



# MFP Primary Application 2026

Please note:

Where not obvious, red text indicates functionality.

Where a Yes / No answer is highlighted, this indicates that the answer reveals further questions which would otherwise not be visible.

# Tab: Application Note

## Application

### Primary MNF Granted Voyages

We're here to help. If you're considering applying, we strongly recommend [contacting us](#) beforehand to discuss your project requirements and equipment needs, and learn more about the scientific services, capabilities, and support we provide. Early engagement ensures your proposal is well-prepared and aligned with MNF capabilities.

Prior to completing an application for sea time:

- Ensure you have considered collaboration opportunities. Collaboration should add value to the application.
- Keep your application focussed - unrelated or "add-on" activities may blur the purpose of your project and likely be detrimental to scoring.
- Review the information on assessment criteria to assist you in writing your application, including:
  - Streams of Access <https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Apply-for-sea-time/Access-streams>
  - Operations Rolling Plan <https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Apply-for-sea-time/Rolling-plan>
  - Application Assessment <https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Apply-for-sea-time/Application-assessment>
  - Writing a good application <https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Apply-for-sea-time/Writing-good-application>
  - Opening and closing dates for your application <https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Apply-for-sea-time/Primary-applications>
- Ensure you have approval from your Organisation. They are required to authorise your submission.

Completed applications must be submitted by the closing date. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Following the closing date all submitted applications will be reviewed by two independent committees using the MNF Merit Assessment Process. MNF will then develop a draft primary schedule for consideration by the MNF Steering Committee (MNFSC). The MNF Director gives final approval for sea-time to be offered to successful applicants.

Applicants will be notified following the MNFSC meeting late in the year.

For any enquiries concerning details contained within these online forms please contact:

### MNF Application Support

Email: [mnf@csiro.au](mailto:mnf@csiro.au)

# Tab: Project Contacts

## Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Country#

The Marine National Facility acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and seas that we live and work on across Australia and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We honour and celebrate the spiritual, cultural and customary connections of Traditional Owners to Country and its surrounding seas and oceans.

## Project Contacts

### Applicant

Please check your details. You can change your details in 'My Profile' on the main page.

Full name	Organisation	Email	Telephone	Mobile phone	ORC iD
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*Applicant details auto-populated here*

*Button: Edit Contact Information*

### Lead Principal Investigator

Are you the LPI? **YES** / NO

- Select an LPI - *(Applicant selects name of LPI – must have existing MFP account)*

Full name	Organisation	Email	Telephone	Mobile phone	ORC iD
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*LPI details auto-populated here*

## Privacy Statement

Your privacy: CSIRO is committed to your privacy and will use your personal information in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). By filling out and submitting this application, you consent to the collection of this information by CSIRO. CSIRO will collect and use this information for the purpose of assessing your application for sea time, associated communications, and for the purposes of voyage planning. The information may be provided to assessment and governance committees, external reviewers and Marine National Facility staff. If you have any questions or if you would like to access your personal information held by CSIRO in relation to this application, please contact us at [privacy@csiro.au](mailto:privacy@csiro.au). For further information about CSIRO's privacy policy, see <http://www.csiro.au/en/Privacy.aspx>.

# Tab: Project Summary

## Project Summary

### Research Stream

**Only one Stream per project can be selected.** Researchers applying for sea time with the Marine National Facility (MNF) must select the application Stream that applies to their project. If you believe your project could fit under more than one Stream, you must select the most appropriate Stream, given the Stream objectives and definitions provided here. Click on each Stream for more information.

- Stream 1. Policy-driven research.  
To address critical policy needs for Australia.
- Stream 2. Discipline-driven research.  
To advance scientific knowledge and promote Australia's science excellence.
- Stream 3. Strategic partnerships.  
To support publicly funded national programs that rely on MNF capabilities.
- Stream 4. Technology and innovation.  
To promote development and innovation in marine research and industry technology.
- Stream 5. User-funded research.  
To support industry and not-for-profit entities that require MNF capabilities and deliver data and research of national interest.

