



NATIONAL MARINE RESEARCH VESSELS

GUIDELINES FOR SHIP TIME APPLICANTS 2010

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 charters for 2010 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 2010 Ship-Time Programme are available on: <http://www.marine.ie/home/services/researchvessels/>.

Grant-Aid Support for Research Vessel Charter

Applicants may seek grant-aid to cover all or part of the vessel charter costs for the following types of activity:

- I. Dedicated undergraduate and/or postgraduate on-board **training programmes provided by** Higher Education Institutions within the island of Ireland; and
- II. **Research activity within defined thematic areas**, undertaken by research performing organisations (Higher Education Institutions, Public Research Bodies and industry) within the island of Ireland..

In the case of research activity, applicants will be expected to demonstrate how the proposed work addresses national priorities within the above themes and to provide clear evidence of expected deliverables/outputs. Collaborative and/or multi-disciplinary applications are encouraged.

Further information on grant-aid for ship-time is available on the Marine Institute's Funding Webpage <http://www.marine.ie/home/funding/FundingCalls/opencalls/>.

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

2.1 Ship-time requests for 2010 must be submitted via Research Vessel Operations online Survey Planning System. This system is accessed via the Marine Institute web site www.marine.ie. Please contact [RV Ops](#) to obtain a username and password to logon to the SPS. For more information on this system, visit <http://www.marine.ie/home/services/researchvessels/surveyplanningsystem>. Ship-time applications will only be considered on the basis of completed applications being submitted by **Tuesday 13th October 2009** (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 SPS application form, please bear in mind the following:

- i. Form should be completed in full.
- ii. 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. **Applicants applying for grant-aid to cover vessel charter costs must refer to the Grant-Aid Guidelines for additional application requirements. These are available to download from <http://www.marine.ie/home/funding/FundingCalls/opencalls/>.**

2.2. 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.

2.3 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 2009 and clients will be asked to confirm via SPS that they are satisfied with the timeslot allocated to them. Once agreed, any changes from original requests cannot be guaranteed.

2.4 All users of the Marine Institute’s research vessels will be charged a daily rate during 2010 as per the tables below.

Celtic Explorer	Service
€17,000	Research

Celtic Voyager	Service
€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. cranafe 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. When designing survey tracks users should be aware that vessel speeds can vary between 6 and 10 kts depending on weather conditions and vessel heading and should plan accordingly. 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 that available from normal mode, this should be arranged with RV Ops 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 nature of 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

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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 and Marine (www.transport.ie/marine/MaritimeSafetyDirectorate).
- 3.4 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 foreign waters' 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/surveyplanningsystem>.

- 3.5 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 2010 as per the table below.

ROV*	Service
€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 is available at: <http://www.marine.ie/home/services/researchvessels/>

ROV charter costs may be eligible for grant-aid support for qualifying applicants.

Further information on grant-aid support is available on the Marine Institute's Funding Webpage <http://www.marine.ie/home/funding/FundingCalls/opencalls/>.

5. Chief Scientists' Responsibilities

- 5.1 The Chief Scientist will receive 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 scientist should fax this back to Research Vessel Operations prior to the survey. Copies of the guidelines are also available onboard the vessel.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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>

If a scientist joining the survey is pregnant, she must obtain doctor's clearance to participate in the survey, which should include details of work involved and distance from the shore.

- 5.4 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>
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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 35 people; the crewing requirements for various activities are given below.

Type of Survey	Crew	Scientists
Passive Survey	14	21
Fishing Survey	16	19

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.

- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 The Chief Scientist will be asked to complete a Post Cruise Appraisal Form on completion of the cruise. SPS will remind the Chief Scientist to log on and complete this form. 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 via SPS.

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURE & CLOSING DATE

Applications for vessel charter must be submitted using the online Survey Planning System (<http://www.marine.ie/home/services/researchvessels/surveyplanningsystem>).

The closing date for receipt of applications is:

Tuesday 13th October 2009

NOTE:

Applicants applying for grant-aid to cover vessel charter costs **must** refer to the Grant-Aid Guidelines for additional application requirements. These are available to download from <http://www.marine.ie/home/funding/FundingCalls/opencalls/>. Please note the two-step procedure involved in this and the need to complete the SPS application in sufficient time.