

## **ESF-Marine Board Work Plan 2000 – 2002.**

### **4. Promoting synergy among national programmes:**

## **European Research Vessel Operators Group**

### **ERVO 1999 – 2002**



**October 2002.**



**Marine  
Board**

### **The ESF Marine Board**

The Marine Board, operating within the Strasbourg based European Science Foundation, (ESF) is a non-governmental body created in October 1995. Its institutional membership is composed of organisations which are major national marine scientific institutes and funding organisations within their country in Europe. The ESF Marine Board was formed in order to improve co-ordination between European marine science organisations and to develop strategies for marine science in Europe.

Presently, with its membership of 23 marine research organisations from 16 European countries, the Marine Board has the appropriate representation to be a unique forum for marine science in Europe and world-wide.

In developing its activities, the Marine Board is addressing four main objectives: creating a forum for its member organisations; identifying scientific strategic issues; being the voice of European marine science; and promoting synergy among national programmes and research facilities.

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## **European Research Vessel Operators Group ERVO 1999 – 2002**

### **ABSTRACT**

At its Annual General Meeting in Erice, Italy, on 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September 1999, the ESF-Marine Board decided to initiate an action to promote the co-ordination of small to medium sized research vessels operators in Europe (Annex 1: Terms of Reference).

Following a preliminary meeting, hosted by CNRS/INSU in Roscoff (France) in December 1999, the research vessel managers/operators decided to form a loose forum which would meet annually to share experiences of common interest. Subsequent meetings were held in Ireland (2000), Italy (2001) and Norway (2002).

This report, prepared for the ESF-MB, is a summary of the achievements of the European Research Vessel Operators (ERVO) Group 1999 – 2002.

Minutes of the Annual European Research Vessel Operators (ERVO) Meetings are hosted on the ESF-MB Website.

The 5<sup>th</sup> ERVO Meeting (ERVO 2003) will be held in Romania in April 2003.

For further information on the European Research Vessel Operators Group Meetings see:  
[http://www.esf.org/esf\\_genericpage.php?language=0&section=2&genericpage=622&domain=3&activity=0](http://www.esf.org/esf_genericpage.php?language=0&section=2&genericpage=622&domain=3&activity=0).



## **European Research Vessel Operators Group ERVO 1999 – 2002**

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### **Introduction**

At its Annual General Meeting in Erice, Italy, on 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September 1999, the ESF-Marine Board decided to initiate an action to promote the co-ordination of small to medium sized research vessels operators in Europe (Annex 1: Terms of Reference).

### **Preliminary Meeting: Roscoff (France) December 1999**

A preliminary meeting, hosted by CNRS/INSU was held in Roscoff (France) from 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December 1999. The Meeting was attended by 18 participants from 7 countries (Table 1).

The stated objective of the meeting was to explore opportunities for co-operation between RV managers and to define the scope for such cooperation, sharing problems and solutions in serving the scientific community, best practice in research vessel operation.

The consensus emerging from the meeting was that the Roscoff workshop had been very constructive. The participants agreed that what was required was a loose network, with each institution financing its future participation. Every year, one of the RV managers would organise a meeting of the network.

Since several institutions were unable to attend the Roscoff meeting, it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting would be distributed to all the member organisations of the ESF Marine Board and that the ESF-MB website would be used to disseminate information (addresses of the RV managers, minutes of meetings and information on future meetings).

It was also agreed that a second meeting would be held in Ireland in 2000 and that issues for discussion would include: Vessel Classification, International Safety Management (ISM) Code for Shipping and Insurance.

### **Follow-up Meetings**

The success of the first meeting and of the ERVO Group can be evaluated from that fact that meetings have been held in subsequent years and that the number of participating countries has risen from 7 to 12.

ERVO 1999	Roscoff, France	13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> December 1999
ERVO 2000	Galway, Ireland	27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2000
ERVO 2001	Rome, Italy	19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2001
ERVO 2002	Bergen, Norway	24 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2002.