*Description appears depending on stream selected.*  
*See Guidance documents for text.*

### Project Title

Please provide a short descriptive title for your project (including the area in which you intend to work if applicable).

Avoid the use of acronyms and quotation marks and minimise the use of uppercase characters. This title is used to uniquely identify your voyage throughout the application.

If you are applying for Stream 3 access, please title your project with the Program applying for the Strategic Partnership e.g. Southern Ocean Time Series Strategic Partnership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (15 words)

### Project Abstract

In plain language, summarise the project objectives, methods, expected outcomes and their significance.

In answering this question, please summarise:

- What you propose to do, how you propose to do it and why.
- What outputs are desired to answer scientific questions.
- How the project was co-conceived with next-and/or end-users.
- Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

- Expected outcomes and impacts of the research.

Note: Both the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and National Benefit Advisory Committee (NBAC) will read the Project Abstract. In this application, questions relating to *Research Quality* will be assessed by RAC who will not see your responses to questions relating to *Research Benefit*. Questions relating to *Research Benefit* will be assessed by NBAC who will not see your responses relating to *Research Quality*. The Project Abstract is where both committees will see the full context of your proposal.

Text Box – word limit 600

## Project Timelines

When is the overall project expected to conclude?

month/year

When do you expect to commence publishing research outputs relating to the research conducted on this voyage?

month/year

## Research Classification

Please provide an Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) Fields of Research (FoR) code.

These are a set of categorisations developed for use in the measurement and analysis of research statistics in Australia and New Zealand.

Please provide at least one ANZSRC FoR for your project. You can add up to three research classifications per application via the 'look up' button.

LOOK UP

*Selected classifications*

*Assume answer is YES to following questions to open up additional information requests*

## Multi-Year Application

Please indicate if you are submitting a multi-year application. A maximum period of three consecutive financial years will be considered for multi-year applications. If you are applying for multiple voyages within one year, please make this clear in your responses below.

Multi-year applications must be of outstanding merit to be awarded and should clearly outline the scientific justification for multiple year support to achieve the proposed aims. If subsequent voyages being requested are not connected by a clear research question, then separate applications should be submitted. Applicants should ensure all subsequent questions are answered with regard to the entire project.

Is this a multiyear application? **YES** / NO      How many years? (*up 3 years*)

Why do you need multiple years to fulfil the project aims?

Text Box – word limit 400

For each subsequent year are you repeating the same voyage (for example the exact voyage track, activities, ports etc) **YES** / NO

*If no, for each additional year, the following questions will be repeated:*

If no, please answer the following questions for each additional year.

Note: You will be asked to provide detail about the first year of your voyage later in this application. The below questions relate only to each subsequent year of your application.

### Second Year / Third Year *(as indicated)*

**Summary** - Please provide a brief summary of the activities for each subsequent year of your multi-year application, focusing on how they differ from the previous year.

For example, indicate if you are planning to undertake time series research at the same time of year, contrasting studies at different times of year, research in the same location, comparative studies in separate locations, other.

*Text Box – word limit 200*

Voyage Location: where you propose to go

Preferred port of mobilisation

*(Drop box of port names)*

Preferred port of demobilisation

*(Drop box of port names)*

Comments

*Text Box – word limit 200*

Preferred Sail Dates: when you propose to undertake the next voyage

Start: day/month/year

End: day/month/year

Comments

*Text Box – word limit 200*

Requested Days: the requested number of sea days to complete the science

The combined total of Mobilisation, Transit, Research Program and Demobilisation days must not exceed 60 days.

Number of days (maximum 60) - 0 +

Comments

*Text Box – word limit 200*

Equipment

Indicate what equipment suite is required stating whether this is different to that required from the previous year(s)

Comments

*Text Box – word limit 200*

Berths

Enter the number of science berths required to successfully achieve proposed voyage scientific outcomes and objectives (indicate if this is the same or a different number of berths in the previous year(s))

Number of berths (maximum 26) - 0 +

Comments

*Text Box – word limit 200*

## Application History

Has this application, or very similar, been submitted for consideration in a previous year? **YES** / NO

## Linked Applications

In which year(s) did you apply, what was the application's title(s), and what was the outcome(s) (successful or unsuccessful). If successful, please identify the voyage (e.g. IN2024\_VO1).

