

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### MARINE NATIONAL FACILITY STEERING COMMITTEE

#### Primary Voyage Schedules

##### Primary Voyage Schedules

The Marine National Facility (MNF) Steering Committee is pleased to announce a three year primary voyage schedule for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. The next call for primary applications is planned in July 2015 for the 2017-18 scheduling year.

In developing the voyage schedules, Steering Committee has considered options to maximise research which can be undertaken through the MNF schedule. Specifically, with the current three-year schedule there is an opportunity to use a charter vessel for two MNF voyages based from Darwin to service deep sea mooring installations. With other *Investigator* voyages located in more southern waters around Australia, the charter vessel option reduces *Investigator's* transit requirements allowing an additional 50-day voyage to be included on *Investigator*. This also provides the advantage of allowing *Investigator* to spend more time based in home port of Hobart, as well as geographically positioning the vessel for potential research charter work in the southern Australian region.

Steering Committee has decided to call for supplementary applications for both the 2015-16 and 2016-17 primary schedules in the coming months which will offer the marine community additional opportunities on *Investigator*. To maintain operational flexibility during *Investigator's* commissioning year, supplementary projects will not be included on voyages in the 2014-15 schedule.

It is important to note that primary voyage schedules are subject to the supplementary applications process. The primary voyage and transit dates shown for 2015-16 and 2016-17 are therefore potentially subject to small adjustments where opportunity exists to include supplementary projects which expand the research undertaken on *Investigator*.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the marine community for their patience, support and flexibility throughout this transition period. It has taken longer than expected, however, Australia now has a world-leading purpose built research vessel providing a step change in Australian marine and atmospheric research capability to significantly enhance our understanding of our oceans and seas.

##### Welcome to Port Celebrations

I am also pleased to advise that a date has been set for the official Welcome to Port Celebrations for *Investigator* on Friday 12 December 2014.

This will be a celebration of the collaboration, foresight and hard work invested by Australia's marine science community over the past decade, which culminated in the delivery of *Investigator*.

At the event, *Investigator* will formally be handed over from the CSIRO's Future Research Vessel Project to the Marine National Facility, for use as Australia's ocean going national research vessel.

The event will be held at CSIRO's Marine Laboratories in Hobart, with a formal function followed by an open day for the general public. Further details will be available closer to the event.

**Dr Ian Poiner**  
Chair  
Marine National Facility

26 November 2014

