



NATIONAL MARINE RESEARCH VESSELS

CHARTER OF MARINE INSTITUTE RESEARCH VESSELS

2009 GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Introduction

The Marine Institute operates the national marine research fleet (RV *Celtic Explorer* and RV *Celtic Voyager*) on behalf of the Irish Government and the Irish marine community, on a charter basis. The Research Vessels Operations team within the Marine Institute manage and monitor all aspects of ship-time scheduling to ensure the efficient operation and implementation of all survey programmes in the *Celtic Explorer* and *Celtic Voyager* schedules.

The call for vessel charter for 2009 is now open and we are inviting a broad range of organisations to apply for ship-time, for research, development or monitoring purposes. These include government departments and agencies, universities, research institutes and industry. The following Guidelines for Applicants provide information on the terms of vessel charter and the application procedure.

Further information on the Marine Institute's Research Vessels and the 2009 Ship-Time Programme are available on: <http://www.marine.ie/home/services/researchvessels/>

Applicants applying for vessel charter should note that in some instances vessel charter can be funded, in part or in full, via the Marine Institute's Shiptime Funding Programme (See Box 1 below).

Funding for Research Vessel Charter

Sea Change, A Marine Knowledge, Research & Innovation Strategy for Ireland 2007-2013, identified the need for a dedicated competitive R&D Research Vessel Funding Programme. The aim of such a programme, similar to that operated in other countries, is to make grant-aid available to researchers on a competitive basis, enabling them access to ship time as part of institutional and co-operative international marine research and training programmes.

The Marine Institute has established an **Integrated Marine Exploration Programme** (IMEP) via funding secured under the Government's *Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2006-2013* (SSTI). The primary objective of the programme is to further develop and augment national capacity in multidisciplinary marine exploration across the island of Ireland. A dedicated multi-disciplinary field team of scientists and technicians has been set up within the Marine Institute to support and increase the quantum and nature of information gathered on surveys. Applicants may request one or more members of the field-team to provide on-board support and assistance in the areas of benthic ecology, oceanography, fisheries biology, geophysics, hydrography and technological support. In addition, in order to expand existing marine research capabilities and build research potential, the Marine Institute provides grant-aid for ship-time onboard the national research vessels (R.V. *Celtic Explorer* and R.V. *Celtic Voyager*) for:

- I. Higher education institutions within the island of Ireland, to provide **dedicated training programmes** at sea; and
- II. Higher education institutions and R&D focused organisations within the island of Ireland to carry out **integrated research surveys** of a multidisciplinary nature.

Applicants wishing to charter a research vessel during 2009 for the above types of activity may apply for funding to cover all or part of the vessel charter costs. For further information on funding for ship-time, please refer to the following Marine Institute Funding webpage

<http://www.marine.ie/home/funding/FundingCalls/opencalls/>

2. When applying for ship-time, please note the following points

1. Ship-time requests will only be considered on the basis of completed Application Forms, submitted by Friday 10th October 2008 (See Section 6 for further details). Co-operative survey/training programmes, involving a range of scientific disciplines that maximise the usage of vessel time, will be more favourably regarded. When completing the forms, please bear in mind the following:
 - i. Forms should be legible and completed in full.
 - ii. When filling in the form, please provide as much information as possible.
 - iii. You are required to clearly demonstrate the objectives of the proposed survey programme. Commitments to international organisations such as ICES should also be mentioned. An attempt must be made to provide relevant information here and this should not be confined to a general statement such as 'contribution towards scientific knowledge'.
 - iv. Please attach a preliminary survey programme including a work schedule and any relevant maps outlining the proposed survey area.
 - v. **If the application includes a request for Ship-time funding** you are requested to highlight the contribution of the proposed survey/training programme towards the *Sea Change* Strategy and the objectives of the Integrated Marine Exploration Programme (IMEP), highlighting where possible the applied aspect of the work.
2. The granting of ship-time is conditional on the subsequent timely completion of the survey details in the online Survey Planning System (SPS) developed by the Marine Institute. You are required to complete the survey details in SPS 6 weeks prior to the start of the cruise - failure to do so could cause serious disruption to your survey programme as the Marine Institute cannot guarantee the availability of equipment and logistical support at shorter notice. Details on how to access and complete the forms will be supplied with the letter confirming the ship-time.
3. A **rationale** must also be presented to explain the **number of days requested**. This should take the form of a preliminary timetable for the proposed cruise. Users should always bear in mind that vessel transits over a working year can take a considerable amount of time and expense and users should consult with colleagues who may wish to work within the same geographical area.
4. While the Marine Institute will always endeavour to give each vessel user the timeslot that they request, this is not always possible. A detailed ship-time schedule will be drawn up and circulated in mid-November 2008 and clients will be asked to confirm in writing that they are satisfied with the timeslot allocated to them. Once agreed, any changes from original requests cannot be guaranteed.
5. All users of the Marine Institute's research vessels will be charged a daily rate during 2009 as per the tables below.