*Text Box – word limit 400*

## Scheduling

If your application is supported but unable to be scheduled within the application year, would you like your application to be considered for scheduling in the next call using the same details so that you do not need to resubmit your application? YES / NO

## Related Projects

Is this application part of a larger national or international study that will involve coordinating your project with other groups? If so, briefly provide details. **YES** / NO

*Text Box – word limit 200*

## Funding

Does your proposed research rely on funding, in-kind support or any other dependency within the time period applied for? **YES** / NO

Source Name	Amount	Secured	If not yet secured, expected announcement date
_____	_____	Yes/No	_____

*Button: Delete*

*Button: +Add another source*

## Acknowledgement Compliance

Visibility of project outputs can greatly assist with the MNF being able to demonstrate the value that a dedicated research vessel provides to our nation. Acknowledging the MNF in all literature and media related to the voyage is part of agreements with CSIRO. The simple step of acknowledging the MNF and communicating the important research services and infrastructure MNF provides helps us to continue to be funded to deliver long term marine and atmospheric data and samples.

If you have participated in a previous voyage on RV *Investigator*, your demonstration of compliance with [MNF Acknowledgement requirements](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Prepare-Voyage/Acknowledging-MNF) (<https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Prepare-Voyage/Acknowledging-MNF>) and the [MNF Data and Sample Management Policy](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Prepare-Voyage/MNF-policies/Data-Management-Policy) (<https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Prepare-Voyage/MNF-policies/Data-Management-Policy>) will be used as part of the assessment process.

Have you participated in a previous voyage or voyages on RV *Investigator*? **YES** / NO

Please search [MNF Publications \(https://www.marine.csiro.au/data/reporting/index.cfm\)](https://www.marine.csiro.au/data/reporting/index.cfm) to ensure you have provided MNF with all research related outputs from your previous voyage(s) in accordance with our requirements. If you have a six-digit access number you can use [this report \(https://www.marine.csiro.au/data/reporting/outcomes.cfm\)](https://www.marine.csiro.au/data/reporting/outcomes.cfm) to see what publications, data sets and samples MNF have on file.

Have you submitted to MNF all digital copies or links of papers, books, book chapters, conference papers and other similar publications that have been created using MNF infrastructure or data? YES / **NO**

Have you acknowledged the MNF in all outputs derived from Data and/or Samples collected by, or with support from, the MNF as per [MNF Acknowledgement requirements](#)? YES / **NO**

Have you complied with the [MNF Data and Sample Management Policy](#)? YES / **NO**

If you answered No to any of the above questions, please provide additional information

*Text Box – word limit 200*



# Tab: Science Team

## Science Team

### Inclusion And Diversity

For voyages to achieve greatest benefit, it is critical that the MNF supports a workplace culture that accepts, values, and celebrates diversity. Information can be found in MNF's [Inclusion and Diversity Policy \(https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Prepare-Voyage/MNF-policies/Inclusion-and-Diversity\)](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Prepare-Voyage/MNF-policies/Inclusion-and-Diversity). A diverse workforce promotes a range of benefits including encouraging creativity and fostering innovation. Greater inclusivity fosters a supportive, fairer more egalitarian environment that is more attractive to diverse users.

### Berths

Please provide the number of science berths required to successfully achieve proposed voyage scientific outcomes and objectives up to the maximum number of 26.

The MNF support model requires a base manning of 9 technical support berths to deliver an RV *Investigator* voyage and for remote voyages, 10 technical support berths, as two clinicians are required. Depending on the specific science operations to be undertaken on your voyage, the MNF may require additional technical support berths to fully support your science at sea. This is routinely required for large deployed systems and use of systems such as CTD rosette, coring, trawling and seismic for example. At times, additional technical support berths may be required for the training of technical personnel or to offer the Indigenous Training Scholarship at Sea. This could result in the MNF technical support requiring up to 15 berths, or more.