**Key issues to emerge from the 1<sup>st</sup> and subsequent meetings:**

1. The RV Operators welcomed the fact that participants were, in the main, RV Operators with hands-on day-to-day experience in RV operations.
2. While many common problems were identified (crewing, scheduling, specialist equipment, etc.) participants drew significant comfort from the fact that their approach was similar to that used by their colleagues in other Member States, there being no “standard” or “best practice”.
3. The sharing of experience between those in the process of implementing the International Safety Management (ISM) Code (UK, Fr) and those contemplating its introduction (Nor, IRL) was most useful and informative.
4. Many participants reported that the fact that they had met colleagues working in similar operations in other countries opened up the possibility of information sharing.
5. The fact that meetings (Ireland, Norway) took place in research vessel bases added to the sharing of information and an opportunity to see other RV base configurations, control centres and equipment stores.

The topics addressed at meetings included:

- Vessel Classification.
- International Safety Management (ISM) Code.
- Vessel Insurance.
- Crew Training, Health and Safety and Staff Exchanges.
- The European Research Vessel Fleet and trends in RV Requirements.

In addition, the host country was afforded an opportunity to make, or invite presentations, on its own marine research/vessel operation programme.

Country	Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3	Meeting 4
Belgium	✓	✓	✓	✓
France	✓	✓	✓	✓
Germany	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greece				✓
Iceland			✓	✓
Ireland	✓	✓	✓	✓
Italy		✓	✓	✓
Netherlands		✓	✓	✓
Norway		✓	✓	✓
Portugal				✓
Romania				✓
Sweden	✓	✓	✓	
Turkey	✓			
United Kingdom	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>No. of participating countries</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>

**Table 1. List of Counties attending ERVO Workshops.**

**Vessel Classification:** Research vessels are currently classified as special purpose vessels, cargo vessels, fishing vessels, seismic vessels, ice-breakers, etc. The lack of a RV classification leads to problems in terms of manning and the ambiguity of scientific personnel as either passengers or seafarers. This also poses problems for scientific

personnel from one country joining a research vessel from another. While Lloyd's have introduced a new "100 A1 Research Vessel" Class, the general consensus was that given the widely differing national legislation it was unrealistic to pursue the idea of a separate RV class at the present time.

**International Safety Management (ISM) Code:** RV operators found the exchange of experiences of other RV Operators in implementing ISM extremely valuable. Countries at an advanced stage of implementation were able to identify the "do's and don'ts".

Lloyd's Register, in co-operation with ERVO, organised a course in London on the implementation of ISM. This was attended by ERVO members from Norway, Sweden, Italy, Belgium, UK and Ireland. A key point noted was that ISM distinguishes between vessel operations AND scientific operations.

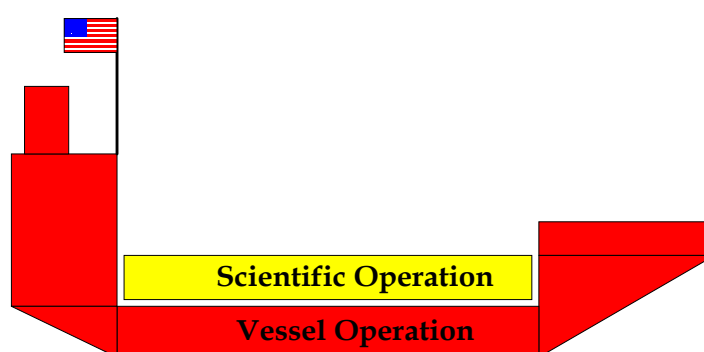


Figure 1. ISM Code and the Research Vessel (A.M., Lloyd's Register).

**Vessel Insurance:** Research vessels are either (a) fully insured with Hull and P&I insurance (eg. Belgium, Netherlands, Ireland) or (b) as government owned are insured by government (eg. UK, France). The latter case poses some problems with respect to speed of payment in the event of an accident or loss. Furthermore charterers, foreign States, port authorities and foreign nationals participating in collaborative exercises/projects are increasingly insisting that Research Vessels carry full P & I and Hull and Machinery insurance. ERVO organised a number of presentations from vessel insurers and members exchanged their experiences in dealing with insurance issues.

