

THE NORTH SEA BALLAST WATER OPPORTUNITY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

2013/3



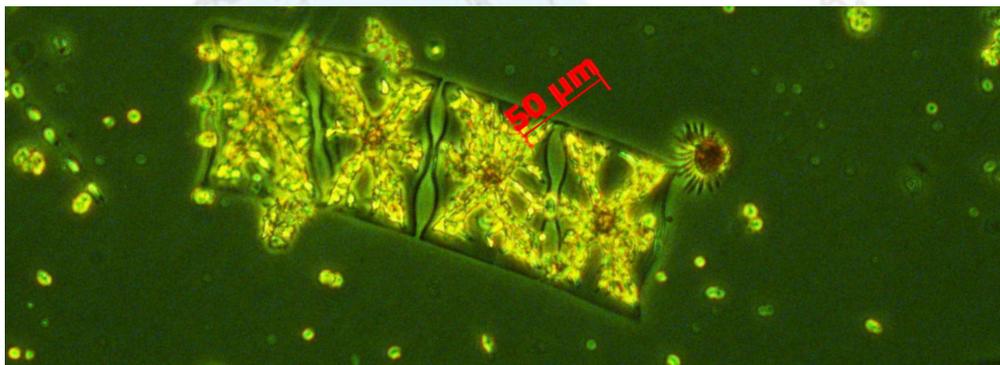
NORTH SEA BALLAST WATER

WP1: Project co-ordination

- The periodic report nr. 8 (1 September 2012-28 February 2013) has officially been approved by the Project Development Officer of JTS (Concluding Letter dated 18-09-2013). Overall, JTS was quite satisfied with the progress of the NSBWO project.
- The extension of the project until 30 June 2014 has officially been accepted by JTS as well as by the Steering Board of Interreg. For the extension period the original project budget will apply.
- The budget of the project may become under strain as our expenditure is coming close to the required 50% threshold on staff-costs. NIOZ, as lead-beneficiary, has asked all partners and sub-partners to calculate an estimate of their expected spending along the different budget lines, for the period until the end of the project. NIOZ and Evers+Manders will evaluate the cost calculations and report back in Q4 of 2013.

- The general rule of Interreg states that none of the (NSBWO) partners will receive more than 80% of their ERDF* budget until the final report is accepted by JTS, which may be delayed until 2016. Depending on the actual depletion state of the budget of the various partners and sub-partners, Work-Package Leaders may seek to skip the 1 September 2013- 1 March 2014 half-year period report, as will be decided at the next Telephone Conference.

* ERDF=European Regional Development Fund



In this newsletter

- ◆ Project extension accepted
- ◆ New head of the BSH section Environmental Protection in Maritime Traffic
- ◆ Power Point film NIOZ ATP method
- ◆ Childrens book on ballast water



Carolin Abromeit

WP2: Policy

In document MEPC 64/2/15 Germany had proposed to develop a common understanding for exercising the discretion of port States for ballast water management systems (BWMS) installed during an interim period. The document includes proposed common standards for self-monitoring of BWMS as a practical way forward in implementing the BWMC.

At BLG17 Germany developed self-monitoring standards for BWMS in more detail. The outcome of BLG 17 on this issue was discussed at a workshop held at the BSH (July 2013). Participants from the US

and Korea were participating in the workshop via video conference. The resulting document has been circulated worldwide for comments. BSH is now including all comments into a document to be submitted to BLG 18.

WP2 is also working full speed to finalise the manual for BWTS-approval.

Since 1 September 2013 Carolin Abromeit has been acting as the new head of the BSH section Environmental Protection in Maritime Traffic 2013. She succeeds Dr Kai Trümpler, who took over as head of the section Maritime Spatial Planning in the BSH.

European Union The European Regional Development Fund

The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme



Investing in the future by working together
for a sustainable and competitive region



WP3: Science and Testing

We have started validation tests for two variable fluorescence CME instruments, using the NIOZ' freshwater and marine cultures. The instruments will be compared with the WALZ fluorimeter, as a means to deliver the bench mark data.

A Power point-film on the NIOZ ATP-detection method starring Cees van Slooten has been sent to EMSA to be

shown during a conference on CME techniques.

Together with WP1 we planned the implementation of quality improvement of the test facility.

Because the NIOZ harbour will be renovated in the winter of 2013-2014, we planned for dismantling the system at the Pelagia Quay.