The MNF will make best efforts to ensure the maximum allocation of science berths, however, advises that additional berths required to deliver the scope of your planned activities could reduce the below request and the allocation indicated in a Letter of Offer, if your application is successful. This will be finalised during voyage planning when intended activities are understood in detail.

<b>Principal Investigators</b>	- 0 +	<b>Project Staff</b>	- 0 +
<b>Students</b>	- 0 +	<b>Specialist Technicians</b>	- 0 +
<b>Other</b>	- 0 +		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>(Autosum)</i>		

### Principal Investigators

Only enter details of PI's that have indicated their agreement to commit to the project if successful.

Title	Name	Surname	Email	Organisation	ORC iD	Days committing to voyage preparation and undertaking	Days committing to analysis benefit delivery phases	On voyage
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*Pre-populated with LPI details*

Please describe commitment of the Principal Investigators to the project, not just the voyage.

*Text Box – word limit 200*

## Tab: Logistics

### Proposed Voyage Dates

Please provide dates possible to conduct the science. Use the remarks section to explain the choice of possible sail dates and reasoning for any restrictions.

Note: while dates provided are considered when scheduling approved voyages, offered sea time may fall outside of the dates. The MNF may also contact you as part of the application process to discuss the dates you have provided.

#### Possible Sail Dates

Add as many as necessary

Start: day/month/year      End: day/month/year

#### Dates Not Possible To Conduct The Science

Some research is time or season dependent. It is important that any constraints on when the research is carried out are clearly indicated. If no constraints leave blank

Start: day/month/year      End: day/month/year

Briefly provide details

*Text Box – word limit 100*

### Voyage Location

Please define your preferred port of mobilisation and demobilisation. Give a short reason on your choice

Preferred port of mobilisation

Reason

*(Drop box of port names)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred port of demobilisation

Reason

*(Drop box of port names)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Please draw the voyage location on the map below. Plan in detail with all ports, transits, stations and activities. When it comes to estimating the length of your voyage, Marine Facilities Planning (MFP) will automatically calculate for you using a cruising speed of 8 knots. You are unable to adjust the cruising speed.

*Button: Open Map editor*

*Map editor*

You can change the name of the locations in the table below. Alternatively, you may import a coordinates file.

**Research Area** Buttons: *DD, DDM, DMS, Import Coordinates file, Download Coordinates*

Name	Type	Label
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Table to edit longitude/latitude and voyage waypoints

Button: Delete

Note: If the project involves working in Australian Commonwealth, State or Territory protected waters (e.g. Marine Parks, Marine Protected Areas, protected fisheries areas etc.) it will be the responsibility of successful applicants to arrange permits and clearances for such work. Any biological samples collected in Commonwealth waters will require an "Access to Biological Resources" permit from DCCEEW. There may be other permits required at the State/Territory or Commonwealth level required depending on the planned activities.

Note: For voyages operating above 60 degrees additional operational considerations will apply to meet the ship's Polar Code requirements including vessel endurance.

## Requested Days

Having completed the voyage map, please indicate the requested number of days below.

The applicant must work closely with the MNF to accommodate the vessel's pre-departure requirements. These include staff and crew inductions and the transition to shift operations on Day 1. Please note that these activities will affect the time available for scientific work during the first 24 hours of the voyage. To ensure smooth operations, allow a minimum buffer of 12 hours after departure before commencing work at the first station.

**Simple mobilisation:** (1 day) – carry on all equipment or minimal crane lift, no or low ship integration required.

**Complex mobilisation:** (2 or more days) – complex ship integration required, testing and calibration required for systems pre-departure, multiple crane lifts of containers and other equipment.

**Transit:** From preferred departure port to first station + last station to preferred arrival port.

**Research Programme:** Include total time taken between first and last station, time on station and contingencies.

**Demobilisation:** (1 day) Standard for most voyages, even where mobilisation may be complex. If significant complexities are known, contact MNF to discuss your demobilisation needs.

**Total requested sea time days:** The combined total of **Mobilisation, Transit, Research Program** and **Demobilisation** days must not exceed 60 days.

Contact MNF if you require assistance in estimating your voyage, mobilisation or demobilisation days.

