



Research evaluation

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:  
Channel & North Sea Fisheries Research Unit  
(HMMN)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE  
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND  
RESEARCH BODIES:

Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation  
de la Mer – IFREMER

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**EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019**  
GROUP E

Report published on June, 04 2019

High Council for evaluation of research and higher education



In the name of Hcéres<sup>1</sup>:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee<sup>2</sup>:

Tammo Bult, Chairman of the committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

<sup>1</sup> The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

<sup>2</sup> The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

Tables in this document were filled with data provided by laboratories and supervising bodies in the unit's application and in the Excel files "Données du contrat en cours" and "Données du prochain contrat".

## UNIT PRESENTATION

<b>Unit name:</b>	Channel & North Sea Fisheries Research Unit
<b>Unit acronym:</b>	HMMN
<b>Requested label:</b>	UPR
<b>Application type:</b>	Renewal
<b>Current number:</b>	
<b>Head of the unit (2018-2019):</b>	Mr PAUL MARCHAL
<b>Project leader (2020-2024):</b>	Mr PAUL MARCHAL
<b>Number of themes:</b>	3

## EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair:</b>	Mr Tammo BULT, Wageningen Marine Research, The Netherlands
<b>Experts:</b>	Mr Guy DUHAMEL, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle Paris Mr Yannick FAULCONNIER, Inra Centre de recherche de Clermont-Ferrand-Theix (supporting personnel) Mr Hans POLET, Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO) Belgium Mr Pascal RIERA, Station Biologique de Roscoff

## HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Jean-François HOCQUETTE

## REPRESENTATIVE OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Philippe GOULLETQUER, Ifremer

## INTRODUCTION

### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Unit Halieutique de Manche – Mer du Nord (HMMN) was created in 2005. HMMN is part of the Department of Biological Resources and Environment of IFREMER. HMMN delivers research in fisheries science and marine ecology, with a focus on the English Channel and the Southern North Sea Region. Its tasks include the monitoring and assessment of fisheries resources and ecosystems affected by commercial fishing and other sectors of activity (e.g. sand and aggregate extraction, renewable marine energy production) in a context of climate change. The unit consists of two laboratories, located in:

1. Boulogne-sur-Mer: Laboratoire Ressources Halieutiques de Boulogne sur Mer, LRHBL, Hauts de France;
2. Port-en-Bessin: Laboratoire Ressources Halieutiques de Port-en-Bessin, LRHPB, Normandie;

These two HMMN laboratories are part of a network of Fisheries Laboratories contributing to the French Fisheries Information System, important to the French fisheries data collection & management.

HMMN coordinates three large-scale sea surveys and hosts four technical facilities: a National Sclerochronology Center (PNS), a trophic ecology facility (PRT), and a Zooplankton Taxonomy and Ecology Center (PTEZOO), which is shared with the LERBL laboratory, and finally a national service for processing and standardizing data in response to fisheries data calls supporting stock assessments (CREDO).

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

The management team is composed of the head of the HMMN unit, Mr Paul Marchal, who is also the location-manager/head of the Boulogne-sur-Mer laboratory. Mr Joël Vigneau is the head/location manager for the laboratory of Port-en-Bessin.

### HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1\_2 Évolution, écologie, biologie des populations

### SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

Since 2013, HMMN activities have been structured in three inter-connected themes: Individuals, Populations and Ecological (Theme 1); Communities, Trophic networks and Biodiversity (Theme 2); and Fleets, Exploitation and Management Scenarios (Theme 3). In terms of monitoring, HMMN contributes to fisheries and ecosystem data collection at sea, in the harbour, and in the laboratory.

### UNIT WORKFORCE

		<b>Unit workforce</b>	
		<b>Channel &amp; North Sea Fisheries Research Unit</b>	
	<b>Active staff</b>	<b>Number 30/06/2018</b>	<b>Number 01/01/2020</b>
	Full professors and similar positions	0	0
	Assistant professors and similar positions	0	0
	Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	0	0

Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	0	0
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	9	11
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	20	19
<b>Permanent staff</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	0	
PhD Students	3	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	4	
<b>Non-permanent staff</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	

## GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit's scientific strategy and projects are well built upon the units strengths, organised in three clearly defined and interconnected themes, coherent with the IFREMER 2030 plan. The unit addresses essential questions regarding the ecological impact of local human activities and global changes on the structure and functioning of exploited fish communities and trophic networks, aimed at new methods for the evaluation of fisheries management including the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and Good Environment Status indicator development in the context of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The unit's scientific production is very good in quantity and quality as well as its involvement in PhD training, resulting in a relatively large group of young, motivated PhDs that very much add to the work-atmosphere and the units profile: a good and pleasant place to start your career. In general, employees appreciate the good informal and intimate working atmosphere.

The number of HDR scientists must increase. A more clear and original focus in the research will help define a more unique knowledge position of the unit, strengthening the units competitiveness and complementarity. The unit could make more impact for the region by more regional cooperation and communication, adding to the rationale for "being in the region" as a regional unit. A development plan can help focus the unit's strategy, including: the most important external developments that are important to the unit, the most important opportunities & threats, the units ambitions in terms of the future market & knowledge position, and an outline of what is needed to achieve that position.

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