

SWERVE SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

2024 – 2026

Purpose

The Ship-Time Review Panel (RP) is tasked by the SWERVE Steering Committee (SC) to provide unbiased, expert scientific review of the applications for SWERVE-funded ship-time. The RP will use the review process to rank the applications based on scientific excellence and provide the SC with a prioritised list of voyages that SWERVE should try to support.

Term

The RP will be established in 2024 and will serve until 2026, aligned with first phase of SWERVE funding. If funding is extended beyond 2026, the SWERVE SC will review the RP membership and function and may invite members to continue in their role.

Membership and Voting

Membership of the RP will be determined by the SC, with suggestions invited from members of the Swedish Ship Operators Network. The RP will have either 5 or 7 members and will encompass experts from a broad range of scientific disciplines and gender to ensure balanced review of the proposals. More than half of the members will be from countries other than Sweden, to reduce potential conflicts of interest with ship-time applicants. If required, the SC may elect to bring in temporary RP members of a specific scientific expertise to provide guidance on a ship-time application that falls outside of the scientific expertise of the core RP membership.

Scientific disciplines of the RP include predominantly: Physical oceanography, biology, microbiology, biogeochemistry, and marine geology (including paleoceanography & paleoclimatology) and geophysics. Other expertise that may be added to the RP could include air-sea fluxes (gases, heat, water), marine atmospheric research, marine archaeology, and other socially focused disciplines.

An RP Chair will be designated to run the review process, chair RP meetings, and compile the RP reviews/discussions into a single recommendation to the SC.

All members have equal weight in ranking the applications, and where differences in the rankings cannot be reconciled, the majority rules.

Line of Reporting

Members of the RP will engage predominantly with the SWERVE Director and Project Officer for coordination and implementation of the Review Process. The secretariat staff will provide organisational support for meetings and documents. The SC may invite the RP Chair to attend SC meetings as an observer for them to represent the RP views and decisions on the science of the applications.

Meetings and Process

The first meeting of the RP will occur virtually soon after it has been established, to inform them of the review process, criteria, and timeline and address any questions they might have. The ship-time applications will be sent electronically to the RP members and each member will independently review them. The RP will then meet (virtually) to discuss the applications and come to a single agreed recommendation for the SC. The timing of these meetings will be determined by the SWERVE SC based on the “call for ship time” process and timeline.