**Mobilisation** - 0 + Justification \_\_\_\_\_

**Transit** - 0 + Justification \_\_\_\_\_

**Research Program** - 0 + Justification \_\_\_\_\_

**Demobilisation** - 0 + Justification \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** (Autosum)

# Tab: Voyage Analysis

*Static information derived from the previous tab to summarise input*

## Voyage Analysis

The below is a visual summary of your proposed voyage and shows the EEZ and Marine Parks. You can view additional map layers.

No other action is required on this page.

**Preferred Port of Mobilisation:**

*Information reflected from previous screen*

**Preferred Port of Demobilisation:**

*Waypoint list and map*

# Tab: MNF Supplied Equipment

*Note: Equipment questions expand as selected to seek additional detail (not included in this document).*

## MNF Supplied Equipment

Please select from the following list of equipment the items that are needed for your research. **This page may be empty.**

Please refer to our [Marine National Facility Capability Prospectus](#), for an overview of current MNF capability and likely capability for 2028-29 onwards.

Note that the MNF Capability Prospectus supplements the information provided here and should not be considered an exhaustive or complete list of all MNF capability. The MNF Supplied Equipment list should be used by applicants as the primary reference for available MNF capability.

Please note that various MNF equipment may require additional technical support and therefore impact the number of berths available for your project.

Do not select pieces of equipment as contingency.

Before you apply or complete your application, we strongly recommend you contact MNF by emailing [MNF@csiro.au](mailto:MNF@csiro.au) to discuss your proposed project, and capability and equipment needs.

Briefly provide any further comments about MNF Supplied Equipment selections

*Text Box – word limit 400*

## Communications And Media

- Communications and Media

## Fixed Ship Systems

### Acoustics (Survey, Mapping and Biological)

- Multi Beam echo sounder EM124 12kHz (100m to full ocean depth)
- Multi Beam echo sounder EM712 40-100kHz (3-2000m approx.)
- Multi Beam echo sounder EM2040 MKII 200, 300, 400, 600, 700 kHz selectable (0-200m approx. depending on frequency selected)
- Sub-Bottom Profiler SBP29
- Scientific Echo Sounders EK80 (6 bands, 18kHz-333kHz)
- Omnidirectional Echo Sounder SH90
- Multibeam Scientific Echo Sounder ME70 (70-100 kHz)
- Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler 38kHz
- Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler 75kHz
- Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler 150kHz

### Oceanographic Sensors/Samplers

- Underway Seawater Sampling Systems

### Atmospheric Sensors/Samplers

- Underway Atmospheric Sampling Systems

- Polarimetric Weather Radar
- Radiosonde Receiver System

## Geophysical Data Acquisition Systems

### Potential Field and Seismic Systems

- Gravity Meter (Air-Sea System II)
- Relative Gravity Meter (CG5 Autograv)
- Towed Marine Magnetometer (SeaSPY2)
- Seismic Acquisition System (GeoEel)

## Underway Nutrients

- Seal AA100 (underway nutrient analysis)

## Laboratory Infrastructure

- General Purpose Laboratories
- Refrigeration equipment
- Electronic Balances
- Dissecting Microscopes
- Compound Microscopes
- Incubation Tanks
- Seawater Supply Systems
- Pot Hauler

## Modular Containerised Facilities

### Containerised Laboratories

- Modular Isotope Laboratory
- Modular Trace Metal Laboratory (TM1-blue)
- Modular Trace Metal Laboratory (TM2-white)
- Stabilised Platform Container

### Storage Containers

- Modular HazMat Locker

## Oceanographic Profiling and Sampling Instrumentation

- In-Situ pump
- AUV Catcher Net
- TRIAXUS
- Trace Metal CTD
- CTD (24 or 36 bottle)

## Samplers-Biology

### Plankton Nets and Sleds

- Hydro-Bios Multinet Plankton Sampler
- Sherman Epibenthic Sled
- Sled Zeppelin Epibenthic Sled
- Bongo Net (Hydro-Bios)

