



2 December 2016

Ramiro Neves (iFADO project coordinator)
MARETEC / IST – Instituto Superior Técnico
Mechanical Engineering Department
Av. Rovisco Pais, 1049-001 Lisboa - Portugal

Dear Dr. Neves:

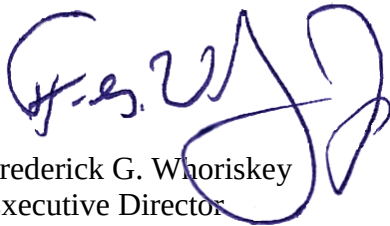
I write this letter in support of your application for the iFADO proposal, and confirm that Dalhousie University's Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) strongly supports the initiative. The OTN is a global research and technology platform and development project headquartered at Dalhousie University, Canada. OTN researchers use state-of-the-art electronic tracking equipment and aquatic monitoring to document the movements and survival of aquatic animals in relation to changing environments. Results from these studies assist government with management of ecosystems and fisheries, in assessing environmental issues and mitigation strategies for offshore industrial projects, and in conservation planning for aquatic protected areas. For oceanographic monitoring, the OTN operates Slocum Gliders and Wave Gliders, as well as moored buoy systems and "animal oceanographers". OTN is a system of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), and our animal tracking data system is internationally certified as an Associate Data Unit of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (ADU-IODE)

Your proposed project entitled *Innovation in the Framework of the Atlantic Deep Ocean* (iFADO) addresses the calls in Objective 1.2 for "*Strengthening the transfer of innovation results to facilitate the emergence of new products, services and processes*" and from Priority Axis 1 "*Stimulating innovation and competitiveness and the specific objective*". OTN is pleased to support your application and to share our expertise and experience in collecting data and performing activities related to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). This is fully consistent and with and beneficial to OTN's international scope and mandate, and will assist us in our continuing efforts to link international telemetry researchers into a global network. Europe and the iFADO project areas are key foci of our efforts, so the iFADO project is highly relevant to OTN's work.

OTN will be pleased to be involved in the iFADO project as an active stakeholder, final beneficiary, and potential user of results. We welcome the opportunity to participate in stakeholder meetings, training activities, in gathering inputs for the project and community benefit, and to evaluate as appropriate final project tools, guidelines and methodologies.

We look forward to cooperating with you and to the opportunity to share knowledge and technologies with other Atlantic Area countries and coastal managers. Please feel free to contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. G. Whoriskey', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Frederick G. Whoriskey
Executive Director