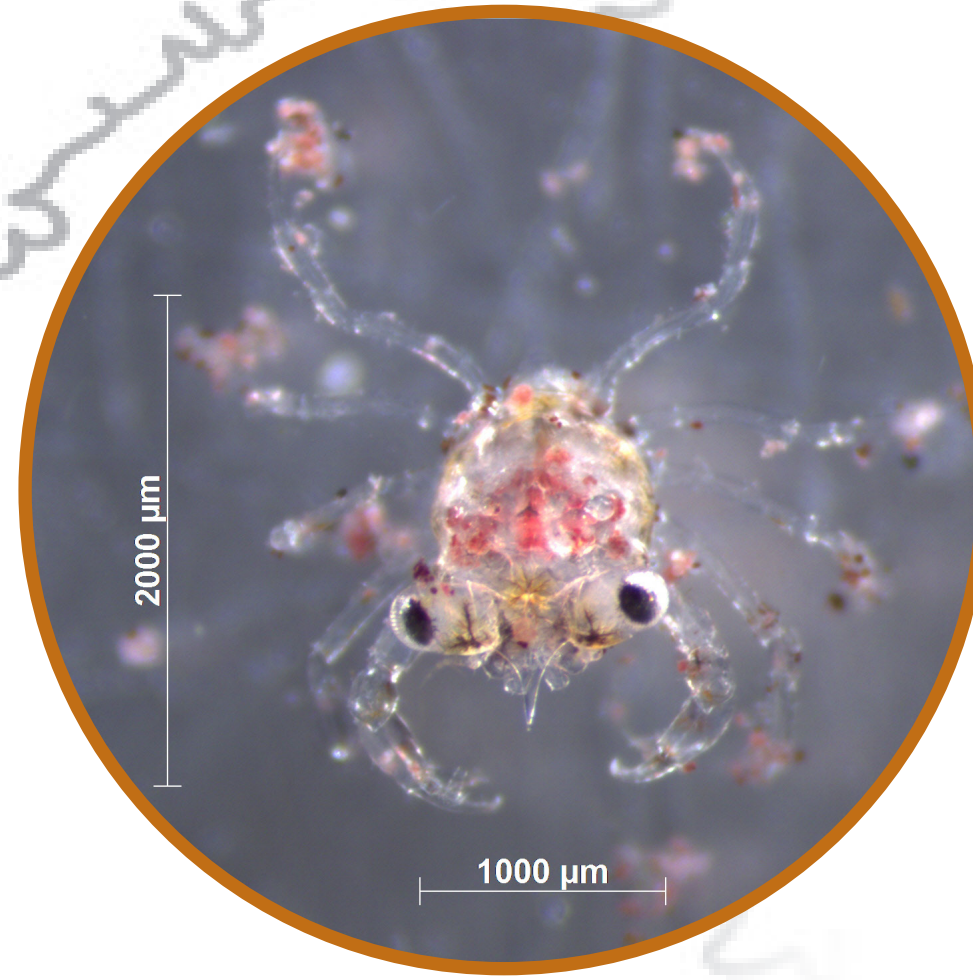




NORTH SEA BALLAST WATER

THE NORTH SEA BALLAST WATER OPPORTUNITY PROJECT

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The North Sea Ballast Water Opportunity (NSBWO) project is providing regional cohesion, encouraging innovation and developing future strategies in ballast water policies and ballast water management.

The threat of ballast water

Organisms living in coastal waters may be pumped into ballast tanks along with the ballast water. When ballast water is released, these organisms may also be released.

If these non-native organisms reproduce, spread, establish new populations they are considered as **invasive organisms**.

Invasive organisms are one of the four biggest threats to the world's oceans

Invasive organisms may cause ecological harm, economic damage and health problems.

The project objectives

1. Strengthen regional cohesion in the implementation, monitoring and enforcement of ballast water management policies;
2. Provide an open research and innovation programme for the North Sea region based on scientific knowledge for implementation and enforcement of ballast water certification and port state control;
3. Provide future strategies for the North Sea region to reduce ship-borne bio invasions;
4. Involve all stakeholders in the North Sea region, while stimulating open exchange of knowledge, ideas and expertise.