- Brenke Sled
- Surface Net (Neuston)
- Continuous Plankton Recorder

#### **Trawl Nets**

- Beam Trawl
- Pelagic Trawl
- Demersal Trawl
- Rectangular Midwater Trawl (RMT)

#### **Seafloor Sampling and Coring Systems**

- KC Box Corer
- Smith McIntyre Sediment Grab
- Box Corer - BX700
- Kasten Corer
- Piston Core System
- Multi Core
- Rock Dredges

#### **Underwater Camera Systems**

- Deep Towed Camera
- Drop Camera



# Tab: User Supplied Equipment

## User Supplied Equipment

Please add all third party (non-MNF) equipment that is critical for you to bring to the ship.

The MNF takes safety very seriously.

If you intend to incorporate user supplied equipment, [contact us](#) before submitting your application to discuss your equipment.

As part of the application assessment, the MNF needs to determine if equipment can be feasibly mobilised, installed, used/deployed.

Please upload relevant documentation on the equipment for this initial assessment including in situ photos, links to manuals, specifications, and information about maintenance schedules. Should your application be approved, all equipment and materials coming onboard will undergo a formal assessment and will need to be supported by appropriate HSE documentation (safe work instructions, risk assessments etc) to ensure the items meet the Ship's requirements. Items that do not meet the HSE requirements, will not be approved for use on board.

*Button: Add new Equipment    Button: Add Equipment already available in your portal*

Name	Type	Est. value AUD\$	Serial Nr	Barcode	Links
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If you intend to incorporate user supplied equipment but have not uploaded relevant documentation, briefly explain why

*Text Box – word limit 400*

Are the project outcomes reliant on user-supplied equipment? **YES** / NO

*Text Box – word limit 200*

If unable to meet the requirements, CSIRO reserve the right not to approve the equipment for use on the science voyage. The requirements include but are not limited to the completion of the User supplied Equipment manifest, by or before the prescribed date and the submission of the required risk assessments for the equipment and safe use of the equipment, by or before the prescribed date.

# Tab: Research Quality

## Merit Principle: Research Quality

Fully funded access to RV *Investigator* is expensive and limited. Consequently, supported research must have a robust disciplinary rationale, clear and appropriate objectives, sound methods, demonstrable feasibility, the prospect of informative results, and be conducted by people with appropriate expertise.

The merit principle “Research Quality” will be independently assessed by expert external reviewers and the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). RAC membership is comprised of marine research experts from diverse backgrounds. Further information about the RAC’s role, membership, and Terms of Reference visit the [MNF website](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/About/Research-Advisory-Committee) (https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/About/Research-Advisory-Committee).

**Important:** Questions relating to *Research Quality* will be assessed by RAC who will **not see** your responses to questions relating to *Research Benefit*. You should not rely on information contained in your *Research Benefit* responses to supplement responses to *Research Quality* questions.

Similarly, documents uploaded to *Research Quality* folders will not be visible to reviewers of *Research Benefit*. Tips on uploading documents can be found on the MFP home screen *Help & Documentation* tab.

All Research Quality and Research Benefit questions are weighted equally.

## Research Objectives and Rationale

*Stream-related description*

### RQ1 Research Objectives and Rationale

Explain the scientific significance, objectives and reasons for doing this research.

In answering this question, you must:

- Explain the overall research objectives (what your research is trying to achieve, what questions your research is trying to answer).
- Explain the scientific rationale and significance for doing this research, including background and field-specific context.
- Where appropriate, include Stream specific aspects which motivate your research, including Australian and international partnerships and consultation, and how your project aligns with the chosen Stream.

Text Box – word limit 1000

## Research Design and Methodology

*Stream-related description*

### RQ2 Research Design and Methodology

Describe your research approach, including when and where you will take samples or conduct experiments, why that is sufficient to meet your research objectives and how that aligns with your voyage plan.

Note: Ensure information here aligns with information provided in the Logistics Section of this Application Form.

