“Ocean” and “Regional 1” selection meeting report

25.11.2010 Version 3

Grant Agreement n°228344

Acronym : EUROFLEETS

Title: Towards an alliance of European research fleets

Activity type: Networking Activities
WP N°: NA5
Task N°: 5.3
Deliverables N°: D 5.3 and D 5.4

Reference : EUROFLEETS-NA5-D5.3/D5.4-251110-V3
Security : Public

Document information	
Document Name	"Ocean" and "Regional 1" selection meeting report
Document ID	EUROFLEETS-NA5-D5.3/D5.4-251110-V3
Revision	V.3
Revision Date	25/11/2010
Author	AWI/Andreas Krell
Security	Public *as per DoW*

Approvals				
	Name	**Organisation**	**Date**	**Visa**
Coordinator				
Activity Coordinator				
WP Leaders	Karin Lochte	AWI	25.11.2010	

History			
Revision	**Date**	**Modification**	**Author**
1	29.09.2010	First release	Andreas Krell
2	28.10.2010	Update of the document	Andreas Krell
3	25.11.2010	Corrections	Andreas Krell

Diffusion list				

Contents

Contents 3
1. NA5, SRP and LRP working procedure and results 3
1.1. General description of the evaluation procedure 3
1.2. Evaluation results 6
2. Appendix I – Scientific Review Panel Inter-ranking “Ocean” call 9
3. Appendix II - Scientific Review Panel Inter-ranking “Regional 1” call 11
4. Appendix III - Logistics Review Panel recommendations for scheduling 12

1. NA5, SRP and LRP working procedure and results

This report will treat the two Deliverables D5.3 “Ocean” selection meeting report and D5.4 “Regional 1” selection meeting report together, since both calls and the ensuing evaluation and selection procedures were run in parallel.

The EUROFLEETS Work Package NA5 is primarily dedicated to define common procedures and criteria for user access to the infrastructures provided through the EUROFLEETS Trans National Access (TNA) activities. It is devoted to the practical management of the three calls to be organised under the TNA activities: “Ocean” (TNA1), “Regional 1” and “Regional 2” (TNA2). In this context, Task 5.3 encompasses the organisation of a number of meetings dedicated to the scientific peer review of proposals and a logistics review for research vessel and ship-time allocation.

The foundation for the evaluation and review procedure was already laid by the establishment of the EUROFLEETS Scientific Review Panel (SRP) and the finalisation of the call documents including scientific review criteria. Following the recommendations made during a joint NA5/SRP meeting on the 9th of February 2010 in Paris, a few alterations were made to the call documents and the actual calls “Ocean” and “Regional 1” were opened as planned on the 4th of March 2010. Deadline for the submission of full proposals was Monday 31st of May at 18:00 hours Central European Time (CET).

1.1. General description of the evaluation procedure

The EUROFLEETS evaluation procedure is based upon the best experiences from different European ship-time application and evaluation procedures further considering general European Science Foundation (ESF) as well as European Commission evaluation procedures. Figure 1 below outlines the different stages of the evaluation procedure and the bodies involved in the execution of respective tasks. Upon call closure the first step is to check if proposals meet the eligibility criteria put forward in the “EUROFLEETS Guidelines for Applicants “Ocean” and “Regional 1” Call 2010”, which is carried out by the EUROFLEETS Evaluation Office (EO). If proposals fail to meet the elibility criteria they are excluded from the further evaluation process and the decision to reject the proposal is taken