Celtic Explorer	Service
€23,000	Commercial
€17,000	Research

Celtic Voyager	Service
€11,000	Commercial Rate
€8,000	Research (24 hrs operations)
€7,000	Research (12 hrs operations)

This will cover the cost of crewing, basic equipment requirements, victualling and fuel*. Users will be charged for any additional costs (e.g. cranaage or transportation costs) incurred by the Marine Institute whilst preparing for or undertaking the survey. These additional charges will be passed on to the client at cost.

* Users are advised that the *Celtic Explorer's* normal mode of operation is with one main engine operating in "silent mode". This is the most fuel efficient mode of operation for passage and survey. A second engine will only be employed during trawling operations or in the event of an emergency. If vessel users require vessel speeds in excess of normal operation mode, this must be agreed with Research Vessel Operations in advance. Users should note that the additional fuel costs incurred will be billed at cost. If increased passage speeds are required during the course of a survey the Chief Scientist should contact the RV Ops office or the RV Ops duty manager (outside working hours).

Please note the following Terms and Conditions:

- In the event of bad weather the full day rate will apply.
- In the event of user equipment failure, the full day rate will apply.
- One mobilisation day is allotted at the start of each survey to allow sufficient time for mobilisation which includes; loading and installation of vessel and user equipment, crew changes, bunkering, refuelling and other maintenance activities as required.
- One demobilisation day is allotted at the end of each survey to allow sufficient time for demobilisation which includes; loading and installation of vessel and user equipment, crew changes, bunkering, refuelling and other maintenance activities as required.
- Users may be required to accommodate the mobilisation of equipment for the proceeding user during their demobilisation day in order to help minimise mobilisation times.
- Mob/demob times may vary depending on the nature of the survey and other required mobilisation activities.
- While efforts will be made to facilitate early departure and/or late arrival, this cannot always be guaranteed and users should plan accordingly.
- Surveys on the *Celtic Explorer* exceeding 30 days will have one 24hr port call, this has been included in the above rate
- Surveys on the *Celtic Voyager* that exceed 14 days will require a port call.

3. Operational Information

6. Equipment requirements should be clearly indicated and limited to those actually needed. Allocation of certain items of equipment will be at the Marine Institute's discretion. Modification to, or unauthorised use of, equipment is forbidden. Vessel users should consult with Research Vessel Operations well in advance of a programme in order to ensure that requirements are clearly understood. Please note that vessel users' equipment and third party equipment used by the vessel user is carried and operated on the vessels at the equipment owner's risk.
7. When planning a programme, scientists must bear in mind that the services supplied by the vessels and associated personnel are not unlimited and should be confined to a purely support role. Non-vessel equipment logistics are the responsibility of the scientist.

8. If there is an intention to deploy any type of mooring equipment the Chief Scientist should submit a detailed description of the mooring rig and the proposed nature and location of deployment to the Vessel Manager 3 months in advance of the programme. The Chief Scientist should also arrange to have appropriate Marine Notices circulated. This can be done by contacting the Maritime Safety Directorate, Dept. of Transport: <http://www.transport.ie/marine/MaritimeSafetyDirectorate/index.asp?lang=ENG&loc=1933>.
9. If it is intended to carry out research onboard the vessel in foreign waters, a minimum notification of 6 months must be given. An 'Application for the Consent to Conduct Marine Scientific Research in Areas under National Jurisdiction of the United Kingdom' must be completed. Forms can be obtained by contacting Research Vessel Operations or downloaded from the Marine Institute website using the following link: <http://www.marine.ie/home/services/researchvessels/explorer/Vessel+User+Information.htm>
10. If it is intended to carry out research within the boundaries of the marine SACs, vessel users must contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service (www.npws.ie), Dept. of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, for further information on the exact locations of the sites and for permission to carry out marine scientific research within these areas.

4. The National Deepwater ROV

The Marine Institute has recently acquired a new 3000m rated deepwater ROV system. The ROV can be operated on the *Celtic Explorer* and may also be operated from other vessels of opportunity subject to RV Ops approval and the payment of additional mobilisation and demobilisation charges.

All users of the Marine Institute's ROV will be charged a daily rate during 2009 as per the table below.

