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# **SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## Marine National Facility Scientific Advisory Committee

The Marine National Facilities (MNF) [Scientific Advisory Committee](http://www.mnf.csiro.au/About/Governance/Scientific-Advisory-Committee.aspx) (SAC) was established as an advisory committee under the MNF Steering Committee. The overarching purpose of the SAC is to provide advice to the Steering Committee on:

* The assessment of research proposals for MNF granted voyages against two of the three MNF selection criteria as follows:
	+ Criteria 1 - the scientific and/or technical excellence of the project
	+ Criteria 3 - the ability of investigators (demonstrated or potential, relative to opportunity) to successfully undertake the project
* Scientific operations and equipment needs
* Other research matters as required

The SAC is governed by [Terms of Reference](http://mnf.csiro.au/~/media/Files/Scientific%20Advisory%20Committee/SAC%20Terms%20of%20Reference-Apr16.ashx).

As a Committee Member

*It is a role that is always interesting, sometimes challenging, and critically important to the proper functioning of the MNF in Australia’s national interest.*

As part of the MNF’s commitment to developing the next generation of Australian marine scientists, we recognise that marine science is an extremely rich and diverse field of endeavour and that it is multidisciplinary in nature. To be successful as a committee member, you will need to demonstrate:

* A strong scientific background and practical experience in a particular marine science discipline, as well as, experience and ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
* Commitment to a field of marine science reliant on access to large research vessels.
* Ability to communicate effectively with a range of researcher and industry stakeholders.
* Capacity to critically assess ideas and proposals.

This engagement will be for a term of two years and the individual must meet the criteria required of [Independent Members](http://mnf.csiro.au/~/media/Files/Scientific%20Advisory%20Committee/SAC%20Terms%20of%20Reference-Apr16.ashx). They will participate as an observer and be mentored through the SAC process by one of the Independent Members. In doing so, it is hoped that the appointee will gain a strong appreciation and knowledge of the scientific assessment process undertaken by the MNF, establish networks, and enhance the development of their career as a scientific leader in marine science.

The time commitment will comprise at least one annual meeting in Hobart and may include additional teleconference or site specific meetings as required. Each meeting will require 2-3 days of preparation.

Please note that the position is not remunerated, but expenses associated with attendance are reimbursed.

## How to lodge and expression of interest

Your expression of interest should comprise of **one document** which incorporates the latest version of your CV (including the names and contact details of two supervisors or academic/ professional referees) plus a covering letter outlining your motivations for applying and your suitability for the role.

You will also be required to attend a short interview.

**Applications close:** 11:59pm AEST, Friday 31st August 2018.

#### Contact

If you require further information, please contact Dr Carolyn Seelen – MNF Governance, Policy and Outreach carolyn.seelen@csiro.au.

## About CSIRO

Australia is founding its future on science and innovation. Its national science agency, CSIRO is a powerhouse of ideas, technologies and skills for building prosperity, growth, health and sustainability. It serves governments, industries, business and communities across the nation. Find out more! <http://www.csiro.au/>

## About the Marine National Facility

Funded by the Australian Government, owned and operated by CSIRO under direction of an independent Steering Committee, the [MNF](http://www.mnf.csiro.au/) provides a blue-water research capability to the Australian scientific community and their international collaborators.

The MNF is based at CSIRO’s Marine Laboratories in Hobart, Tasmania, which is also home port for the research vessel. Research obtained from Granted Voyages provides critical information to directly support government, industry and other stakeholders in making evidence based decisions to ensure the long-term viability and prosperity of Australian marine industries.

The MNF comprises: an ocean class research vessel *Investigator*; a package of scientific equipment and instrumentation; a collection of more than 30 years of marine data; the expertise required to manage an ocean going research platform and support vessel users; and an independent Steering Committee and advisory committees to oversee the Facility

#### Research vessel

[*Investigator*](http://www.mnf.csiro.au/Vessel/Investigator-2014.aspx) is a 94 metre purpose-built research vessel, capable of travelling 10,800 nautical miles in a single voyage, carrying up to 40 scientists and support staff, from the equator to the Antarctic ice-edge. At a cost of $120 million, the *Investigator* was designed and engineered to carry out an array of highly sophisticated scientific activities including atmospheric, oceanographic, biological and geoscience research. It possesses capabilities far beyond those of previous research vessels in Australia, and through the first four years of operation, has already proved a game-changer for blue water marine research in Australia.

#### Governance

The application process and the operation of the MNF is overseen by the Steering Committee and includes representatives from academia, industry and government. There are three independent sub-committees for the assessment of applications for MNF Granted Voyages, User Funded Voyages and Supplementary applications. These are the SAC, the National Benefit Assessment Panel (NBAP) and the Supplementary Scheduling Committee (SSC).