



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Chair – MNF Research Advisory Committee

The Marine National Facility (MNF) Steering Committee invites Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified individuals for appointment as Chair of the MNF Research Advisory Committee (RAC).

This is a senior advisory leadership role supporting the delivery of excellent, nationally significant marine and atmospheric research enabled by the MNF.

The successful candidate will shadow the current RAC Chair for the 2026 review of applications for sea time, before being fully appointed to the role in April 2027.

MNF Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

The RAC was established by the MNF Steering Committee (MNFSC) to provide independent expert advice on the research quality of applications for sea time through the MNF merit assessment process, and on other matters requiring scientific expertise as requested.

RAC members are appointed as experts in their field, not as representatives of their organisation or employer, and operate under strict confidentiality and conflict of interest arrangements.

About the role

The Chair provides leadership to the RAC and is responsible for ensuring the Committee operates effectively, impartially and in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

Key responsibilities include:

- leading RAC meetings and facilitating robust, fair and constructive discussion
- ensuring consistent, high-quality assessment of research proposals under the MNF merit assessment process
- supporting the RAC to provide clear, evidence-based advice to the MNFSC
- upholding the integrity, transparency and credibility of the assessment process
- managing conflicts of interest and always maintaining confidentiality
- acting as a senior interface between the RAC and the MNFSC, as required.

The Chair is expected to foster a collegial, inclusive and respectful committee culture, enabling the effective contribution of diverse expertise.

Applicants should demonstrate:

- a distinguished record of achievement in marine and/or atmospheric research, or a closely related discipline
- broad understanding of multidisciplinary marine research and national research infrastructure
- proven leadership experience, including chairing or participating in high level research assessment or advisory committees
- strong judgement and the ability to lead balanced, evidence-based decision-making processes
- excellent communication skills and the ability to work constructively with a wide range of stakeholders
- a commitment to integrity, impartiality and good governance.

Experience undertaking or leading research associated with largescale national or international research programs, and familiarity with merit-based research assessment processes, will be highly regarded.

Time commitment and term

The RAC Chair will be appointed for a fixed term of three years from April 2027, with the possibility of reappointment. The successful candidate will shadow the current RAC Chair from June 2026.

The role requires a time commitment associated with:

- preparation for and participation in RAC meetings typically held annually in Hobart, with additional meetings conducted virtually, as required
- out of session review and consultation during assessment periods.

Provided eligibility criteria outlined in the [Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973](#) are met, sitting fees and travel support will be provided for meetings and work conducted outside of meetings, in accordance with applicable CSIRO policies.

Fees are paid only to committee members who are not officers of CSIRO, or full-time officers of the Australian Public Service or other Commonwealth agencies in normal circumstances.

The RAC usually meets face-to-face once per annum to finalise assessment of applications for sea time. Meetings will generally be held in Hobart with all travel costs covered by the MNF. It is estimated that each assessment process will require up to 80 hours work spread between June and October each year, culminating with a meeting in Hobart. Additional video-conference meetings and out of session consultation may also be required.

A notable benefit of sitting on the RAC is the opportunity to obtain greater insight into the assessment process for granted voyage applications. Committee members are not excluded from submitting or being party to applications and a robust process for managing conflicts of interest is in place.

Visit [Research Advisory Committee - CSIRO](#) to find out more about the RAC and to view the Terms of Reference.

Eligibility and appointment

Appointment of the RAC Chair is made by the MNFSC following consideration of EOI.

Applicants must be willing and able to comply with MNF policies relating to confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and committee conduct.

How to apply

EOI should include:

- a brief cover letter outlining interest in the role and relevant experience
- a current curriculum vitae
- any additional information demonstrating suitability for appointment.

Closing date

EOI should be submitted to mnfsecretariat@csiro.au by 8 May 2026.

Contact us

If you require further information, please contact the MNFSC Secretariat on +61 3 6232 5122 or mnfsecretariat@csiro.au

About CSIRO

At the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), we shape the future. We do this by using science to solve real issues to unlock a better future for our community, our economy, our planet.

We're Australia's national science agency. At CSIRO, we solve the greatest challenges using innovative science and technology. Find out more at <http://www.csiro.au/>

CSIRO Marine National Facility

The Marine National Facility (MNF) is national collaborative research infrastructure for marine science, operated by CSIRO on behalf of the nation. Funded by the Australian Government and operated by CSIRO with advice from an independent Steering Committee, the MNF provides a dedicated ocean research capability to the Australian research community and its international collaborators.

The MNF provides access to the research vessel (RV) *Investigator* and associated scientific capabilities to support world-class, collaborative and multidisciplinary research in areas of national and global importance. The MNF operates in the national interest and is guided by the *MNF2030* strategy, which commits to facilitating excellent marine and atmospheric research that delivers impact for Australia.

The MNF is based at the CSIRO Marine Laboratories in Hobart, Tasmania, which is also the home port of RV *Investigator*. Research undertaken on MNF voyages generates critical data and knowledge that directly support government, industry and other stakeholders in making evidence-based decisions to ensure the long-term sustainability and prosperity of Australia's marine environment and industries.

The MNF comprises an ocean-class research vessel (RV) *Investigator*; a comprehensive suite of scientific equipment and instrumentation; more than 40 years of marine research data; specialist expertise to operate and manage an oceangoing research platform and support vessel users; and an independent Steering Committee supported by advisory committees.

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