In answering this question, you must:

- Describe your methods, and subsequent analysis of your data, and why they are appropriate for the research objectives.
- Demonstrate how the design of the proposed research, including sampling design, is consistent with current best practice, robust and appropriate and sufficient to meet the project objectives.
- Clearly indicate if any of the methods proposed are developmental or innovative and describe how potential risks of using such cutting-edge methods will be mitigated.
- Distinguish between pre-voyage, at-sea and post-voyage activities (preparation for sampling, sample collection, sample and data analysis etc.) as appropriate.

*Text Box – word limit 1000*

## People

*Stream-related description*

### RQ3 People

Describe the team engaged in the project, including their capabilities, leadership, and suitability for conducting ship-based research, as well as who you will involve and mentor.

Note: Ensure answers focus on capability relating to research quality. Capability in delivering impact is addressed under RB4 Impact.

Note: CVs are supportive only and shouldn't be used as your explanation of the team's suitability.

In answering this question, you must:

- Describe the team engaged in the project, their capabilities to conduct the research, the leadership of the team and their suitability for conducting ship-based research on RV *Investigator*.
- Describe how you will involve and mentor students and ECRs and other participants who will contribute to the voyage and project.
- Using the template provided, upload to the documents area an up-to-date CV for the voyage leader and PIs and if possible, for team members. A CV template can be found under the Home screen Help and Documentation tab.

*Text Box – word limit 800*

## Post-voyage Activities and Impact

*Stream-related description*

### RQ4 Post-voyage Activities and Impact

Outline your post-voyage plan of work, both science based and more broadly.

In answering this question, you must:

- Describe plans for post-voyage lab-work, including data/sample processing, analyses and management, and the research outputs and their impact that will result.
- Describe the institutional support and funding to support the post-voyage plan.
- Describe the expected broader impact of your work in the context of the chosen Stream, including for example training impact.

- Ensure answers focus on capability relating to research quality - capability in delivering impact is addressed under RB4 Team Capability (Benefit Delivery).

*Text Box – word limit 800*

## Tab: Research Benefit

### Merit Principle: Research Benefit

Fully funded access to RV Investigator is expensive and limited. Consequently, supported research should align with national interests, be likely to deliver upon national needs, have a path to impact and the right team to deliver benefit to justify investment of MNF resources.

The merit principle “Research Benefit” will be independently assessed by the National Benefit Advisory Committee (NBAC). NBAC membership is comprised of user groups including government, industry, and research institutes from diverse backgrounds. For further information about the NBAC’s role, membership, and Terms of Reference visit the [MNF website](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/About/National-Benefit-Advisory-Committee) (<https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/About/National-Benefit-Advisory-Committee>).

**Important:** Questions relating to *Research Benefit* will be assessed by NBAC who will not see your responses relating to *Research Quality*. You should not rely on information contained in your *Research Quality* responses to supplement responses to *Research Benefit* questions.

Similarly, documents uploaded to *Research Benefit* folders will not be visible to reviewers of *Research Quality*. Tips on uploading documents can be found on the MFP home screen *Help & Documentation* tab.

All Research Quality and Research Benefit questions are weighted equally.

### National Interest and User Needs

*Stream-related description*

#### RB1 National Interest and User Needs

Provide context for the project in terms of national interest and user needs.

In answering this question, you must:

- Outline what is the national interest in this project and how your research aligns with those interests.
- Explain who are the next- and end-users, what their need is.
- Describe how the project has been co-conceived with next- and/or end-users, and its alignment with their needs.
- Describe how you have partnered and engaged with relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

*Text Box – word limit 600*

### Design

*Stream-related description*

#### RB2 Design

Describe how the project and its benefits have been co-designed with next- and/or end-users (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities where appropriate) and how project outputs match or meet their needs.

In answering this question, you must:

- Identify which next- and/or end-users you have involved in the design of the project.
- Describe the co-design process that has been undertaken with next- and/or end-users.

- Outline whether there is co-investment from next- and/or end-users.
- Describe what benefits were identified with the next- and/or end-users during the co-design process.
- Describe how and when the intended benefits will be delivered to next- and/or end-users.
- Outline whether resources are adequate to deliver the intended benefits to meet the delivery timeline.