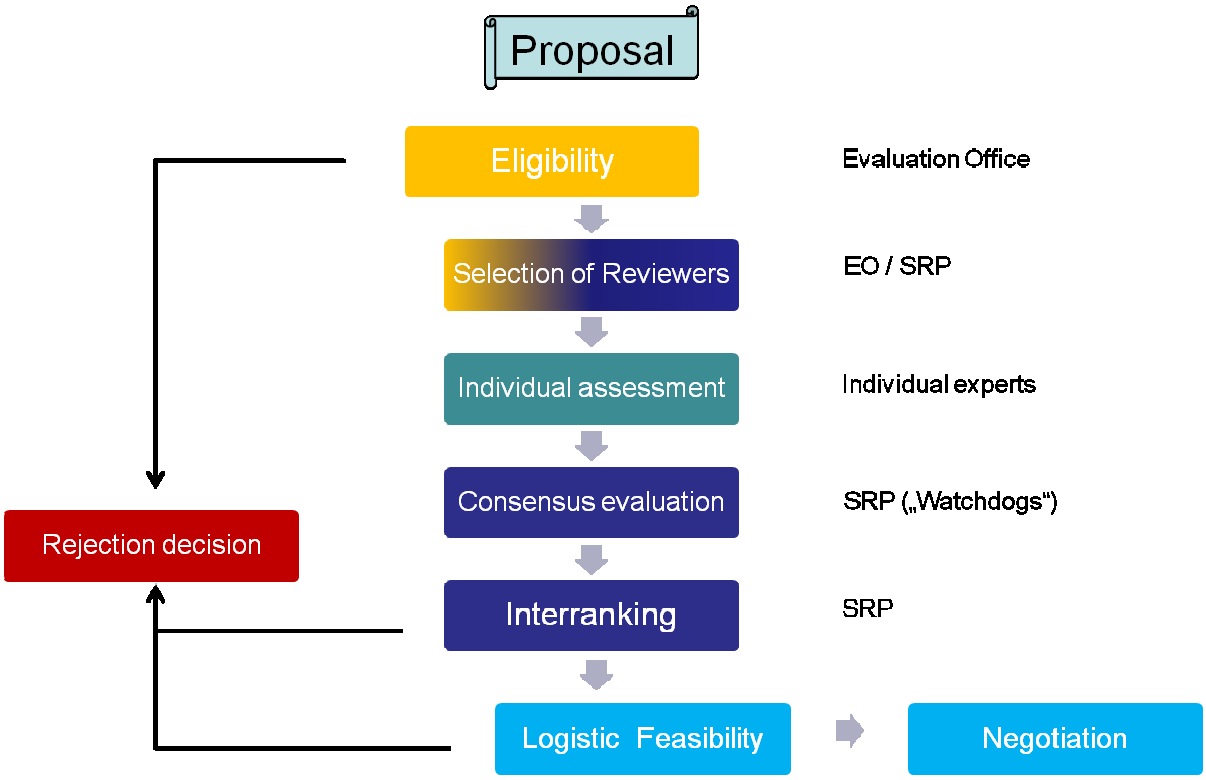

Figure 1: Work flow and different steps involved in the EUROFLEETS evaluation procedure

by the SRP. Following this, a so called "watchdog", i.e. a member of the SRP, who is an expert on the respective proposal topic, is allocated to each proposal by the chair of the SRP and the EO. The idea behind this concept is that the "watchdog" accompanies the proposals he/she is responsible for throughout the different steps of the evaluation process and if the proposal is successful, even afterwards for reporting. The first task of a "watchdog" in this respect is to recommend and suggest suitable reviewers for the individual assessment of proposals, which. In principle the review is carried out by three individual experts for each proposal. With regard to this task the "watchdog" is supported by the EO which contacts the suggested reviewers and surveys the preparation and reception of individual assessments. Reviewers were asked to hand in their individual assessments by the 15th of August and the SRP Consensus Evaluation meeting was held in Brussels on the 26th and 27th of August. During this meeting, the following working principles and procedures were agreed upon and applied:

- Conflict of interest

  In case of conflict of interest of any of the SRP members, either being a Principal Investigator (PI) or partner on a proposal, or belonging to an institution involved in the proposal under discussion, the SRP member is requested to leave the room.

- Missing reviews

  In case not all three requested reviews are available, the following routine is applied: If two reviews are available and there is agreement on the proposal evaluation results, the proposal is discussed and a final decision is made in the consensus meeting. In case two reviews deviate considerably, a third review is requested in order to obtain a final judgement on the proposal.

  If only one review is available, the proposal is discussed, however a decision on this proposal is postponed until at least one more review is available. In these cases the new reviews are circulated and a final judgement is taken by e-mail.

