

BALLAST WATER OPPORTUNITY NEWSLETTER 2012/1

Introduction

The first quarter of 2012 the project focused on preparing another inspiring Annual Conference, which will be held in Hamburg, 24 – 25 May. Along with the general – Steering group meeting several workshops for target audiences will be held. As before we responded to several invitations to present the project at different meetings and conferences. We also focused on bonding of different target groups by appropriate means as will be clarified in the WP reports of this newsletter. We again wish you a pleasant and informative read.

WP 1 The project as a whole

Preparations were started for the Annual Conference which will be held at the BSH in Hamburg on 24 and 25 May. Invitations for this should have been received by now We encourage you to book the meeting in your agenda.

WP1 invited members of the steering group for the steering group meeting at the NSBWO Annual Conference and tried and identified those target sections that were as yet not represented in the steering group.

Difficulties with Interreg in the payment of fixed overhead amounts are still unsolved which causes serious frustration of some partners, especially since this often affects small companies without a huge financial back-up. Evers + Manders has urged JTS/Interreg to give this matter serious attention, since it seriously decreases the motivation of such companies to join Interreg Programmes. We expect that this issue will be resolved before the end of this month

WP 2 Policy

No news from WP2

WP 3 Science - Testing

Within the context of the BWM testing activities NIOZ BW test team held an in-house flow cytometer workshop in co-operation with the NIOZ Plankton laboratory. The workshop intended to compare different devices for flow cytometry. The first aim was to prepare a new three-laser flow cytometer that is to be used in G8-tests of ballast water treatment systems in 2012. The second aim was to compare four different flow cytometers in terms of accuracy and reproducibility. Thirdly, the workshop served to prepare for a project-wide international flow cytometer workshop to be held at NIOZ in the autumn of 2012. The preparation of the new flow cytometer went smoothly. Comparing it with the three other instruments showed that this 'ballast water' flow cytometer was capable of measuring 10-50 µm organisms at high speed, thereby increasing or lowering their detection limit at

equal analysis time. Surprisingly, a smaller and cheaper instrument with only one laser, which might be used in on-board testing, performed nearly as good as the three-laser flow cytometer. The experienced gained in the logistics and in practical issues such as the time needed for sample analysis and data reporting during this workshop will support the organisation of the project workshop the same issue later in 2012.

WP 4 Science - Sampling

No news from WP4

WP 5 Strategies

The first phase of the North Sea Alien Species website (NorSAS) is ready to launch. At the moment there are around 50 species entries compiled from various sources such as peer-reviewed scientific articles, working-group reports (i.e. WGITMO, HELCOM) and web sources such as DAISIE, NOBANIS, WoRMS, Algaebase, FishBase, MarLIN, Aquatic Invasions etc. Species information includes taxonomy, common names, images, morphological description, biology, ecology, any notable impact in the North Sea, population and species status in the North Sea, pathways and vectors of introduction, potential management schemes, a GBIF species distribution map and a North Sea occurrence map etc. The process of acquiring a species images is underway to prevent copyright violations. The website will be launched at <http://www.norsas.eu> portal.

Apart from this, the planning for the modelling workshop, which will be held as part of annual meeting on 24th May 2012 at BSH in Hamburg, Germany, is underway.

WP 6 Dissemination

We continued our discussions, started last year, on the safeguarding of future dissemination from the project after the end of the NSBWO project by further investigating the possibilities at EMSA to host our web site information, following their offer to do consolidate our deliverables as such.

At the beginning of this year we set off to in prepare for the Annual meeting (AC12). The location had not yet been concluded, nor the precise date. After our Danish partner did not see a possibility to organise the AC12, rain check BSH was to host the meeting. After considerable deliberations it was possible to set the dates and the best time-slot arrangements for steering group meeting and workshops. The four workshops to be held had been agreed in the WP6 meeting December 2011. The morning of the first day, 24 May, will see one workshop (modelling, WP5), the afternoon Steering group meeting will be held. 25 May starts off with a Ports Workshop (WP6, CaTO) and a Round-Table detection (WP4). The afternoon will see a workshop 'Contact and interaction with other players in the field (WP6, ProSea).

We invited Allegra Cagnelosi (GSI) as key note speaker for the General/Steering Group meeting and Jon Stewart (pert adviser to the US Government) as key note for the Ports workshop, to which invitation both happily agreed.

For the ports workshop we communicated frequently and met with the representatives of the ports sub partners that have consistently been active in NSBWO, Port of Rotterdam (PoR), Groningen Seaports (GSP) and Port of Antwerp (PoA). We also communicated on a regular basis with a representative of the Port of Hamburg, which is not a sub partner in the project. Both Maurits Prinszen (PoR) and Geert Jan Reinders (GSP) will speak at the workshop. At present we are in the process of developing flashing statements that can serve as a stimulus in the panel en general discussion to follow the talks. Many port channels have now been accessed to distribute the invitation to the ports workshop as widely as possible.

Apart from preparing the AC12, we have been invited to present the project at the IMarEST Ballast Water Management Conference (London, 23 -24 February), at the BW Expert Group of the Dutch Ministry of transport, and at the ICES-WGBOSV meeting Lisbon, 12-14 March). At the latter we had to ask the chair to arrange for our prepared update presentation to be on the table without us presenting it, due to an emergency hospital stay during that period. At the IMarEST Conference, upon their request, we also presented a paper on behalf of GloBallast CPU. Also in March we received an invitation à titre personnel to speak as a first speaker at the Ballast Treatment Technology Conference (London, April) on 'Convention Horizons – Consequences for the regulatory environment', for which we submitted an abstract in March and started to develop a concept for such presentation.

As we sensed some concern about the status of the project with several sub partners, we organised an informal meeting during MEPC 63 to all involved in the project to give an update and identify items fit for action. Attending were the country representatives, NI Shipping organisation, GESAMP-BWWG, GoConsult, en the French country representative, as France also borders the North Sea. Several issues identified were seen fit for action, such as risk assessment seen from the shipping side (KVNR, BSH).

In February we also were invited to meet with the organisers of Europort 2013 to set a few targets for optimal co-operation in organising the NSBWO- Europort 2013 final conference of the project. When meeting we agreed to meet for more extensive talks in April. Being there we also discussed the possibility to have some NSBWO-seedling conference at the Europort Istanbul 2013 Maritime Fair (March 2013). Later that month, during MEPC 63, we discussed the feasibility of such initiative with a representative of the Turkish Government and with GloBallast CPU (Turkey is regional GloBallast lead country for the Mediterranean). The idea was welcomed and a potential concept will be further probed.

For dissemination to the general public Sub partner Wadden Sea Society and NIOZ dissemination support are developing initiatives for specific tools, while the second issue of the BW Times targeted at ports is in preparation for the Annual Meeting.