

Towards new developments of the EurOcean Research Vessels InfoBase, in convergence with the new Marine Research Infrastructures InfoBase

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The EurOcean Research Vessels (RV) InfoBase - Background

- A DataBase providing characteristics of a list of Research Vessels, owner/operator contact details and, if available, link to the ship's web page.
- Launched in 2006 and maintained by EurOcean (<http://www.rvinfobase.eurocean.org>)
- Since 2010, accessible as well from the website of the FP7 EUROFLEETS project (<http://www.eurofleets.eu/rvs/>)
- In 2014, a number of proposals made by the **EUROFLEETS2 Fleet Evolution Group (FEG)** and presented at the ERVO 2014 meeting, to **upgrade the database and implement new filters** enabling benchmarking with international research fleets, and to better identify “real” Research Vessels etc..



Since 2014, a supplementing Infobase dealing with RVs: the Marine Research Infrastructure Database (RID)

- Developed by EurOcean (<http://rid.eurocean.org/>) with the support of FP7 SEAS-ERA and JPI Oceans/CSA-Oceans, and aiming to **map all types of Marine Research Infrastructures** including the Research Vessels.

The screenshot displays the EurOcean RID website. On the left, there is a search interface with the following elements:

- Header: EurOcean_RID
- Section: CONTRIBUTE YOURSELF TO UPDATE THE DATABASE
- Text: "If you are aware of any Infrastructure that is not yet in this infobase or any other updates please contact EurOcean or insert yourself a new record and updates"
- Section: SEARCH
- Form fields: NAME, COUNTRY (dropdown), OPERATOR, MRI CATEGORY (dropdown), MRI SUBCATEGORY (dropdown), MRI TYPE (dropdown), OPERATING AREAS (dropdown), DISCIPLINES (dropdown)
- Buttons: DISPLAY RESULTS ON THE MAP, DISPLAY RESULTS ON A TABLE

On the right, a map of Europe and the Mediterranean region is shown. Numerous red pins are placed across the map, indicating the locations of research vessels. The map includes labels for various countries and cities, such as Oslo, Stockholm, Berlin, Paris, London, Rome, and Madrid. The map also shows the North Sea, Bay of Biscay, and Mediterranean Sea.

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EurOcean_RID

CONTRIBUTE YOURSELF TO UPDATE THE DATABASE

MRI CATEGORY

- Experimental facilities for biology and ecosystem studies
- In situ data acquisition systems
- Land-based facilities and in situ testing sites for ocean engineering and ocean observation support
- Marine data providers
- Research vessels and their underwater vehicles
- Satellites for seas and oceans observation

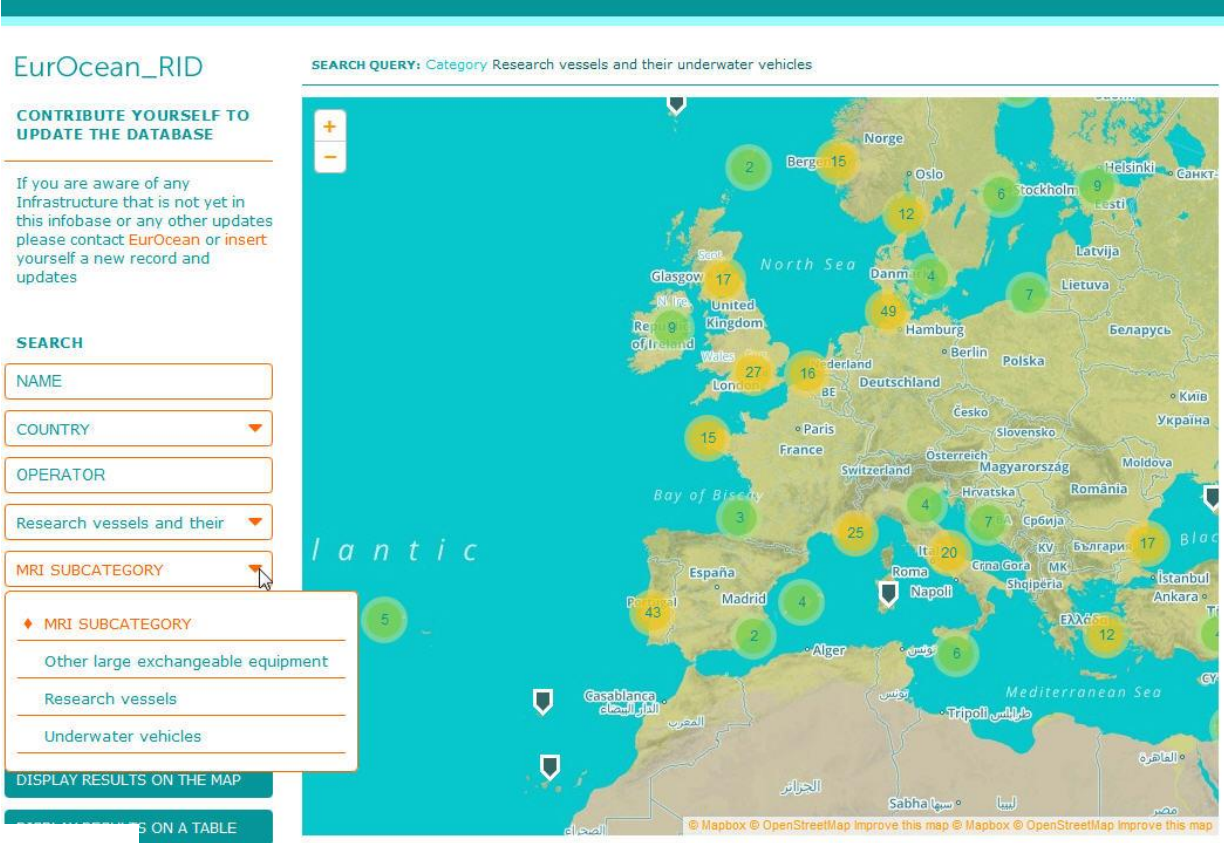
DISCIPLINES

DISPLAY RESULTS ON THE MAP

DISPLAY RESULTS ON A TABLE

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RV and RID InfoBases: two levels of information but a number of descriptors which would allow a unique archive and the same « update » process