**Crew exchange:** In 2001, the captain and engineer of the Irish research vessel *Celtic Voyager* joined the Norwegian *Johan Hjort* for an 8 day period.

**Information on STCW95 training and health requirements were discussed .** The issue with research vessels is that scientists comprise a large group of non-maritime personnel. The question is whether the same training and health requirements should apply to the scientific party? Increasingly, visiting researchers must have safety-at-sea training and a current health certificate before being allowed onboard.

### **The European Research Vessel Fleet and trends in RV Requirements**

The ERVO Meetings provided an opportunity for RV Managers to exchange information on their national fleets and information on trends in the requirements for sea-going vessels and new developments in in-situ data buoys and autonomous vehicles.

#### **Other topics:**

- A presentation was provided by the UK on the recent UK/French/German assessment of the research fleet and future trends (European Ship Report. December 2000).
- Laurent d'Ozouville of EurOCEAN - European Centre for Information on Marine Science & Technology gave a presentation on the new web portal on European Research Vessels and infrastructure (equipment, data buoys, etc).- [www.eurocean.org](http://www.eurocean.org)
- Portugal gave a presentation on its evaluation of the US UNOLS (University National Oceanographic Laboratory System) strategy for research vessel co-ordination.

A copy of the Agenda of each of the 3 ERVO Meetings is contained in Annex 3. These provide an indication of the topics covered at each meeting.

#### **Future Directions**

Following the successful Bergen Meeting, Romania has offered to host ERVO 2003 on the Black Sea. This will provide an opportunity for Accession Countries to describe their research fleets and for Romania to summarise its national marine research programme.

Portugal has indicated an interest in hosting ERVO 2004.





**ERVO 2000. Galway, Ireland**



**ERVO 2002. Bergen, Norway**

## **Conclusions**

1. The European Research Vessel Operators (ERVO) Group has been very successful as evidenced by the success of its meetings over the period 1999 – 2002. Though it should be noted that it has moved considerably from its original Terms of Reference.
2. The fact that participants are, in the main, RV Operators with hands-on day-to-day experience in RV operations is a strength.
3. While many common problems were identified (crewing, scheduling, specialist equipment, etc.) participants drew significant comfort from the fact that their approach was similar to that used by their colleagues in other Member States, there being no “standard” or “best practice”.
4. The sharing of experience between those in the process of implementing the Intentional Safety Management (ISM) Code and those contemplating its introduction was most useful and informative.
5. Many participants reported that the fact that they had met colleagues working in similar operations in other countries opened up the possibility of information sharing.
6. The fact that meetings (Ireland, Norway) took place in research vessel bases added to the sharing of information and an opportunity to see other RV base configurations, control centres and equipment stores.

## **Recommendations**

- ESF-MB should continue to facilitate and support the ERVO Group Meetings through the provision of mailing services through the ESF-MB Secretariat and the hosting of ERVO information on the ESF-MB Website.
- The ERVO Group will continue to meet annually as long as the members are willing to contribute to the costs of such meetings.

## **Annex 1: ESF-Marine Board Science Work Plan 2000 – 2002.**

### **Activity 4: Harmonisation and Synergy TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Co-ordination between small to medium research vessel operators in Europe**

##### **1. Main objective**

In a recent paper "*Not too big, not too small...*" (Ocean Challenge, 9(1), 1999), Dr Ed Hill (Director of the Centre for Coastal and Marine Sciences, Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, Bidston, UK) argues that medium-sized research ships (25 – 50m) will be the workhorses for shelf-sea oceanography in the coming decades.

Currently, the European North Atlantic and Mediterranean Marine Research Fleet of 136 vessels (includes Norway and Iceland) contains 57 vessels between 25 and 50m. The Eastern European Countries add a further 18 medium sized vessels to this number (ref: EU Major European Marine Research Facilities wall chart 1997). No mechanism currently exists to facilitate the operators of this important component of the European research vessel fleet to exchange information on efficiencies and best practice in order to better serve the scientific community and shelf sea research.

The Marine Board should aim to provide a forum to enable the operational managers of small to medium sized (25 – 50m) European research vessels to network and exchange views and knowledge on management and co-ordination issues, best practice and operational efficiencies.

