

NORTH SEA BALLAST WATER OPPORTUNITY NEWSLETTER 2011-2

WP1 - Management

Now we're almost halfway the project, reporting has found a certain routine and cadence. The third payment claim was approved during this quarter, whilst the fourth has been processed. We are now preparing for the fifth term reporting. Having said that, it also became obvious that the required reporting is not that easy and is a struggle to many.

Over the previous periods a number of sub-partners were active whilst others appeared to be not. Therefore we adapted the structure of the project setup. A major concern was IMarEST, responsible for a substantial part of dissemination (WP6). Fortunately, after fruitful discussions we hope IMarEST to be back on track later this year so as to fill the gap.

An overall project concern is the lack of knowledge at the users end of ballast water systems. To accommodate such concern, we will organise a Conference during the Europort 2011 trade exhibition in Rotterdam, November 2011. The programme has been drafted and speakers have been invited by WP6 (more at WP6). A Polish MSc intern is expected to assist in organising the practicalities the conference.

WP2 - Policy

North Sea Ballast Water Opportunity provided a platform for the German and Norwegian Administrations to discuss the pressing issue of scaling of ballast water treatment systems. Basic systems that are tested for certification on land and at sea, have flow rates around 250 m³/hour. Many ships however, require systems that can handle substantially larger flow rates up to thousands of cubic meters an hour, flow rates that are too large to handle at a test facility. The regime for approving systems with larger flow rates on the base of knowledge gained from the tested system has been unclear. Norway and Germany have proposed a method to the IMO MEPC, which was consequently adopted as a formal guidance (MEPC 62, Report of Meeting, in press).

WP 2 contributed intensively to the discussions at the second test facility harmonisation workshop at Moss Landing (see also WP3), a successful second to the Texel in autumn 2010. While the Texel workshop covered methods to analyse ballast water for organisms larger than 50 µm, the Moss Landing workshop focused on organisms between 10 µm and 50 µm, in particular phytoplankton. Test facilities from several European countries and US states agreed on a common ground to develop a common standard for facilities and better overall comparability.

Following the January 2011 consultation on exchange zones and exemptions, the strategy development has now led to a draft OSPAR submission by the North Sea Ballast Water Exchange and Exemptions Group led by the Netherlands, which submission addresses the pressing issues in ballast water exchange on a common ground.

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment is hosting a three-day conference on 19-21 October 2011 in Berlin. Conference programme and online registration:
http://www.bfr.bund.de/en/event/emerging_risks_from_ballast_water_treatment-82706.html

WP3 – Science of Testing Ballast water treatment systems

The first period of the testing season was rather hectic. A number of manufacturers now appear to be on track, hence many tests were performed at NIOZ. We did certification tests on an Inert Gas-, an Electro-Chlorination- and a UV-system.

Several filter manufacturers asked us to test their respective filters. Filtration remains to be a bottleneck in the overall ballast water treatment process, where proper filtration is crucial. Only a very limited number of filter manufacturers is capable of handling the harsh "worst-case" ballast water conditions. We therefore warmly welcomed the companies for testing their filters and fine-tuning for improved performance.

At the start of this quarter, the second testing workshop in a series of three was held on the detection of organisms between 10 and 50 micron at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) in California. The workshop was well attended; the joint results were laid down in a protocol for detection that is supported by all participating test facilities. WP2, will submit the protocols to the appropriate IMO bodies.

May 13th a so called "open day" at the NIOZ BW Test Facility was organised in the framework of events for all Interreg projects in the Netherlands and aiming to inform the public about the achievements of EU-Interreg projects. After an introduction to the project and the scope of ballast water the 150 attendees visited the laboratories and the test site, guided by the ballast water testing experts.

During the last weeks of June, tests were performed for detection on board of ships in the Port of Rotterdam. The exercise gave more detailed information about procedures that are feasible on board ship and on dealing with on-board detection. Further tests might be conducted in the second half of 2011.

WP4 – Science of Detection

WP4 focused on gathering additional methods for organism detection. Research on such methods was initiated last year and we continue adding material to prepare a comprehensive overview of methods. Should any reader of this newsletter be aware of methods to detect viable organisms as per the D-2 Standard of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention, please approach WP4.

We also participated in the sampling of ballast water on commercial vessels in the Port of Rotterdam (see WP3), a joint initiative of the Interreg IVB Project Ballast Water Opportunity (BWO) and the project BioMarKs (ERA net program funded by BiodivERsA's national partners; EC Framework Programme). BioMarKs integrates EU research institutes and experts in the relevant biological disciplines and in marine policy and economics to assess the little explored small-sized unicellular eukaryotes or protists.

The BWO project has been introduced at relevant scientific and shipping-related conferences and meetings.

WP5 - Strategies

No news from WP5.

WP6 - Dissemination

We launched the full Dissemination Plan together with a Dissemination Action Plan at the NSBWO web site. The complex search for feedback and support is reflected in the many drafts prior to completion.

The Dissemination Plan is definite. The Dissemination Action Plan is a living document; to function as a checklist for deliverables and their dissemination for all project participants, and in particular the WP leaders.

A Target group Analysis, prepared in consultation with representatives of the different target groups, is annexed to the dissemination plan.

We are well on the way of preparing for the **NSBWO-Europort 2011 Conference**

“Ballast Water Management - Threat or Treat”

Aim & scope of the NSBWO-Europort 2011 Conference:

- The conference aims to raise the understanding and awareness of the challenges of ballast water management and to inform participants about potential solutions and developments in the implementation of ballast water management policies. The conference will primarily target quartermasters and officers at sea, yet will also include a substantial window for manufacturers of ballast water management systems, detection tools and shipbuilders.
- The conference starts off with a half-day programme about what is expected from shipping and a half-day programme about the potential and drawbacks of ballast water management systems. The former will delve into regulations, compliance and enforcement; the latter will inform about solutions and practicalities.

The Conference Programme is approaching completion; speakers have also been asked to consider issues we have identified as area of specific concern, to enhance coherence at the conference.

To be able to enter **Europort 2011** and so to access the **NSBWO-Europort 2011 Conference**, all attendees and maritime professionals can register online for a free visit to Europort 2011. [Click here for the online registration form](#), enter your personal details and receive a digital admission ticket.

WP6 assisted with relevant guidance and information to an initiative of Groningen Seaports to investigate the role of Ports in Ballast Water Management and to develop ideas about Port BWM Strategies through a high-level Students debate competition.

At the NIOZ-BWM Open Day of 13 May WP6 participated in guidance and streamlining organisational aspects.