Project group members

- The Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), the Netherlands
- The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency of Germany (BSH), Germany
- GoConsult, Germany
- World Maritime University (WMU), Sweden
- CaTO Marine Ecosystems (CaTO), the Netherlands

The project group is joined by 33 partners and sub-partners representing:

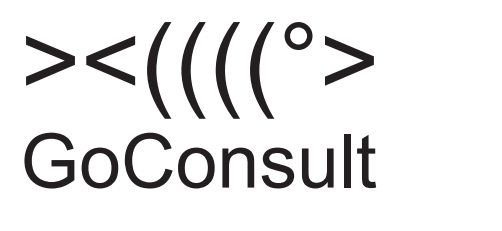
- The shipping industry
- Ports
- BWB and detection industries
- Scientists
- Policy makers of the North Sea states' interest organisations
- Educational and environmental NGO's



The NSBWO project started in January 2009 and will run until the end of 2013.



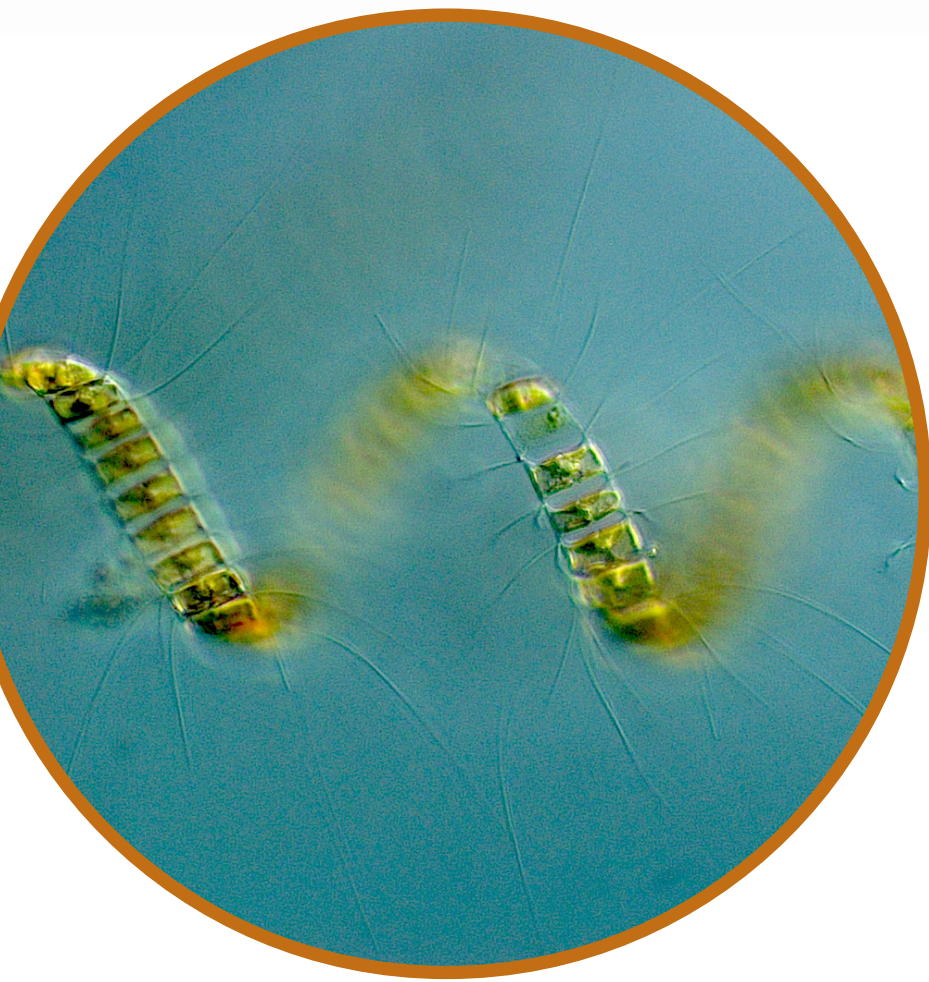
Project consultants Project funding



THE NORTH SEA BALLAST WATER OPPORTUNITY PROJECT DELIVERABLES



NORTH SEA BALLAST WATER



Project achievements

The achievements range from encouraging discussions on ballast water issues by hosting expert conventions, sending submissions to agencies responsible for the execution of the BWM Convention, advancing knowledge on ballast water treatment methods and detection technologies to outreach activities:

- Europort Conference 2011: Ballast Water Management "Threat or Treat?" (190 participants)
- Numerous expert workshops
- Several policy papers that help shaping international BWM policies
- Target group-oriented activities to raise awareness and stimulate involvement and action, including information to the general public
- IMO-MEPC submissions
- Raising awareness of importance of organisms < 10 µm
- Influence on intake concentration on treatment efficacy and effectivity
- Development of tests for BWT systems

The international maritime community has shown interest to secure the outcomes of the project for the future as knowledge basis and material for education, training and research.



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