- Feedback to applicants

  Applicants receive a Consensus Evaluation Report (CER), which is prepared by the "watchdog" of the respective proposal, based upon the existing individual reviews and taking into account comments and judgements made during the SRP discussion. The CER shall not contain any scores and use a common Consensus Evaluation Form provided by the EO.

The actual evaluation of proposals was carried out in a two step process. In a first round, all proposals for which at least two reviews were available were discussed according to the scientific criteria. Further secondary criteria, like the involvement of countries with less access to marine infrastructure (though a proper definition remains open) and new user groups, the age/position of the PI, female applicants and, if applicable, the potential use of remote access by shore based scientists were also taken into account. The watchdog gave a report and commented on the received reviews for a given proposal followed by an open discussion. In a second round the proposals were assigned to categories defined previously in the Guidelines for Applicants:

- A - Recommended for scheduling
- B - Additional proposals
- C - Not recommended

If several proposals for one ship attained the category A an inter-ranking amongst these proposals was carried out.

As a result of these discussions a table of inter-ranked proposals was produced and forwarded to the EUROFLEETS Logistic Review Panel (LRP) as the basis for their discussion. The LRP meeting took place on the 13th of September in Athens.

The SRP though not its main task, already gave some suggestions and recommendations regarding logistical aspects, such as use of large equipment and placement of proposals on most suitable research vessels, which were taken into account by the LRP.

1.2. Evaluation results

A total of 40 full proposals were submitted by the above mentioned deadline. Two applications were rejected, since they did not meet the eligibility criteria in terms of requested proposal structure. Of the 38 eligible proposals, 23 requested ship-time on an Ocean/ Global class vessel (a total of 226 days) and 15 proposals were dedicated towards a Regional class vessel (a total of 138 days). The distribution amongst the different research vessels is shown in table 1. As it was the case for the Expressions of Interest (EOI, please refer to the Deliverable 5.1 "Call definition and selction criteria report" and M9 Interim report) some Regional class RVs were not requested at all as a first choice vessels, namely RV *Aegaeo*, RV *Belgica*, RV *Heincke* and RV *Mare Nigrum*, the proposal requesting ship-time on RV *Oceania* had to be rejected since it did not meet the eligibility criteria. In general, Global/Ocean class RVs received more proposals than Regional RVs, clearly revealing a much stronger interest in access to large infrastructures, which confirms the trend already shown by the EOIs. The RV *Marion Dufresne* received most proposals and this high demand was related to the fact that it is the only RV capable of deploying the "Calypso" corer. This corer is able to retrieve very long cores of up to 70m and is therefore of high interest, especially for paleaoceanographers. Other large equipment on offer was less in demand, e.g. the use of Nautile, or the ROV Holland 1. RV *Polarstern* was only requested once, which might be related to the fact that the area of operation and availability was more restricted than was the case for other Global/Ocean class RVs.

Table 1:
Number of full proposals requesting ship-time on the research vessels available in EUROFLEETS.

Research vessel	Proposals	Research vessel	Proposals
L'Atalante	6	*Akademik*	2
Celtic Explorer	4	*Bilim 2*	1
Marion Dufresne	8	*Celtic Voyager*	2
OGS-Explora	4	*Dom Carlos I*	3
Polarstern	1	*Garcia del Cid*	2
		Ramon Margalef	1
		Salme	1
		Urania	3

The tendency already perceived from the submitted EOIs, that most of the proposals requested ship-time for a geology-related project, was confirmed at the full proposal stage with more than two thirds of the eligible proposals submitted related to the field of geosciences.

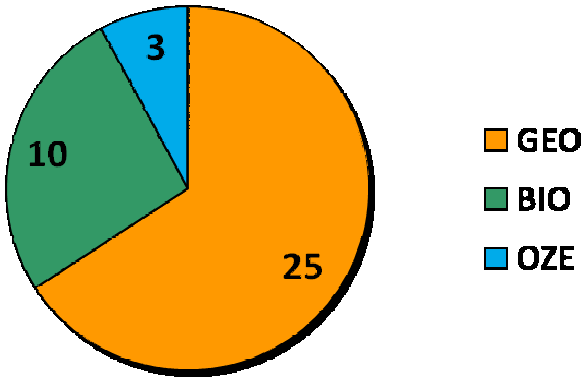

Figure 2: Distribution of full proposals in major scientific disciplines.

