Ices Cooperative Research Report No. 209
Underwater Noise of Research Vessels

The ICES CRR Report 209 came about because of the increasing concern over the effects of underwater noise radiated from research vessels. The Report, published in 1995, presented evidence which had been steadily accumulating, of adverse fish reaction to some vessels.
For the purposes of carrying out accurate fisheries research, it is important that the natural distribution of fish should be disturbed as little as possible during population surveys, regardless of whether the sampling is by means of trawl, or acoustic methods.
Existing regulations govern the internal noise levels allowed in ships, however no such regulations exist for noise radiated underwater. In the ICES CRR Report 209, recommendations are made as to the limits of underwater radiated noise that should be radiated from a vessel carrying out fisheries research.
The two main aims for noise reduction in fisheries research vessels as laid down in the Report are 1) to ensure that fish do not swim out of the path of the vessel as it approaches, nor must the radiated noise cause an artificial concentration of fish below the vessel, and 2) to prevent noise from being integrated as a signal, or from contaminating the fish echoes received and processed by acoustic survey equipment.
The Celtic Explorer, when she is built, will be compliant with the noise level recommendations of the ICES CRR Report 209.

For further information on the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) or a copy of the Report No.209, please see their website:
http://www.ices.dk