ROV*	Service
€9,000	Commercial
€4,000	Research 12 hr Operations
€6,000	Research 24 hr Operations
€15,000	Fixed Mob and Demob Fee

**As the ROV is such a recent acquisition the above charter rates are approximate and are subject to change.*

Further information and technical specifications for the Marine Institute's Deepwater ROV will be available on the following link from the 1st of September onwards:

<http://www.marine.ie/home/services/researchvessels/>

Access to the ROV charter may be eligible for grant aid via the Marine Institute's Ship-time Funding Programme (See Section C Part II of the 2009 Funding Application Form).

5. Chief Scientists' Responsibilities

11. The Chief Scientist will be issued with a copy of the Vessel User Guidelines upon allocation of ship-time and it is his/her responsibility to ensure that each member of the scientific complement reads them. Each member of the scientific party must sign a form to indicate that they have read and agree to abide by the guidelines and the chief scientists should fax this back to Research Vessel Operations prior to the survey. Copies of the guidelines are also available onboard the vessel.

- 12.**A Safety Familiarisation briefing will take place on board the vessel before each survey commences. It is the Chief Scientist's responsibility to ensure that each member of the scientific complement attends.
- 13.**The Chief Scientist should ensure that all scientific personnel have undergone a medical assessment in accordance with the ENG 11 medical standard for those working at sea and that all scientists present their original up-to-date ENG 11 certificate on boarding the vessel. A list of certified medical practitioners who undertake the ENG11 medical can be found at <http://www.marine.ie/NR/rdonlyres/6B74C282-15E9-474C-8C45-5F01834895B1/0/ENG11.doc>
- 14.**The Chief Scientist should ensure that all scientific personnel have completed a Personal Sea Survival Techniques course (or equivalent STCW 95 compliant) before participating on scientific programmes. Details of organisations offering personal survival techniques courses can be obtained by contacting Research Vessel Operations or downloaded using the following link: <http://www.dcmnr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/35A3B16C-CE69-481D-A760-5BADCB42D237/0/marnot122005.doc>
- 15.**In the event of proposed use of any hazardous materials/chemicals the Chief Scientist should advise the Vessel Manager in writing and ensure that appropriate transport, storage and usage methods are adhered to. The Chief Scientist should also bring Material Safety Data Sheets onboard during mobilisation.
- 16.**The Chief Scientist should be aware of the crewing requirements for each vessel and take these into account when preparing sailing instructions.

The ***Celtic Explorer*** can accommodate a total of 31 people; the crewing requirements for various activities are given below.

Type of Survey	Crew	Scientists
Passive Survey	13	18
Fishing Survey	15	16

Surveys requiring deck operations at night require additional crew. Applicants are asked to be as specific as possible in detailing the amount of deck operations required over a 24hr period to allow Research Vessel Operations to determine the exact crewing requirements.

The ***Celtic Voyager*** can accommodate a total of 15 people; the crewing requirements for various activities are given below.

Type of Survey	Crew	Scientists
Passive Survey* 12 Hour operations	6	9
Passive Survey 24 Hour operations	7	8
Fishing Survey 12 or 24 operations	8	7

*Passive survey= survey which requires a limited amount of deck operations.

For student training 'day cruises' up to 12 students/scientists can be accommodated (without medical or additional training certification) when sailing on voyages within 30 nautical miles of land and in favourable weather conditions.

17. In the event of any difficulty, or reason for complaint while on board, the Chief Scientist should first address this to the Master of the vessel. In all other circumstances the scientist should contact Research Vessel Operations in the first instance at rv@marine.ie and should refer to the Vessel User Guidelines for information.

18. The Chief Scientist will be asked to complete and return a Post Cruise Appraisal Form on completion of the cruise to Research Vessel Operations. This form will be sent to the Chief Scientist via e-mail. Other members of the scientific complement are asked to complete a Customer Satisfaction Form which will be left in their cabins along with the Vessel User Guidelines. A post cruise report must also be submitted to Research Vessel Operations on completion of the cruise.

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURE & CLOSING DATE

Applications for vessel charter must be submitted using the appropriate **Application Form**. An electronic copy of the application form can be downloaded from <http://www.marine.ie/home/services/researchvessels/ApplyforShiptime.htm>

The closing date for receipt of applications is:

FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER 2008
--

Completed application forms should be posted or hand-delivered, to arrive no later than the date (above), to:

**Ship-Time Programme 2009
Research Vessel Operations
Marine Institute,
Rinville,
Oranmore,
Co. Galway.**

NOTE:

Applications that include a request for ship-time funding should refer to the specific requirements laid out in the **Guidelines for Applicants for Ship-Time Funding**. These are available to download from <http://www.marine.ie/home/funding/FundingCalls/opencalls/>.