

## **Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) UK meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014, Marine Scotland Aberdeen**

### **Present:**

Ian Johnston - University of St Andrews;  
Colin Brownlee - Marine Biological Association;  
Colin Moffat, Francis Neat, Martyn Cox – Marine Scotland

**Apologies:** Andrew Brown – Marine Scotland

### **Working of EMBRC**

1. It was agreed that the UK partners needed to function as an 'EMBRC UK' node. This group would form that node so that future decisions could be reached on necessary positions to take at EMBRC Implementation Board (IB) meetings and in resourcing the UK subscription.  
**ACTION:** contact Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) and British Antarctic Survey (BAS) to confirm representatives.
2. EMBRC Implementation Board – had met on 12<sup>th</sup> June and agreed to establish a process to select the host country. A further meeting was due in October to make the decision.
3. IJ reported on the large amount of work undertaken during the EMBRC 3 year Preparatory Phase. This had included developing terms of reference for various groups and ways of working. This good work should be remembered as the Working Groups took their work forward.
  - a. EMBRC Business Planning Working Group (1) – CB confirmed there hadn't been any communications to date.
  - b. EMBRC Statutes and Governance Working Group (2) – an initial e-mail had been received asking for contributions to the terms of Reference.  
**ACTION:** FN will reply pointing to work already carried out.
  - c. EMBRC Host Country Working Group (3) – CM had been involved. The WG had only worked by correspondence and had finalized the criteria for determining the host country. Presentations, expected from France, Italy and Portugal, would be made at a meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September (Brussels) CM was attending. An EMBRC IB meeting was due in October to make the host country decision.

### **UK involvement**

4. It was expected that the level of the annual subscription would be known about 6 months after the host country decision, with the first demand about a further 6 months later. Marine Scotland would arrange to collect UK sums and forward to EMBRC when required. The need for a UK MoU between the partners would be considered then.
5. Requests to be an EMBRC partner would be considered as EMBRC developed its ways of working. It was noted that there were advantages and disadvantages in widening membership that would need to be balanced. Additions to the node would be to strengthen it and have suitable facilities available for others.

## **Communication**

6. Inform BIS and NERC of host country decision in due course.
7. Metrics on the success of EMBRC would be collected and could be used to demonstrate its benefits in due course.
8. MSCC to be informed of EMBRC & EMBRC UK at September meeting with short update to be presented to March 2015 meeting.  
**ACTION:** Marine Scotland to develop a short flyer (in its Topic Sheet series) to explain the work of EMBRC and the EMBRC UK arrangements and contact points. Also to create a web presence as part of Marine Scotland web page on which minutes such as these would be posted to keep the UK process open and transparent

## **Next meeting**

9. Late November
10. Possible teleconference call prior to October IB meeting.

## **Martyn Cox**

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