RID Infobase

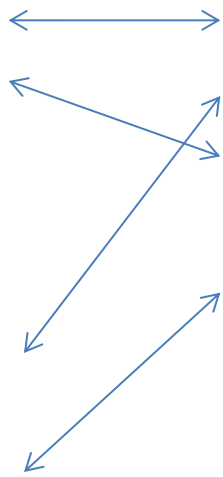
NAME
COUNTRY
OPERATOR
Research vessels and their
Research vessels
MRI TYPE
OPERATING AREAS
DISCIPLINES

- ◆ MRI TYPE
- Global/Ocean Vessel
 - Local/coastal vessel
 - Ocean/regional vessel

RV Infobase

[Vessel Name]
[Vessel Category]
[Country]
[Length]
[Main Activity]
[Available for charter]

- Global
- Oceanic
- Regional
- Local/Coastal



SEARCH

One or a list of RVs with the following information:

- 1) Contact Information
- 2) Ship Information
- 3) Other detailed information based on URL to the Ship Operator website

- 1) Contact Information
- 2) Ship Information
- 3) Detailed technical information

Main features of the EUROFLEETS2 FEG proposals (1)

« Main activity » field :

[Main Activity] ▼

- [Main Activity]
- Fisheries
- Oceanography
- Multiple activities
- Education
- Ice-going Operations



Technical Capacity/Scientific Domain	Equipment/Instrumentation
Icebreaking	n/a
Fisheries	n/a
Physical Oceanography	ADCP, CTD, mooring capacity
Geosciences	Multibeam echosounder, single beam echosounder, coring system
Deployment of towed or submarine equipment	n/a
<1000m class equipment	n/a
>1000m class equipment	n/a

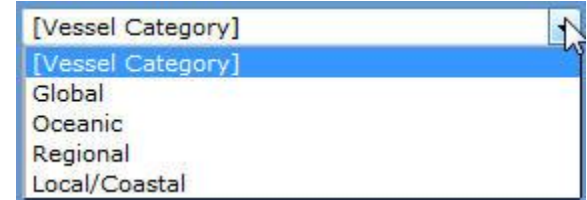


Activity	% of activity (average over one year)
National public funded research	~
Survey	~
Charter or public/private cooperation	~
Logistics	~
Maintenance/transit/quayside	~
Other (education, non-national public funded research, etc.)	~

with the implementation of a dedicated filter in the main menu

Main features of the EUROFLEETS2 FEG proposals (2)

Recommendations on the « Vessel Category » field to provide guidance to the Ship Operator on the category of its vessel :



Ship performance / Class	Global	Ocean/Intermediate	Regional	Coastal	Local (mobile)
Areas	Minimum 2 areas	One area	///	///	///
Max. Distance from base	///	///	2000 nm	500 nm	50 nm
Length (m)	> 80 m	80 m ≥ L > 55 m	65 m ≥ L > 30 m	40 m ≥ L > 15 m	L < 15 m
Science berths (including scientists and non permanent technicians)	> 25	> 20	> 10	> 5	< 5

Main features of the EUROFLEETS2 FEG proposals (3)

«Operating Areas » field :

The *single-choice* information « Main Operating Area » would become a *multiple-choice* information among a list of pre-defined areas :

Operating Areas	
<input type="checkbox"/> Arctica	<input type="checkbox"/> North Atlantic (including North Sea & Baltic Sea)
<input type="checkbox"/> Antarctica	<input type="checkbox"/> South Atlantic
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Ocean West	<input type="checkbox"/> West Mediterranean Sea
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Ocean East	<input type="checkbox"/> East Mediterranean Sea & Black Sea
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Ocean North	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Ocean South

with the **implementation of a dedicated filter in the main menu**

Pre-analysis of convergence between RV and RID InfoBases

- **Contact Information**: same descriptors for **Owner, Operator, Contact person, E-mail, Phone, Address, Ship URL**) but consensus to find on **Operator**
- **Ship Information**: same descriptors for **Ship name, Country, Year Built, Length, Homeport**. For **vessel category**, both Infobases could adopt the classification proposed by the EF2 FEG. But consensus to find on:
 - ✓ **Scientific disciplines** (in RID) versus **Main activity** (in RV) or **Scientific Domain** (by EF2 FEG)
 - ✓ **Operating areas** (in RID and RV): should be a « closed » list if a filtering functionality is implemented
 - ✓ **Access conditions** (a free info in RID) versus **Charter availability** (Y/N in RV)
- **Technical details**: RID could link the « technical details » URL of the RV Infobase
- **Missing info** in one of the data base which could become common to both: **Year of last refit** (not in RV), **Operator Status** (not in RV)
- **Others ?**

Conclusion – How to progress ?

- **A 1st draft** document on the technical and operational convergence of the InfoBases **will be produced taking into consideration the identified needs;**
- **The draft will be sent to an Expert Group (6-8 persons max.)** for **advise** on the common descriptors and a number of improvements in one or both InfoBases
- **EurOcean will estimate the implementation needs and associated cost**
- **Presentation of the Final Proposal at the next meeting of the EurOcean Steering Committee (November 2015), for decision**

- **An open question: same concern about convergence between RID and LExI Infobases?**