The different steps of the evaluation procedure were accomplished as described above. However a couple of problems arose during the process, namely the recruitment of suitable reviewers, with often approaching two to four reviewers before receiving a positive answer or receiving reviews very late. This might be in large part explained by the timing of the evaluation process -stipulated by the DoW- during peak holiday season in August. At the time of the SRP Consensus meeting 86 of the necessary 114 reviews were available. Therefore, the decision on a number of proposals had to be postponed and inter-ranking of proposals could not be completed for all RVs. Owing to concerted efforts of the SRP members and the EO within the following two weeks, 17 more reviews were received reaching a total of 103 of 114 needed (90%). In this way, all proposals received a sound foundation for the consensus judgement of the SRP. After careful consideration of the reviews and taking into account the above mentioned secondary criteria, the SRP concluded on the inter-ranking of proposals as depicted in Appendix I and II.

To summarise, of the 23 proposals requesting ship-time on a Global/Ocean class research vessel, 18 projects were evaluated as A – recommended for scheduling - and 5 were not recommended ("success rate" 78%). Within the Regional class proposals only 7 out of 15 projects passed the scientific evaluation ("success rate" 47%). These numbers reflect the impression perceived by the SRP members that proposals asking for ship-time on Global/Ocean class research vessels were of higher scientific quality and prepared in a more professional manner. In the case of the Regional class vessels, the detailed feedback provided to applicants via the Consensus Evaluation Report will allow proponents to submit an improved proposal to the "Regional 2" call, in turn leading to better results for the second call. The tables of inter-ranked proposals (Appendix I and II) were passed on to the chair of the LRP for the preparation of the LRP meeting.

The LRP meeting took place on the 13th of September and was divided into two sessions, one for the Global/Ocean class RVs and the second dedicated towards the Regional class RVs. Following call closure, logistical details of all submitted proposals were sent to the respective ship-operators requesting a short assessment of the logistical feasibility of the proposals. This first estimation was in many cases still valid and proved to be very helpful in the preparation of the meeting. The placement of proposals on RV *Celtic Explorer*, RV *OGS-Explora* and RV *Polarstern* was straightforward; in all cases the highest ranked proposal

could be accommodated. Available ship-time on RV *Celtic Explorer* could even be extended, since the user group will provide its own ROV, thus releasing funds originally foreseen for the use of the ROV Holland 1. This was not the case for RV *Marion Dufresne* and RV *L'Atalante* since the investigation area envisaged in the well ranked proposals did not match up with the ships scheduled area of operation. This was especially true for RV *L'Atalante* where none of the proposals originally requiring this RV could be accommodated. However, it turned out, that a project requesting ship-time on a Regional class vessel was much more suitable to fit on RV *L'Atalante*. In case of RV *Marion Dufresne*, although the highest ranked proposal could not be placed, due to mismatch between timing and area of operation, the second ranked proposal was chosen. Moreover, one further well ranked project could be placed taking advantage of minimising passage time between stations for the two amalgamated projects. This way a total of **6 projects** could be allocated **on Global/Ocean class research vessels** (Appendix III) representing **77 days of funded ship-time**.

The session on Regional class vessels was equally effective in matching successful high ranked proposals with a suitable research vessel. For RV *Urania*, RV *Garcia del Cid* and RV *Akademik*, the highest evaluated proposals could in all cases be accommodated without any problem. One further proposal originally requesting ship-time on RV *Akademik* was strongly recommended to get funded even on a different ship and since the envisaged investigation area was located in the EEZs of Romania and Bulgaria, it was decided to split the cruise into two legs one scheduled on RV *Akademik* and the second on RV *Mare Nigrum*. Both legs will be accomplished back-to-back, to avoid additional travel costs. A project initially requesting ship-time on RV *L'Atalante* was placed on RV *Dom Carlos I*, since investigation area and required equipment to conduct the work programme were more suitable on a Regional class vessel. Conversely, as described above, a project requesting RV *Dom Carlos I* was placed on RV *L'Atalante*. Taking advantage of the fact that RV *Ramon Margalef* will be in service by mid 2011, one project could already be accommodated on this vessel. In total **6 projects on Regional class vessels** (Appendix III) will be realised through funding provided by the EUROFLEETS project amounting to **41.5 days of funded ship-time**.