*Text Box – word limit 600*

## Delivery

*Stream-related description*

### RB3 Delivery

Describe key engagement activities for promoting and assisting adoption of project outputs.

In answering this question, you must:

- Describe how next- and/or end-users will be engaged and assist in project delivery.
- Explain what the plan is for project outputs to be promoted and adopted by next- and/or end-users.
- Describe the commitments from next- and/or end-users to engage with the project to drive/effect change in their relevant operational area.

*Text Box – word limit 600*

## Impact

*Stream-related description*

### RB4 Impact

Describe what success looks like and how it will be evaluated, the project team's capability to deliver benefits, and outline the education, training and capacity building opportunities. Explain how these contribute to the research objectives and how they align with national interests and user needs.

Note: Capabilities will be assessed relative to opportunity.

In answering this question, you must:

- Describe what success looks like and how project outputs and intended benefits will be assessed and evaluated.
- Describe the project team's capabilities and capacity to successfully deliver the project outcomes and intended benefits. Provide evidence (e.g. through publications, products, testimonials) that the research team has the capabilities and capacity to engage effectively with next- and/or end-users to deliver benefit (applicable to Early Career Researchers) or previously delivered outputs of demonstrable utility to next-and/or end-users in appropriate forms (applicable to senior researchers).
- Describe education, training and/or capacity building activities included in the project, at sea, prior and post voyage and their linkage to the research objectives and field work plan.
- Explain how the research training and education opportunities of the project align with and deliver national priorities, next- and/or end-user needs and/or the wider marine community.

Ensure your answers remain focussed on capacity to deliver benefit. Information relating to research capability should be included in answers to RQ4 Post-voyage Activities and Impact.

*Text Box – word limit 600*

## **Education, Training and Communication**

MNF Education and Training Programs (<https://www.csiro.au/about/facilities-collections/mnf/education-training>)

Communication Contact: [mnf@csiro.au](mailto:mnf@csiro.au)

Describe the team's ability to support MNF Training Programs (such as our Indigenous Time at Sea Scholarship), and Communication initiatives (e.g. do you or plan to engage with media?).

Note: The Indigenous Time at Sea Scholarship (ITSS) is a program providing Indigenous undergraduate and postgraduate students with opportunities to join Investigator voyages as part of the scientific party. If your voyage is considered suitable for the program, describe how these students might be integrated into your voyage and the delivery of the science objectives and activities undertaken on board.

*Text Box – word limit 300*

# Tab: Compliance And Authorisation

## Compliance And Authorisation

I acknowledge by submission of my application that I have read and understood the policy requirements and agree to be bound and represent that my organisation (if relevant) agrees to be bound by the terms set forth in those documents if my application is successful. It is further understood and agreed by myself and my organisation that no changes or amendments to the terms of the project agreements or policies will be considered if my application is successful.

**I declare that:**

- The project research agency and any other agencies integral to the success of this research supports this application
- I take full responsibility for the content of this application, including any use of AI

**If successful in being awarded sea time, I acknowledge and accept:**

- the project will be bound by the requirements of related CSIRO [policies](#), including the [MNF Data and Samples Management Policy](#)
- the grant of sea time is to be acknowledged in all project outputs [as prescribed](#)
- all related papers, books, book chapters, conference papers and other similar publications relating to the project are to be submitted to CSIRO as soon as possible after their acceptance
- all voyage media and public information activities are to be conducted in collaboration with CSIRO and voyage partners
- responsibility to submit post-voyage reports, feedback, and updates on the outcomes of the project as requested by CSIRO

☐ I have read and agree to the Compliance and Authorisation statement.

**If successful in being awarded sea time, I would be prepared to share my application as an exemplar to future applicants:**

YES / **NO**

Irrespective of the outcome of this application, applicants may be invited to respond to surveys for the purposes of continual improvement and research.



# Tab: Summary

## Summary

Dear *(applicant name)*,

Please review your draft application form below, and submit the application should it be complete, or save for later should you wish to make further edits prior to submission.

*Buttons: Download PDF / Save but don't submit / Submit Application*

*For review - question headings and answers entered to the application*