



Recommendations of the Oceans 2025 Programme Advisory Board to the Programme's Executive Board May 2010 and Executive Board (EB) responses November 2010

Recommendations

In going forward:

1. To gather the necessary evidence base to enable the forthcoming National Capability (NC) prioritisation exercise to take full account of emerging policy drivers, such as European Marine Strategy Framework Directive when making recommendations about future NC investments.

EB Response: Agreed. This was done as part of the preparation for the prioritisation exercise.

2. To support full engagement of the NERC Oceans 2025 community with NERC theme leaders in the development of forthcoming Theme Action Plan initiatives.

EB response: Agreed and undertaken to the extent possible.

3. To consider the scope for increased linkage with MSCC and its activities (esp. sustained observations and public engagement)

EB response: Agreed and underway; including active engagement with the MSCC in strategic planning and in its working groups for sustained observations and for Communications. A SOFI workshop for the wider sustained observations community will take place in November 2010.

4. To promote an understanding (with NCAG/other policy stakeholders) of importance of marine NC and how it can support the science required now and for future national needs and to articulate this in an international context e.g. by emphasising linkage to Global Earth Observation (GEO) processes (including biodiversity).

EB response: Agreed and has been addressed as part of the NC prioritisation exercise as well as being promulgated in various international fora. It is also essential to ensure that we can offer NERC and its theme leaders in particular the necessary contextual information in order to take a longer term view.

5. To take actions to ensure the ‘community’ aspect of Oceans 2025 is preserved (e.g. secure funding to continue annual meetings for the NERC marine science community which have a science/science-to-policy impacts focus and build on the marine NC and Research Programme activities).

EB response: We agree that the community aspect of Oceans 2025 is an important part of its legacy. We anticipate that the community will continue to be engaged together with stakeholders in the context of activities undertaken under the MSCC and NOC Association starting in 2011. A final Oceans 2025 ‘town meeting’ is anticipated in spring 2012 and other networking activities such as the SOFI workshops, the newsletter and website are continuing.

6. To develop ‘case study materials’ on impacts (quantified where possible) that characterise and demonstrate what success looks like for marine science, its contribution to UK competitiveness (policy, businesses, skilled manpower generated, etc.) and to promote these messages widely.

EB response: Agreed. Work is in hand.

7. To consider how best to capture the ‘lessons learnt and achievements’ of the programme from a management perspective; taking account of the commissioning process, the multi-centre delivery, governance structures, removing duplication etc. and communicate this knowledge to help inform NERC, MSCC and its member organisations.

EB response: We agree this would be a worthwhile exercise and hope to initiate a short internal study in Spring 2011.

Within the current Oceans 2025 programme

8. To explore options for continued funding and optimise use of SOFI workshops to develop cross programme linkages and outreach to the wider community, to develop future priorities and to inform NERC strategy, and to take steps to increase awareness of the workshops and their outcomes.

EB response: Agreed. Actions are in hand.

9. To seek LWEC accreditation for relevant component parts of the programme activity as a matter of urgency.

EB response: Agreed: This is being taken forward in accordance with the LWEC criteria for appropriate parts of the programme where multi-departmental interests can be clearly identified.

10. To consider the need for a technology audit/strategy and broker needs against policy drivers (e.g. for long term monitoring driven by Marine Strategy Framework Directive).

EB response: This will be addressed during 2011 as a key aspect of the development of a NERC 'marine sector strategy'

11. To better address the recognised potential for 'omics tools' across relevant programme areas, to hold a SOFI workshop to share experiences and to ensure that the community engages with NERC 'omics' strategic thinking.

EB response: Agreed. In first instance a SOFI workshop has been approved for end November 2010.

Communication to NERC Chief Executive

12. The Programme Advisory Board recommended that its Chairman write to NERC Chief Executive on behalf of the Board to ask him to take all possible measures to preserve the marine community 'legacy' of Oceans 2025 and to emphasise that the NERC Theme Leaders should take full account of the importance of the marine environment in developing new thematic actions.

EB comment: The Oceans 2025 Executive Board welcomes the proposed action and expresses its gratitude to the Board members for their continuing support and advice.

National Marine Coordination Office, (NMCO)
National Oceanography Centre
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