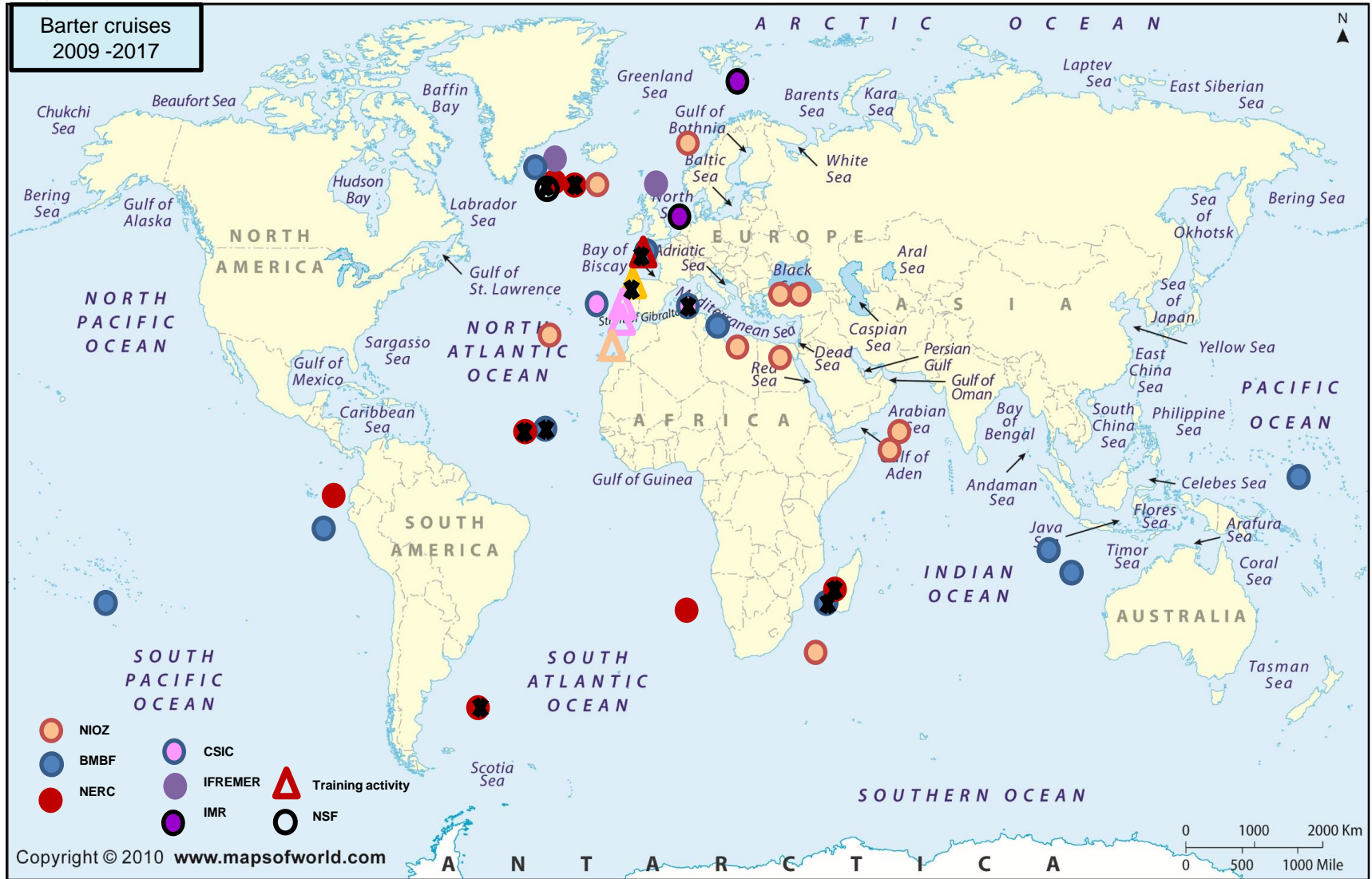
How (and why) does OFEG work, and how may it work in the future?

- We meet twice per year and exchange details of each others forthcoming ships programmes
- We *actively* seek to fill programme gaps and exchange ship time if mutually beneficial
- We make ourselves available throughout the year via email and telephone and *actively* seek to support intervention for unplanned equipment recovery or ship support requests
- In the future we may be able to share programmes using common planning systems

Voyage planning system

www.marinefacilitiesplanning.com/

The Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG)



Welcome to Marine Facilities Planning

This website allows Scientists to apply to use marine facilities in support of marine science from both the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Nederlands Instituut voor Onderzoek der Zee (NIOZ).

Enter the system

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