

**APPLICATION FOR THE CONSENT TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN AREAS UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Date: 01.11.06

**1. General information**

**1.1 Cruise name and/or number:** International Blue Whiting Acoustic Survey

**1.2 Sponsoring institution:**

**Name:** Marine Institute

**Address:** Rinville  
Oranmore  
Co. Galway  
Ireland

**Name of Chief Executive:** Dr. Peter Heffernan

**1.3 Scientist in charge of the project:**

**Name:** Ciaran O'Donnell

**Address:** Rinville  
Oranmore  
Co. Galway  
Ireland

**Telephone:** +353 91 387 200

**Telefax:** +353 91 387 201

**1.4 Scientist(s) from UNITED KINGDOM involved in the planning of the project**

**Name(s):** NA

**Address:**

**1.5 Submitting officer:** Aodhan Fitzgerald

**Name and address:** Rinville  
Oranmore  
Co. Galway  
Ireland

**Country:** Ireland

**Telephone:** 00 353 91 387 200

**Telefax:** 00 353 91 387 201

## 2. Description of project (Attach additional pages as necessary)

### 2.1 Nature of objectives of the project:

To assess the size of the Blue Whiting stock in ICES divisions VIa and VIIb-c, using acoustic methods as a means of estimating the abundance of pre-spawning and spawning fish. As part of our commitment to the EU data collection regulation and also as a means of monitoring the stock for stock assessment and management purposes, independent of commercial fishery data (ICES). To work along a predetermined survey track as part of an internationally co-ordinated survey and carry out single midwater pelagic trawling operations where necessary to determine the make up of insonified fish traces. To collect biological data from fish samples. Salinity, temperature and depth profiling along set points over course of the cruise track.

### 2.2 Relevant previous or future research cruises:

This survey has been carried out annually since 2004 in ICES areas VIa and VIIb-c. 2004 was the first year that Ireland participated in this program. This year the Irish have been assigned the area to the west of Scotland as well as in our own territorial waters.

### 2.3 Previously published research data relating to the project:

Marine Institute Survey Cruise Reports (internal publications): Available on request  
 Irish Blue whiting cruise report O'Donnell 2004  
 International blue whiting cruise report, also ICES working document Heino *et al* 2004

The survey data is also submitted to the annual ICES Northern pelagic working group where it is used to form management advice for the coming year through ACPM.

## 3. Methods and means to be used

### 3.1 Particulars of vessel

**Name:** Celtic Explorer  
**Nationality:** Irish  
**Owner:** Marine Institute  
**Overall length:** 65.5m  
**Maximum draught:** 5.7m  
**Net tonnage:** 727  
**Propulsion:** 2 x 1530 KW, 1000Rpm, 1 x 1020 KW, 1000 Rpm  
**Cruising speed:** 14 Kts  
**Call sign:** EI  
**Method and capability of communication –**

**Name of master:** Phillip Baugh  
**Number of crew:** 12  
**Number of scientists on board:** 9

3.2 Aircraft or other craft to be used in the project: N/A

### 3.3 Particulars of methods and scientific instruments

Types of samples and data	Methods to be used	Instruments to be used
Acoustic	Pre-determined cruise track. 24 hr data collection and processing	Keel mounted Simrad EK 60 Scientific echosounder
Hydrography	Set stations along cruise track	SeaBird CTD rosette water sampler
Biological samples	Sampling fish traces to determine composition	Single midwater pelagic trawl