As a result 12 highly ranked projects chosen from 38 eligible received projects ("success rate" 32%) will get access to 118.5 days at sea fully funded by EC.

Overall, both review panels accomplished their respective tasks in a very professional and comprehensive manner, valorising their members' large experience and expertise in various scientific disciplines as well as in research vessel operation. The partition into two steps, to have a thorough and sound scientific evaluation of proposals before taking into account any logistical considerations, guarantees high quality and feasibility of the process. It became obvious that an evaluation process on a Pan-European level fostered the impartiality of the bodies involved since they are more detached from national considerations. Furthermore, the LRP meeting was very successful and efficient in placing well ranked proposals of high scientific quality on suitable ships taking advantage of the inherent flexibility of a dispersed but coherently managed research vessel infrastructure.

2. Appendix I – Scientific Review Panel Inter-ranking "Ocean" call

sid	RV class	"Watchdog"	Project title	Acronym	Ship 1	Ship 2	Ranking	Remarks
33	Global/Ocean	Reverdin, Gilles	Impacts of Sub-seabed CO2 storage on Marine Ecosystems in the North Sea	ECO2@NorthSea	Celtic Explorer	L'Atalante	**A1**	
43	Global/Ocean	Lips, Urmas	Sub-tropical Atlantic surface salinity extremum	STRASSE	Celtic Explorer	Belgica	**A2**	
31	Global/Ocean	Reverdin, Gilles	Sampling the Atlantis Massif: Peridotite, Life and Serpentinisation- A site survey of young mafic and ultramafic seafloor	SAMPLS	Celtic Explorer	L'Atalante	**A3/B**	
32	Global/Ocean	Echevarría, Fidel	Mantle melting and crust production in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge under influence of Azores hotspot: a case of study at KP-5 segment (, 37.5ºN)	MELT KP5	Celtic Explorer	L'Atalante	**C**	
48	Global/Ocean	Lochte, Karin	The sulphophilic stage of mammal carcasses colonization in the deep Atlantic Ocean	CARCACE S	L'Atalante	Celtic Explorer	**A1**	under precondition, that whale carcasses are available and if logistical feasible (2 legs of 3 days)
8	Global/Ocean	Węsławski, Jan Marcin	Diazotrophic pico-cyanobacteria in the North Atlantic open ocean: their abundance and importance as a source of new nitrogen at the Azores Current Front.	DIAPICNA	L'Atalante	Dom Carlos I	**A**	Recommended as A1 on Dom Carlos I, since planned work and requested equipment can be accommodated by a regional class vessel
14	Global/Ocean	Pinheiro, Luis Menezes	The Malta Escarpment: Submarine canyon morphology, processes and evolution	MESE	L'Atalante	OGS-Explora	**A2**	clarification if Nautile needed or work can be carried out with a ROV / if multibeam sufficient OGS Explorer is a equal option. Rank A3 on OGS Explora. Makes use of remote access
6	Global/Ocean	Lochte, Karin	Biogeochemical Regulation and INteractions among Element cycles in hypersaline marine basins and Seeps	BRINES	L'Atalante	L'Atalante	**A3/B**	
39	Global/Ocean	Pinheiro, Luis Menezes	Investigating the Sicily Channel: an example of intraplate rifting	TERSIC	L'Atalante	Marion Dufresne	**C**	

