

RV Investigator Voyage Deliverables



CONTENTS

1. Purpose	1
2. Background	1
3. Marine National Facility (MNF)	1
4. RV <i>Investigator</i>	1
4.1. MNF Granted Voyages (GV)	2
4.2. MNF User-Funded Voyages (UFV).....	2
5. Governance	2
5.1. Marine National Facility Steering Committee (MNF SC).....	2
5.2. MNF Ship Management Group	2
6. Voyage Outputs & Outcomes	3
7. Marketing.....	3
8. Data	3
9. Research publications and information products.....	3
10. Samples	4
11. Voyage reports.....	4

1. Purpose

This document articulates the Marine National Facility (MNF) Policy relating to voyage deliverables on MNF Granted Voyages (GV).

2. Background

With two thirds of Australia underwater, at nearly 14 million km², we have the third largest marine jurisdiction globally and Australia has sovereign rights over much of this vast estate and associated fishing, mineral and petroleum resources. These resources and their associated industries underpin the vitality and sustained success of the Australian economy. For example, in 2009 the national value of production across all marine-based industries was valued at AU\$42.3 billion, contributing to more than 10% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. This contribution is expected to increase significantly over the coming years to approximately AU\$100 billion by 2025 through the expansion of existing and new industries associated with renewable energy (e.g. waves, wind and tide) and food (e.g. aquaculture and fisheries). Underpinning the growth and sustainability of ocean-based industries for future generations, marine research supports and informs evidence-based decisions by all stakeholders.

3. Marine National Facility (MNF)

Funded by the Australian Government since 1984 and overseen by an independent Steering Committee, the MNF provides a keystone element of the nation's research infrastructure by providing a blue-water research capability to Australian marine researchers and their international collaborators for work in Australia's vast marine estate. Through merit based grants of sea time, research undertaken through the MNF contributes to Australia's national benefit, and, through the research users of the MNF, provide key information to government, industry and other stakeholders to support evidence-based decision-making. Research use is focused on challenges in fisheries management, geological resources, regional and global climate, coastal and offshore developments and marine operations.

4. RV Investigator

In 2014 the MNF commissioned a new purpose-built 94m multi-purpose research vessel *Investigator*, providing a step change in Australian marine and atmospheric research capability. *Investigator* has greatly increased capacity over the previous MNF vessel *Southern Surveyor* and can carry out voyages from the tropics to the Antarctic ice edge with up to 40 scientists on-board and spending up to 300 days per year at sea on voyages up to 60 days in duration. *Investigator* also hosts an extensive suite of state of the art scientific research equipment and is one of a handful of research vessels globally designed for very quiet operation with the ability to undertake acoustic mapping and sampling to the deepest parts of our oceans. Accordingly, the commissioning of *Investigator* has significantly increased the ability of the MNF to address rapidly increasing demand in the national interest.

4.1. MNF Granted Voyages (GV)

In May 2014 the Australian Government reaffirmed a commitment to the MNF, allocating AU\$65.7million over the next four years to operate *Investigator*. This funding allows approximately 180 days at sea per year to be competitively funded on merit as Granted Voyages (GV) which is the fundamental principle underpinning the establishment of the Marine National Facility.

MNF Granted Voyages are expected to comply in full with the requirements of this policy.

4.2. MNF User-Funded Voyages (UFV)

Given *Investigator's* capacity to provide up to 300 days per year at sea, the MNF can provide additional days through other arrangements to maximise research in the national interest. Currently, the MNF funding for 180 GV days creates significant opportunities to utilise up to 120 additional days at sea as UFV within each annual research schedule.

Some UFV proponents may seek exemptions from the requirements detailed below. Requests for exemption will be considered in accordance with the [Principles of Access to *Investigator*](#) policy, and may impact on the risk rating and subsequent costing of any sea time offered.

5. Governance

5.1. Marine National Facility Steering Committee (MNF SC)

Investigator's operation as a MNF is the responsibility of an independent Steering Committee appointed by the CSIRO Board.

One of the key roles of the MNF SC is to provide high-level advice to the MNF Director and more broadly, to CSIRO on allocation of time on the Facility.

For further information on the MNF SC please visit the [Marine National Facility website](#).

5.2. MNF Ship Management Group

The MNF Ship Management Group (MNF Director's office) oversees the operation of the vessel and works with vessel users. The group also manages the MNF application process and develops voyage schedules for the Steering Committee.

For further information on the MNF Ship Management Group please visit the [Marine National Facility website](#).

6. Voyage Outputs & Outcomes

The outputs and outcomes of research voyages are the deliverables from the voyage and include:

- Marketing products;
- Data;
- Research publications and information products;
- Samples; and
- Voyage reports.

These deliverables represent the return on the investment made by the participating organisations and the Marine National Facility (MNF), on behalf of the Australian Government.

Demonstrating what has been achieved on research voyages is very important for the ongoing support of the MNF.

The reporting of outcomes also reflects on the researchers who carry out the work, their parent organisation and the MNF.

7. Marketing

It is very important we tell people what we do, what has been found and why the work is important. Promotion of activities and outcomes by participating organisations is encouraged. All media activities associated with the MNF voyages must first be approved by CSIRO.

8. Data

All scientific data collected on board the vessel for research and transit voyages must be made publicly available as soon as possible and at most within 12 months by the Principal Investigator(s) after each voyage. These data must include data and metadata that is compliant with the Marine Community Profile (MCP) of the ISO19115 standard.

Under exceptional circumstances, the MNF Steering Committee will consider a GV Chief Scientist's or Lead Principal Investigator's request to embargo data for a period of up to two years; however, such requests will require a compelling case.

Data publishing compliance will be taken into account when considering future allocations of ship time.

9. Research publications and information products

Research publications and other information products that are developed from work carried out on a voyage are a valuable record of research outcomes.

Details of publications and other information products are to be provided to the MNF in an appropriate format following a voyage and will be made publicly available on the MNF website.

Publication and information product details are to be submitted as soon as possible after their completion.

10. Samples

Samples removed from the vessel are a valuable resource as they are expensive to collect and often irreplaceable.

Where samples removed from the vessel can be curated they must be accessible to other researchers. Samples can be lodged in a national repository where one exists or else curated by the Chief Scientist's host organisation for at least seven years after the voyage on which they were collected.

11. Voyage reports

Information from voyage reports is used in a variety of ways and provides a valuable summary for the public, researchers and decision makers.

Voyage reports are to be completed and submitted to the MNF within the specified period.