##### **2. Actions to be taken**

###### **Phase I – Preliminary Meeting**

- The ESF Marine Board should support/host a meeting of small to medium European RV operators to determine whether there is scope for establishing a European Forum for Small to Medium Sized Research Vessels and, if so, to draft a 3 year Work Programme with identifiable deliverables and milestones. This meeting would also identify sources of additional funding (e.g. ESF, FP5 Concerted/Supporting Actions).

###### **Phase II – Establishment of European Forum for Small to Medium Sized Research Vessels**

- Selection of Chairman.
- Identification of specific topics to be addressed at subsequent Workshops (Thematic Meetings). Draft Terms of Reference for these topics and identify membership of Working Groups who will prepare these Thematic Workshops and appropriate documentation.
- Suggest two topics per Workshop. Workshops should be held over a two-day period facilitating a visit to a local research vessel base.

##### **3. Timetables and deliverables:**

###### **Timetable**

Preliminary Meeting: 13-14 December 1999 Inaugural Meeting 1: Spring 2000

Thematic Meeting 2: Autumn 2000

Thematic Meeting 3: Spring 2001

Thematic Meeting 4: Autumn 2001

Workshop: Spring 2002

###### **Deliverables:**

- Meeting Reports outlining thematic discussions (the problems addressed, solutions identified and recommendations on best practice) will be presented to the ESF two months after meetings.
- Proceedings of the 2002 RV Workshop "*RV Management Procedures in Member States - Best Practice*" will be published as a Project Reference Document.
- A web site will be established to facilitate exchange of information between project members and provide a notice board for operational activities.
- The Forum will complement the tri-lateral arrangement between the U.K., Germany and France and other initiatives being planned on research vessel co-operation.

**4. Supporting means**

- Preliminary meeting: living expenses will be taken in charge by CNRS. Travel expenses will be paid by the participants.
- Establishment of the forum and four workshops: five two-day meetings for 15 persons. Travel and subsistence: 60 000 Euro; Publication: 4 000 Euro.
- Costs could be reduced further by paying travel only and/or just contributing towards publications.

**5. European added value**

- The initiative will provide a much-needed forum facilitating a co-ordinated approach to small/medium (25m-50m) vessel operation and exchange of experience on the efficient operation of these vessels.
- Individual research vessel operators have developed many novel procedures, technologies and techniques. This Forum will provide a route for the transfer and uptake of these innovations, greatly enhancing the efficiency of the European research vessel fleet.
- This promotion of linkages/networking is a priority objective of the 5Th Framework Programme. A key element in the success of the Forum will be the fact that its activities are prioritised by the research vessel operators themselves.

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**European Science Foundation – Marine Board****Mr. Geoffrey O'Sullivan**

Representing the ESF-Marine Board  
 Marine Institute, 80 Harcourt St., Dublin 2  
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**ANNEX 3****Agendas for Meetings.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> European Research Vessel Operator's Workshop  
Galway 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2000.**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2000

- 09:00 Welcome and Business of the Day:
- Vessel Classification  
Mr. Chris Bale, Lloyd's Register
  - ISM code  
Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Lloyd's Register
- 16:00 Visit to R.V. Technical Support Base
- 17:00 Visit to RV *Celtic Voyager*, Galway Docks
- 18:30 Visit to Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute, NUI Galway
- 20:00 Dinner - Kirwan's Lane Restaurant, Galway. Guest of Honour will be Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, Mr. Frank Fahey T.D.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2000

- 09:00 Business of the Day:
- Research Vessel Insurance  
Mr. Kevin Healy, The Shipowners Protection Ltd.  
Mr. Eric Heymans, BELGEMAR Marine Insurance
  - Any Other Business
- 13:00 Close of meeting and Lunch.