28	Global/Ocean	Lochte, Karin	The SWIM-Gloria plate boundary Faults connection: its importance on the propagation of tectonic deformation and deep water ecosystems along the Azores-Gibraltar plate boundary	SWIMGLO	L'Atalante	OGS-Explora	**C**	
26	Global/Ocean	de Santis, Laura	Current Imprint on Carbonate Platform Stratigraphy	CURRIM	Marion Dufresne	L'Atalante	**A1**	Could be carried out with L'Atalante without compromising scientific goals to a large extent
20	Global/Ocean	de Santis, Laura	The Mediterranean-Atlantic Gateway Code - The Late Pleistocene Carbonate Mound Record	GATEWAY	Marion Dufresne	L'Atalante	**A2**	Involvement of Canada and Morocco
10	Global/Ocean	de Santis, Laura	Past Dynamics of the Azores Frontal System	Daisy	Marion Dufresne	Polarstern	**A2/3**	Proposal should be combined with 015 TORE, relies heavily on Calypso Corer
15	Global/Ocean	Parsons, Aengus	Tore Oceanic Reservoir Environment	TORE	Marion Dufresne	L'Atalante	**A4**	Proposal should be combined with 010 Daisy
50	Global/Ocean	Henriet, Jean-Pierre	Coring Mozambique and Madagascar Margins for Palaeoceanography	COMOMAMA	Marion Dufresne		**A5**	
25	Global/Ocean	Henriet, Jean-Pierre	Surface and intermediate water variability in Yucatan Strait and the Gulf of Mexico	Yucatan	Marion Dufresne		**A6**	
4	Global/Ocean	Henriet, Jean-Pierre	Last deglaciation of the Svalbard/Barents Sea Ice Sheet	DEGLASBIS	Marion Dufresne	Celtic Explorer	**A7**	Because of drop-stones in the investigation area use of the Calypso corer is difficult/not recommended
12	Global/Ocean	Reverdin, Gilles	Subsiding CARbonate platforms: catch-Up or give-up and the role of the SOuth Equatorial Current (Saya de Malha Bank, Indian Ocean)	CARUSO	Marion Dufresne		**B**	
18	Global/Ocean	de Santis, Laura	Calabrian Arc Geophysical Experiment	CAGE	OGS-Explora		**A2**	Involvement from Croatia
19	Global/Ocean	Henriet, Jean-Pierre	Salt deformation and sub-salt fluid circulation in the Algero-Balearic abyssal plain	SALTFLU	OGS-Explora	Urania	**A1**	
38	Global/Ocean	Palazov, Atanas	Moroccan AlBOran high Resolution Oceanographic survey	MARLBORO-2	OGS-Explora		**A3**	Multidisciplinary, Participation from Morocco
34	Global/Ocean	Lochte, Karin	Marine Geological Investigations in Melville Bugt – Quaternary development, climate change and seabed processes	GIMEQ	OGS-Explora	L'Atalante	**C**	
7	Global/Ocean	Echevarría, Fidel	Sources and transformation of coloured dissolved organic material (CDOM) along in the Atlantic Ocean	ATLANTIC-CDOM	Polarstern		**A1**	positive young scientist as PI

