

## **BALLAST WATER OPPORTUNITY NEWSLETTER 2010/ 3 & 4, DECEMBER 2010**

### **Introduction**

The last BWO Newsletter of 2010 is a double volume, following a condense period of project events and developments, on which we brief below.

### **WP 1 The project as a whole**

#### *Payment claims*

The project management continues to handle the formal payment claims. Although it has been a learning process, things tend to become smoother.

Payment for the second term has been completed, whilst payment claims for the third period are now being processed. To prepare for the fourth payment claim (which also refers to sub-partners) for the period up to March 1st, 2011, a schedule has been distributed for data collection and control. For partners this comprises the period from September 1st 2010 until March 1st 2011, for sub-partners the period from March 1st 2010 until March 1st 2011. The schedule will be published on the website shortly.

#### *Annual Work Plan*

We also would like to draw your, partners and sub-partners, attention to the annual reports and work plan, which both have to be completed.

#### *Europort Conference*

At the last WP-leader conference, we agreed to liaise with the bi-annual Europort conferences, to be held in November 2011 and 2013. This shipping exhibition attracts about 30.000 visitors and as such is a highly suitable platform for the 2013 closing conference of the NSBWO project, as well as for an intermediate conference in 2011. The organisers of Europort are very enthusiastic, and warmly welcome our initiative. Facilities will be available to us at no costs, while free international publicity is generated. More information can be found on the website [www.europort.nl](http://www.europort.nl).

### *Annual meeting*

The Annual meeting will be hosted by the University of Newcastle on February 24 and 25 2011.

Thematic workshops will be:

- Harmonization for classification societies
- Inert Gas Systems – a common understanding
- Modelling the ballast water threat

As part of the plenary meeting, an activity to stimulate and enhance cohesion between all project participants will be organised.

An agenda of the meeting with a more detailed outline will follow.

### **WP 2 Policy - WP 3 Science: Harmonisation**

#### *Harmonisation Workshop report*

The past period saw ongoing activities in the NIOZ harbour for testing as well as for pilot studies on the feasibility of some new ballast water treatment technologies. Together with one of the project partners (EVONIK), chemical degradation and neutralisation of the IMO-approved active substance 'PERACLEAN Ocean' were further tested under different temperature and salinity regimes. Alongside, the test installation was upgraded to accommodate proper testing of an inert gas system, which required considerable adaptation of the existing infrastructure and sampling procedures.

With the envisaged entry into force of the BWM Convention in 2012, several national and European organisations are facing the challenge of implementing the Convention and its consequences for compliance control and enforcement. In support of generating an adequate knowledge basis, we compiled an overview of existing and potential interesting technologies for port-state control. As a first step during the September workshop, the partners and sub-partners involved in detection presented and discussed their current expertise. The discussion continued at a second workshop in October, in which also representatives of several test facilities from the US participated. This first intercalibration workshop mainly focused on hands-on experience and shared practical aspects of counting and viability-assessment procedures for the organism size class above 50 micron. As part of the outcome of the workshop we generated an overview of existing sampling and counting technologies.

During the 5<sup>th</sup> International Ballast Water Management Conference & Exhibition in Singapore the outline and focus of the workshops was presented at a Test Facilities Forum meeting of the Globallast Global Partnership Project. Future workshops as follow up of the NSBWO initiative would also be open to (a limited number of) other test facility representatives. A second workshop is scheduled for March 2011 in the US. The Singapore Conference was well attended and presentations and lectures were given by different (sub)partners. See web site [www.NorthSeaBallast.eu](http://www.NorthSeaBallast.eu) for presentations (*/Folders / Northsea Ballast Water / WP6 Dissemination / Presentations - NSBWO / 2010-Presentations by NSBWO participants / International Conferences Other 2010*)

A briefing on the October workshop can be found at: [www.NorthSeaBallast.eu](http://www.NorthSeaBallast.eu)

*/Folders / Northsea Ballast Water / WP6 Dissemination / Presentations - NSBWO / 2010-Presentations by NSBWO participants / International Conferences Other 2010/: 'Workshop Aspects of Certification and CME: counting zooplankton'*

#### **WP 4 Science - Sampling**

Screening of organism detection technologies has continued. We co-ordinated selection criteria for such technologies with Marcel Veldhuis of NIOZ. Selected technologies were tested on-board during our study on optimising representative ballast-water sampling. The study was funded by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). In the framework of EMSA we also examined organism detection technologies so as to select appropriate applications for an indicative analysis of ballast water samples. The results from this study will be published shortly.

#### **WP 5 Strategies**

##### *BWO NorSAS Website*

The website is being developed by WMUs IT experts Erik Ponnert and Chris Hoebeke, together with Olof Linden and Hong diem Vo. Phase 1 of the website, giving background on all the introduced species in the North Sea, has been completed. Development of phase 2, which has two parts, is still on-going. The first part involved collaboration with the DAISIE website and the incorporation of the DAISIE database into BWOs NorSAS Website. The second part includes a new and improved NorSAS website using the Drupal Open Source Framework ([www.drupal.org](http://www.drupal.org)). The source code has been donated to the Drupal community for others to build similar services using their customised Drupal configuration. The VitalSigns ([www.vitalsignsme.org](http://www.vitalsignsme.org)), an educational citizen-science project website was built upon Drupal and would fit the NorSAS project extremely well, only needing minor modifications to the various form templates that build up the species-data presentations and the input of data. Some features may not be of interest to the NorSAS project and could therefore be disabled and at a later stage be activated if necessary.

##### *Hydrological model/Agent-based model*

BWO project partner DHI has developed the Hydrodynamic model and the Agent-based model for the North Sea Region. After some test runs the models are working properly. DHI will present the model at a dedicated workshop during the Annual Meeting in February 2011.

## WP 6 Dissemination

During the past period, much effort has been invested in stimulating WP leaders to provide input to the work plan as adapted for dissemination planning. As feedback to the detailed plan was not optimal, we aimed to generate a higher abstraction-level response through written and personal input. For the latter we organised a Dissemination Workshop during the September meeting, provoking response by target questions and statements. An interesting discussion ensued, although, surprisingly, the response to the provocative statement: 'Dissemination is a task of WP 6 only – True or Not?' was a general agreement. As such perception is certainly not consistent with the objective and structure of the BWO project, we took up the challenge to change tack so as to rouse a general impetus to go for dissemination of the project.

Consequently our WP6 core team, re-embodied pending the temporary time-out of partner IMarEST, has started from scratch with a more promising approach to rouse general interest in dissemination with partners and sub-partners, to stimulate cohesion between all project participants, and to identify effective dissemination channels in all North Sea partner countries. The revision process is now up and running and will be presented at the WP leader meeting in January (Hamburg). A first token of implementing such new approach to dissemination planning will materialise during the Annual Meeting 2011 with a dedicated activity.

We continued to facilitate conference contributions and other dissemination activities and have shared a first outline of our Europort Conference plans with the organisers of Europort.

**From the Ballast Opportunity Project we wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2011.**