**3<sup>rd</sup> European Research Vessel Operator's Workshop  
Roma, Italy 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2001**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2001

- 09:00 Arrive at CNR
- 09:30 Welcome by the CNR Representative  
Dr Silvana Vallerga, CNR, Italy
- Welcome by European Science Foundation – Marine Board  
Mr. Geoffrey O'Sullivan, Marine Institute, Ireland
- 09:45 Business of the Day:
  - Summary of the minutes and update on any outcomes of ERVO 2000.  
Ms. Caitriona Níc Aonghusa, Marine Institute, Ireland
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Business of the Day:
  - Training including update on ISM and exchange of personnel  
Mr. Per W. Nieuwejaar, Institute of Marine Research, Norway
  - Performance Indicators (trends in RV requirements, common standards of evaluation of cruises) Mr. Andrew Louch NERC Research Ship Unit, UK
- 20:00 Dinner – Ristorante TREVI, Via dei Crociferi, 36 Roma.  
Hosted by Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2001

- 09:00 Business of the Day:
  - Equipment (including technical problems, feasibility of an equipment pool)
  - Any Other Business
- 13:00 Close of meeting and Lunch.

**4<sup>th</sup> European Research Vessel Operator's Workshop  
Bergen, Norway 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2002**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2002**

08.30	Welcome and Administration
08.45	Review of minutes
09.00	Presentation of Norwegian Institute of Marine Research
09.45	Crew exchange in 2001
10.00	Coffee
10.30	Developments in underwater acoustics
12.30	Lunch
13.30	Status ISM Implementation
13.50	STCW 95 Implementation, lessons learned
14.10	ICES Meeting, Copenhagen
14.30	Coffee
15.00	Presentations of new RVs
17.30	Close of meeting
19.00	Dinner

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2002**

08.30	Meeting Start and Administration
08.40	Classification issues
09.30	Coffee
10.00	Training and health requirements, scientists
10.30	ILO 180 regulators
10.45	Insurance issues
11.00	Draft position paper. Way ahead?
11.15	Information about Eurocean
11.45	Marine R&D in the EU 6 <sup>th</sup> Framework Programme
12.15	Wrap-up. Next meeting.
13.00	Lunch aboard "Johan Hjort"
13.45	Guided tour Norwegian RVs and IMR facilities
15.30	Visit to Bergen aquarium.

**ANNEX 4: List of Participants at Research Vessel Operators Workshops.**

Participant	Meeting 1 Roscoff	Meeting 2 Galway	Meeting 3 Rome	Meeting 4 Bergen
<b>BELGIUM</b>				
Andre CATTRIJSSE		✓	✓	
Andre POLLENTIER	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>FRANCE</b>				
Guy BOUCHER	✓			
Jean-Xavier CASTREC	✓			✓
Laurant D'OZOUVILLE	✓			
Jean Pierre LE DUVEHAT		✓		
Alain MONTIER	✓	✓	✓	
Pascal MORIN	✓			
Daniel VIDAL-MADJAR	✓			
<b>GERMANY</b>				
Hans-Ulrich FANGER	✓	✓		
Deiter STROHM			✓	
Johann RUICKOLDT	✓	✓		
Casper Graf VON SPEE				✓
<b>GREECE</b>				
Dimitris GEORGOPOULOS				✓
<b>ICELAND</b>				
Vignir THORODDSEN			✓	✓
<b>IRELAND</b>				
Barry KAVANAGH		✓	✓	✓
Michael GILLOOLY	✓	✓		✓
Catriona NIC AONGHUSA		✓	✓	✓
<b>ITALY</b>				
Massimilano DI BITETTO		✓	✓	✓
Claudio VIEZZOLI			✓	
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>				
Marieke RIETVELD		✓	✓	✓
<b>NORWAY</b>				
Anne LIEN				✓
Per Wilhelm NIEUWEJAAR		✓	✓	✓
Eivind NOREBOE		✓		
<b>PORTUGAL</b>				
Joao COIMBRA				✓
<b>ROMANIA</b>				
Cornel COSTEA				✓
Gheorghe OAI				✓
<b>SWEDEN</b>				
Per Olof BENGTTSSON	✓	✓	✓	
Per BRATTEN			✓	
Michael BOSMA	✓	✓		
Leif DJURFELDT	✓	✓		
Lars-Gunnar PETERSON	✓	✓		
<b>TURKEY</b>				
Sukru BESIKTEPE	✓			
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>				
Charles FAY		✓		
Andrew LOUCH	✓		✓	✓
R.F.C. MANTOURA	✓			
Ian PIPER				✓
Paul STONE				✓
<b>ESF-Marine Board</b>				
Geoffrey O'SULLIVAN	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>