3. Appendix II - Scientific Review Panel Inter-ranking "Regional 1" call

sid	RV class	"Watchdog"	Project title	Acronym	Ship 1	Ship 2	Ranking	Remarks
16	Regional	Pinheiro, Luis Menezes	SPUX - Spatial methane flux quantification from a pockmark area in the Black Sea	SPUX	Akademik		**A1**	
13	Regional	Lips, Urmas	Bio-Optics for Ocean Color Remote Sensing of the Black Sea	BIO-OPT	Akademik		**A2**	Recommendation to accommodate even on a different ship, Participation of Turkey and Ukrainia
42	Regional	Echevarría, Fidel	Population genetic structure, life-history and morphology of Black Sea Turbot Psetta (maxima) maiotica and Brill Scophthalmus rhombus.	TURPOP	Bilim 2	Akademik	**C**	
24	Regional	Pinheiro, Luis Menezes	Sediment Wave Evolution and Amplified Development in the Irish Sea	SWEADIS	Celtic Voyager	Ramon Margalef	**B**	Resubmission recommended
30	Regional	Echevarría, Fidel	Is there a correlation between genetic diversity and ecotox pressure with Flatfish in the Irish Sea?	GENDIV	Celtic Voyager	Celtic Explorer	**C**	
29	Regional	Lips, Urmas	Features of Azores and Italian Volcanic Islands	FAIVI	Dom Carlos	Ramon Margalef	**A2**	A1 is at present proposal global 08 DIAPICNA. To many days requested, not feasible if no additional funding available
23	Regional	Palazov, Atanas	Early path and transformations of the Mediterranean outflow	MEDOUT-2012	Dom Carlos	Celtic Voyager	**B**	
21	Regional	Henriet, Jean-Pierre	SW Extent of the Last Ice Sheet on the European Atlantic Margin	SW-ICE	Dom Carlos	Celtic Voyager	**C**	
17	Regional	Węsławski, Jan Marcin	Carbonate-shelled zooplankton along the western Iberian margin: Genetic diversity and stable isotope signals	Iberia-Forams	Garcia del Cid	Ramon Margalef	**A1**	
49	Regional	Węsławski, Jan Marcin	Long-term effects of continued trawling on deep-water muddy grounds	IMPACT	Garcia del Cid		**A2**	
35	Regional	Palazov, Atanas	Sea trials of newly develop deep sea messenger buoy systems	DRUMB	Ramon Margalef	Urania	**A2**	Logistics Panel should accommodate 2 legs of 3 days on either ship

37	Regional	Węsławski, Jan Marcin	Impact of anthropogenical pollution and climate changes on sentinel organisms of the Baltic Sea coastal ecosystem	OSMOTOBE	Salme	Oceania	**B**	Decision postponed, PI from Latvia
47	Regional	Parsons, Aengus	The Panarea natural CO2 seeps: fate and impact of the leaking gas	PaCO2	Urania	Aegaeo	**A1**	
22	Regional	Parsons, Aengus	Submarine salt glaciers: Atlantis II Deep, Red Sea	SaFAD	Urania	L'Atalante	**C**	
44	Regional	de Santis, Laura	Coastal Paleogeographies and Human Occupation since Late Glacial Maximum between Corfu and Epirus (Greece)	CoPaHO	Urania	Aegaeo	**C**	Resubmission recommended

4. Appendix III - Logistics Review Panel recommendations for scheduling

Global/Ocean class

Global/Ocean Vessels	Application Ref No	Lead organisation	Cruise name	Scientific ranking	Timing	Duration (Days)
Polarstern	No. 7	Polish Academy of Science	Atlantic CDOM	A1	Autumn 2011or Spring 2012	28
Celtic Explorer	No.33	Leibniz Institute of Marine Science, IFM GEOMAR	ECO2@NORTH SEA	A1	April- Sept 2012	18
Marion Dufresne	No. 15	Laboratorio Nacional de Energia e Geologia	TORE	A4	Summer 2012	2
Marion Dufresne	No.20	Ghent University	Gateway	A2	Summer 2012	5
L'Atalante	No.29	University of Rome	FIAVI	A2	Summer/Spring 2011 or 2012	13
OGS-Explora	No. 19	ICREA University of Barcelona	SALTFLU	A1	2011 or 2012	11
					Total funded Days	**77**

Regional class

Regional vessels	Application Ref No	Lead organisation	Cruise name	Scientific ranking	Timing	Duration (Days)
Akademik	No .16	NIOZ	SPUX	A1	August/Sept 2011	8
Akademik	No.13	Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS)	BIO-OPT	A2	Spring/Summer 2011	3.5
Garcia del Cid	No.17	Laboratorio Nacional de Energia e Geologia	Iberia Forams	A1	Summer/Winter 2011	6
Urania	No.47	Leibniz Institute of Marine Science, IFM GEOMAR	PaCo2	A1	2011 July	5
Dom Carlos 1	N0.8	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	DIAPICNA	A1	Spring 2011	8
Ramon Margalef	No.35	Ifremer	DRUMB	A2	Spring /Summer 2012	6
Mare Nigrum	No.13	Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS)	Bio-Opt	A2	Spring/Summer 2011	5
					Total funded Days	**41.5**