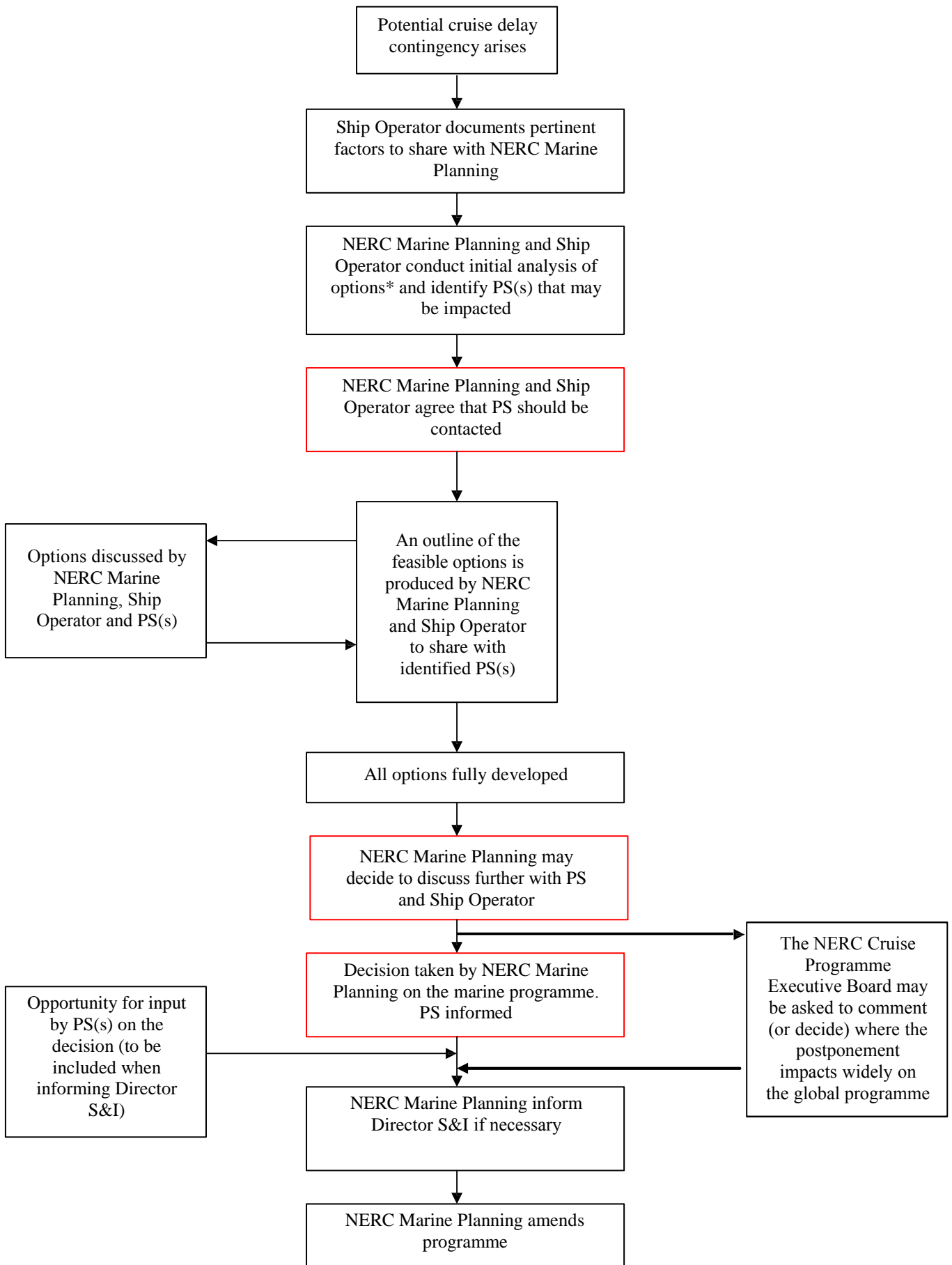


Cruise Postponement Procedure
 (Where a cruise delay contingency has the potential to impact on future cruises)



Explanatory Notes

- Cruise delay contingency: where an issue has arisen that potentially affects the ability of the ship to adequately carry out scientific cruises and the time required to resolve the issue may result in a change to the published marine programme.
- The Ship Operator (NMF or BAS) should initially document the pertinent factors. This document can then be used to facilitate discussions between NERC Marine Planning and the Ship Operator to outline options* for the marine programme and identify PS(s) that may be impacted.
- NERC Marine Planning and the Ship Operator should decide on the correct point to inform the PS of the potential problem. This should balance when the PS needs to be alerted against providing the PS with unnecessary concern.
- NERC Marine Planning is responsible for producing potential options which can be shared with the PS. The PS can use these options to inform their science party on the current situation and gain their input. Feedback from the science party should be directed through the PS.
- Discussions are expected to continue as the situation develops and all parties kept informed of the updated options.
- All relevant communication (from PS and the Ship Operator) should be copied to NERC Marine Planning to allow inclusion in these developing options, which will be circulated at relevant intervals.
- When the options are fully developed NERC Marine Planning will convene a conference call with the PS and Ship Operator to make a decision on the marine programme. Ideally an agreed decision can be made at this point, but ultimately the decision will lie with NERC and may need input from the NERC Cruise Programme Executive Board.
- In the event that an agreed decision is not made, the PS will be provided with the opportunity to comment on the decision. NERC Marine Planning will include this comment when communicating the options to Director of Science and Innovation and where necessary the NERC Cruise Programme Executive Board.
- NERC Marine Planning is responsible for officially amending the marine programme.

*The options for the marine programme will be developed with respect to the [NERC policy on prioritisation of bids for marine facilities](#).