3.4 Indicate whether harmful substances will be used: N/A

3.5 Indicate whether drilling will be carried out: N/A

3.6 Indicate whether explosives will be used: N/A

## 4. Installations and equipment

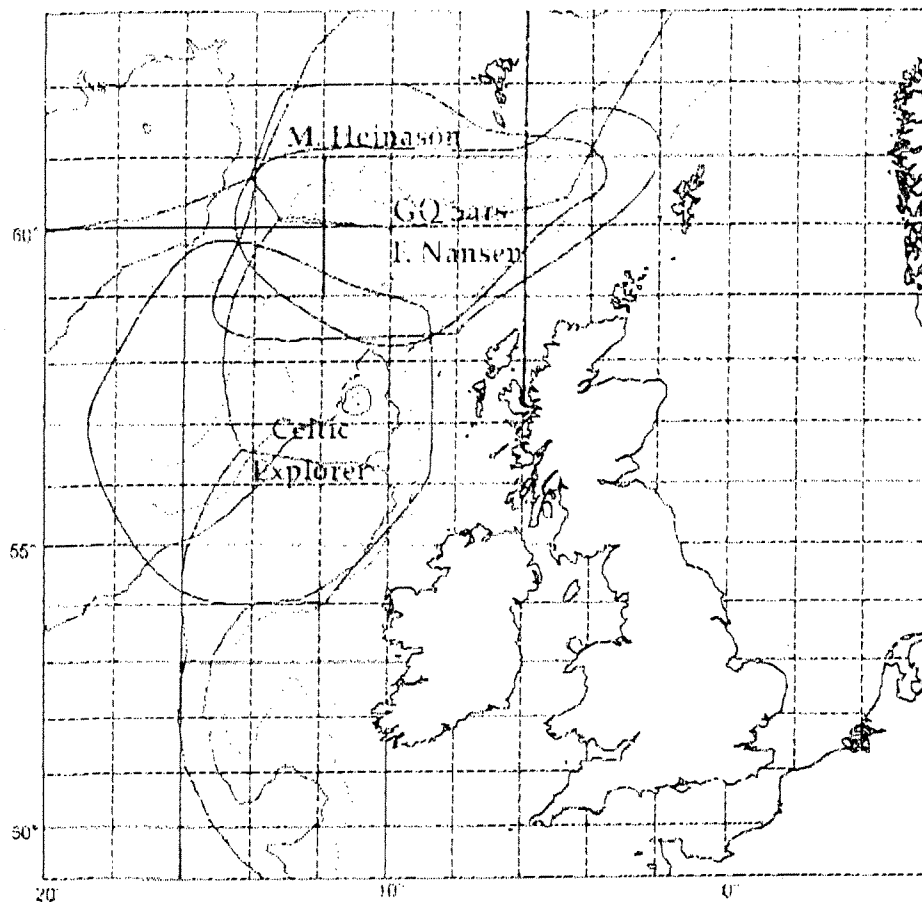
Details of installations and equipment (dates of laying, servicing, recovery, exact locations and depth): N/A

## 5. Geographical areas

5.1 Indicate geographical areas in which the project is to be conducted (with reference in latitude and longitude):

The pre-determined cruise track intends to cover the area from the northern Porcupine Bank in the south to the Hatton Bank in the north. Westerly projection is to reach no further than 19° west (as this will overlap with another vessels work program). Easterly projection is hoped to progress into the 9° west and into UK waters to the west of Scotland.

5.2 Attach chart(s) at an appropriate scale showing the geographical areas of the intended work and, as far as practicable, the positions of intended stations, the tracks of survey lines, and the locations of installations and equipment.



## 6. Dates

### 6.1 Expected dates of first entry into final departure from research area of the research vessel:

Provisional dates:

Start 27<sup>th</sup> March

Finish 16<sup>th</sup> April (21 days in total).

The actual time of entering UK waters is unsure as yet. We intend to work from the south to the north. As a result we may only be in UK waters towards the end of the survey.

### 6.2 Indicate if multiple entry is expected:

The survey consists of both zig-zag and parallel transects which run perpendicular shelf depth contours.

**7. Port calls**

**7.1 Dates and names of intended ports of calls in UNITED KINGDOM: N/A**

**7.2 Any special logistical at ports of call: N/A**

**7.3 Names/ Address / Telephone of shipping agent (if available)**

RVOP's  
Marine Institute  
Galway Technology Park  
Parkmore  
Galway

**8. Participation**

**8.1 Extent to which UNITED KINGDOM will be enable to participate to be represented in research project: N/A**

**8.2 Proposed dates and ports for embarkation / disembarkation:**

Irish coastal ports only.

**9. Access to data, samples and research results**

**9.1 Expected dates of submission to UNITED KINGDOM preliminary reports which should include the expected dates of submission of the final results:**

JUNE, 2007

**9.2 Proposed means for access by UNITED KINGDOM to data and samples:**

Through ICES HAWG forum or through direct contact with the Cruise Leader (contact details provided)

**9.3 Proposed means to provide UNITED KINGDOM with assessment of data, samples and research results or provide assistance in their assessment or interpretation:**

Through ICES HAWG forum or through direct contact with the Cruise Leader (contact details provided)

**9.4 Proposed means of making research results internationally available:**

Through ICES HAWG forum

**10. Scientific Equipment**

**COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TABLE.  
SEPARATE PAGE FOR EACH COSTAL STATE:**

INDICATE YES OR NO

LIST SCIENTIFIC WORK BY FUNCTION Eg: MAGNETOMETRY: GRAVITY DIVING SEISMICS BATHYMETRY SEABED SAMPLING TRAWLING ECHO SOUNDING WATER SAMPLING U/W TV MOORED INSTRUMENTS TRAWLING ECHO SOUNDING WATER SAMPLING	Water column including	Fishes research within fishing limits	Research concerning the natural resources of the continental shelf or its physical characteristics	DISTANCE FROM COAST		
				Within 12nms	Between 12-200nms	(Continental shelf work only)  Beyond 200nm but within the continental margin
WATER SAMPLING		Yes			Yes Yes Yes	
PROFILING INSTRUMENTS						
ABOVE WATER OPTICS AND PHOTOGRAPHY						

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(On behalf of the Principle Scientist)

Dated -----