



Research Vessel Manager-Background of role

The Marine Biological Association (MBA) has operated Research Vessels since 1888, the most recent of which is the RV *MBA Sepia*. The RV *MBA Sepia* was custom built in 2004 and is a 15.45 m Category 2 Coded Workboat, accommodating up to 12 passengers under the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). The MBA Sepia is designed to be a versatile platform for research and instrument deployment, operating from shallow river environments to 60 miles offshore.

The RV *MBA Sepia* and crew contribute to The Western Channel Observatory and long-term monitoring programmes for demersal fish and invertebrates, benthos, zooplankton, larval fish and eggs. The oldest of these programmes is the demersal fish time series, which commenced from MBA Research Vessels in 1911 and is one of the oldest datasets of its kind in the world.

For more information on the MBA's Research Vessel please visit:

<http://www.mba.ac.uk/facilities/research-vessel>

Purpose of role

The MBA seeks to appoint a Research Vessel Manager to the RV *MBA Sepia*. The role of the RV manager will be to oversee and lead various work themes to provide safe and efficient operation of the MBA research vessel. The areas of work overseen by the RV Manager will include, but not limited to, RV and crew safety, operational and budgetary management, development of additional income streams, and the coordination and management of the ship's crew, sea-going scientific team, sea-going assistance pool, time-series interns and MRes students. The RV Manager will be expected to go to sea (on day cruises) in both a scientific and crew capacity totalling between 50-80 days per year. The RV manager will be responsible for ensuring the quality of work input to the demersal fish and benthic time-series funded under the NERC National Capability Programme.

Appointment: One year Fixed Term full-time contract with a probationary 6 month period. Contract will be extended if performance is satisfactory.

Salary: £28,452-32,958 depending on experience.

Role reports to the Director of Research. Further particulars on the post can be found on the MBA website or by email from MBA Human Resources (email: hr@mba.ac.uk).

Application: Applications should be made by way of cover letter, including stating clearly why the applicant is best suited to the role now, together with a full CV, including list of qualifications, to the MBA's Human Resources Department by 17:00 on **Friday 15th December**. Email: hr@mba.ac.uk. **Interviews will be held in early January 2018 with the successful candidate starting as soon as possible thereafter.**



Key Responsibilities at the MBA Laboratory

- To manage a work group comprised of scientists, RV crew and students.
- To lead and/or contribute to development of additional funding streams and implement as per the Sepia business plan.
- To act as a focal point for operation streams (mechanical and maintenance, staffing and licencing).
- To provide feedback to the Director of Research on the status of the MBA's long-term time series and continue to verify the accuracy of the work.
- To provide training in fish identification and scientific methods at sea to new sea-going staff and ensure SWP policies are adhered to by staff and visitors to the MBA Sepia.
- Liaise with the Head Aquarist/Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer to coordinate the collection and release of animals and food supply for the Sea-Water Hall.
- To contribute to the written applications for scientific dispensations core to the ships sampling operations.
- To host multidisciplinary meetings between interested parties to ensure the smooth running of the MBA's sea going programmes.
- To delegate tasks appropriately and manage the human resources available to the MBA, for both paid and unpaid team members.
- Monitor legislation for changes affecting the vessels and their operation.
- Work with the Skipper to organise statutory surveys and inspections.
- Work with the MBA Finance department to deliver planned operational budget.
- Monitor operational licence compliance including applications for work outside of existing licence scope
- Produce annual report to the Director of Research on vessel activities.
- Remain current with marine legislation and MCA Code as applicable.
- Develop and deliver training courses to postgraduates, undergraduates and the public on marine related topics.

Safety Management

- Verifying with Skipper upkeep of vessel safety management system including monitoring Safety Checklist returns.
- Oversight of compilation and review of Risk Assessments and with the MBA H&S Officer investigate accidents and near misses
- Verifying maintenance of safety equipment database.
- Inspect vessels and monitor equipment condition through liaison with Skipper

Personnel Management

- Attend to crew welfare issues, training requirements, certification renewals and to organise casual contractors.
- Oversee recruitment of crew, disciplinary matters, and staff appraisal schedule.

- Plan staff leave and cover to ensure continuous operational capability of the vessel.

Vessel Maintenance

- Liaise with crew on repairs and preventative maintenance including booking of engineers and purchasing of vessel equipment
- Work with crew to compile major refit work lists and oversee refit works and budgetary control during such periods
- Assess tenders for major works and selection of contractors

Key responsibilities at Sea

- To support the vessels scientific surveys at sea between 50-80 days per year
- To be acting lead scientist for core survey work at the MBA
- To advise and assist MBA scientists and collaborators during surveys
- To operate as RV Crew, using winches, handling equipment deployment
- Work with the MBA Skipper to ensure a safe working environment
- To train new scientists in survey techniques at sea as required
- To troubleshoot scientific equipment at sea

Skills Profile

A BSc or higher in Marine science or equivalent-Essential

Physically fit and capable of working in at sea year round, ENG1 will be required prior to appointment-Essential

Full driver's licence-Essential

Good working knowledge of UK Health and Safety Practices-Essential

Excellent project management skills-Essential

Excellent communication skills both internally and externally-Essential

Experience of working on Research Vessels-Essential

Fish identification skills and animal handling-Desirable

Holds STCW-95 Certifications and crew training experience-Desirable

Strong communicator between stakeholders-Essential

Knowledge of MCA Legislation-Desirable

Aptitude for marine instrumentation-Desirable

Experience of operating under the HSE scientific diving ACoP-Desirable