**ANNEX 5****List of Invited Guests and Observers at Research Vessel Operators Workshops.****2<sup>nd</sup> European Research Vessel Operators Workshop. Galway, Ireland 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2000****USA Observer**

Mr. John M. Hotaling (USA)  
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
 Administration  
 National Marine Fisheries Service  
 Office of Science and Technology  
 F/ST2, SSMC, Room 12553  
 1315 East-West Highway  
 Silver Spring  
 Maryland 209  
 USA  
 Tel: 301 713 2363  
 Fax: 3001 713 4057  
 Email: [John.Hotaling@noaa.gov](mailto:John.Hotaling@noaa.gov)

**Speakers****ISM Code**

Mr. Andrew Mitchell,  
 European Region,  
 Lloyd's Register of shipping,  
 71 Fenchurch Street,  
 London EC3M 4BS.  
 Email: [andrew.mitchell@lr.org](mailto:andrew.mitchell@lr.org)

**Classification**

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 Lloyd's Register of shipping,  
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 London EC3M 4BS.  
 Tel: 00 44 20 7423 2758  
 Fax 00 44 20 7488 4796  
 Email: [chris.bale@lr.org](mailto:chris.bale@lr.org)

**Insurance**

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 Tel: +44 20 7488 0911  
 Fax: +44 20 7480 5806  
 Email: [kevin@shipowners.co.uk](mailto:kevin@shipowners.co.uk)

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 Tel. +32 3 247 3601  
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**Other Participants**

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 Technical Support Base  
 Parkmore Industrial Estate  
 Galway, Ireland  
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 Fax: 00 353 (0)91 773908  
 Email: [catriona.nicaonghusa@marine.ie](mailto:catriona.nicaonghusa@marine.ie)

Mr. Fadil Bayati  
 Lloyd's Register  
 Rock House  
 Main Street  
 Blackrock  
 Co. Dublin  
 Tel 00 353 (0)1 2780100  
 Email: [fadil.bayati@lr.org](mailto:fadil.bayati@lr.org)

Mr. Ralph Coton  
 The Shipowner's Protection Ltd.  
 St. Claire House, 30-33 Minories  
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 United Kingdom  
 Email: [ralph@shipowners.co.uk](mailto:ralph@shipowners.co.uk)

**3<sup>rd</sup> European Research Vessel Operators Workshop. Rome, Italy 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April 3001**

**Host: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) ESF – Marine Board Representative**

Dr Silvana Vallerga (Italy)  
ICB-CNR at IMC  
Località Sa Mardini  
09072 Torregrande - Oristano Italy  
Tel +39 0783 22027, 22136, 22032  
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Email: [vallerga@nameserver.ge.cnr.it](mailto:vallerga@nameserver.ge.cnr.it).

**4<sup>th</sup> European Research Vessel Operators Workshop. Bergen, Norway 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2002**

**Others Present**

Mr. Roald Vaage,  
Institute of Marine Research,  
PO Box 1870 Nordnes,  
5817 Bergen,  
Norway

**Invited Guests**

**EurOcean**

Dr. Laurent d'Ozouville  
Director European Centre for Information on  
Marine Science and Technology  
Avenida Dom Carlos I, 126 – 2  
1249 – 074 Lisboa  
Portugal  
Tel: 00 351 21 392 44 86  
Fax: 00 351 21 392 44 98  
E-mail: [eurocean@fct.mct.pt](mailto:eurocean@fct.mct.pt)

**Norwegian Maritime Directorate:**

Mr. Magne Rodland

**IMR:**

Mr. Hans Petter Knudsen

**SIMRAD:**

Erik Stenersen

**SIMRAD:**

Eddy Lund

**SKIPSTEKNISK:**

Hans Ove Holmoy

**Maritime Dept, DNV:**

Mr. Bjorn Pederson



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