

CASE STUDY

Chairing the European Research Vessel Operators (ERVO) Group – Aodhán Fitzgerald's Story



Investing in our people through career development, along with training and professional learning, is a key priority for the Marine Institute. Creating an environment where people feel they are empowered in their work, that they are making a difference, and can avail of professional development opportunities is also an intrinsic part of the Institute's culture.





Aodhán Fitzgerald's journey with the Marine Institute over the past 23 years exemplifies our strategic priority to Empower Our People to Deliver Excellence.





As well as his role as Research Vessel Operations Manager at the Marine Institute, Aodhán Fitzgerald is the current Chair of the European Research Vessel Operators (ERVO) Group.





Aodhán's appointment to this position is an example of the type of roles that many Marine Institute staff fulfil in international collaborations and committees.





ERVO Group provides opportunities for research vessel managers in Europe to exchange information and address common issues, to identify solutions for improving services to the scientific community, and to develop best practice in the operation of research vessels.





Aodhán says being the Chair of ERVO Group “really complements my role with the Marine Institute as Research Vessel Operations Manager as I have become very well connected with my colleagues around Europe and highly informed in my day to day role.”





It's amazing what impact the Institute has at the European and global scale despite our relatively small size," says Aodhán. "I guess this is true of Irish people and organisations in every walk of life, and I feel this is mostly due to our 'can do' attitude, experience and capabilities.





Aodhán has many highlights from his time so far with the Marine Institute, including the project management of the *RV Tom Crean* design and build and the extraordinary response of the Research Vessel Operations team during the Covid-19 pandemic. Being Chair of the ERVO Group is another key highlight for Aodhán.





The annual meetings, often held in unusual places, give a great opportunity to meet international colleagues who have become firm friends at this stage. Another highlight is seeing the Eurofleets AISBL being established and I look forward to its development over the next few years.





Read the Marine Institute's **Annual Impact Report** to discover more of Aodhán's journey and see how we are empowering our people to deliver excellence.



Foras na Mara
Marine Institute