



**Geography**

**(Research ship)**

**Strand: Human Environments**

**Strand: Natural Environment**

**Strand unit: People living and working in a contrasting part of Ireland**

**Strand unit: Weather, climate and atmosphere**

**Aims:**

- Identify the two research vessels that are part of the fleet
- Research information about the two research vessels.
- Use the follow the fleet website to track the locations of the vessels.
- Use the follow the fleet website to read the Captain’s latest report from each of the vessels.
- Describe the purpose of a weather buoy. Illustrate a weather buoy.
- Locate the various weather buoys in Ireland on a map.
- Find out the weather forecast as identified by the various weather buoys.

**Suggested ideas:**

- Name the research vessels that are part of the Irish fleet  
<http://www.imdo.ie/followthefleet/fleet.asp>
- Find out facts from the Follow the Fleet website about the Celtic Voyager and the Celtic Explorer <http://www.imdo.ie/followthefleet/fleet.asp>

| Name | No. Of crew | Size of Ship | Engine Size | Speed |
|------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------|
|      |             |              |             |       |

- Go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_research\\_vessels\\_by\\_country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_research_vessels_by_country) to find a list of research vessels in other countries
- Log on and find the location of the two research vessels, the Celtic Explorer and the Celtic Voyager. <http://www.imdo.ie/followthefleet/login.asp>
- Read the most recent Captain's report on each of the research vessels. <http://www.imdo.ie/followthefleet/login.asp>
- The research vessels look after the weather buoys which are located at sea.
- Discuss what the purpose of a weather buoy is. Illustrate a weather buoy.

(Weather buoys are described as instruments which collect weather and ocean data within the world's oceans. They measure elements such as air temperature at the ocean surface, water temperature, wave height, barometric pressure, wind speed and wind direction. The buoys transmit this data via satellite communications to meteorological centres for use in weather forecasting and climate study. Both moored buoys and drifting buoys (drifting in the open ocean currents) are used. Weather buoys can always be recognized by their yellow color and flashing yellow light at night. (definition adapted from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weather\\_buoy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weather_buoy) )  
Click this link to see an image of a weather buoy)

- Log onto <http://www.met.ie/latest/buoy.asp> to find out the weather forecast detected by the various weather buoys.
- Use the map at <http://www.marine.ie/home/publicationsdata/data/buoys/> to locate the various weather buoys.