Together with IMARES (Den Helder) as project partner that now has a working test facility for G8 tests we discussed collaboration.

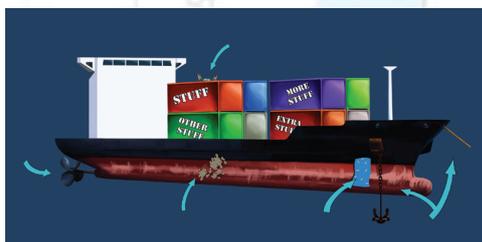
Student Marcel Spijkstra developed a dual-staining method for measuring both dead and live cells in one sample using flow cytometry. The method is a combination of the NIOZ' IMO-based and the ETV protocol.

WP4: Science-Detection

Key activities of WP4 included further evaluations of detection technologies for organisms to demonstrate compliance with ballast water management requirements. Reports on selected technologies were prepared including PCR, immune detection of human pathogens and immune magnetic separation. We further tested the suitability of satellite remote sensing for application in ballast water management. Such method may be used to spot algal blooms to identify areas and periods

in which ballast water should not be exchanged. We also planned our work for the project extension when we will delve into representative ballast water sampling; we will summarise our recommendations to advise the IMO in view of a potential update of the Guideline on approval of ballast water management systems. The work will draw from our activities to test the performance of such BWM systems on board of commercial vessels.

BWO achievements were disseminated at several meetings in- and outside the North Sea region.



WP5: Strategies

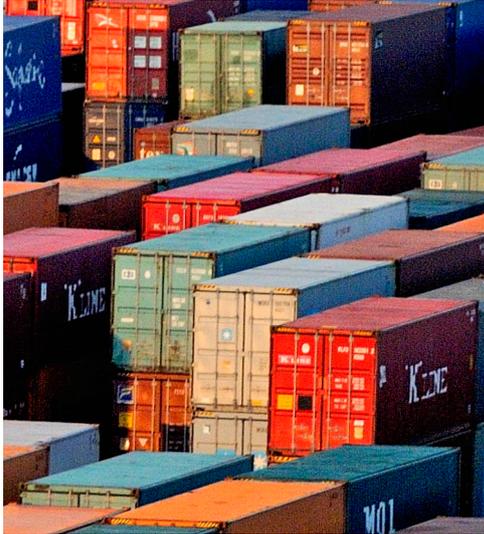
1. WMU is developing an awareness book on alien marine species and ballast water dedicated to children. The book takes a close look at the issues related to ballast water and invasive species and tries to make the material accessible for the young ones. The text refers to everyday phenomena that are familiar to children. The book explains what ballast water is, as well as how and why ballast water is transported all around the world. Potential ecological and economic impacts of alien species are highlighted. The book also illustrates ballast water management methods in an understandable way. Ten appealing marine species have been chosen as examples to represent alien species found in the North Sea. Marine plants and animals with their fascinating shapes and intriguing life cycles are a treasure chest for children and adults as

well. We hope this book will trigger the interests of children to further explore the fantastic marine environment.

The book is now close to completion (finalisation for submission to printer). In print, the book will come with a large, folded map of the North Sea containing information about the area. Attached is a sample of one of the illustrations in the book.

2. The research into ballast water compliance monitoring and enforcement has begun. The focus is now on how to legally enforce BW regulations and how to use BW sampling as a basis for enforcement regulations and actions. Currently, research is being conducted on the following concepts:

Continued on next page.



Continued from previous page.

- The principle of “no criminal sanctions solely on the basis of sampling”
- What abilities to detect non-compliance/sampling procedures do we have? What are the pitfalls?
- How to deal with scientific uncertainty
- Comparing the approach to other fields with similar issues (e.g. the use of soil samples in pollution cases, or DNA-samples in criminal cases and others).

- The legal implications when using BW samples as a basis for enforcement actions

The results will be presented in an article at the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

WP6: Dissemination

The Proceedings of the NSBWO-Europort 2011 Conference, after some hurdles, found their way to the NSBWO web site

Preparations for the NSBWO-Europort 2013 Conference continued in full swing with a well-developed programme as co-ordinated by ProSea.

ProSea also held two environmental awareness days in Germany in co-operation with the German ship owners association (Hamburg and Leer).

Feedback was given to different dissemination products: report on biofouling (WMU), Ballast water Childrens’ awareness book (WMU) as well as input to BWTimes nr 4, NSBWO-Europort 2013, and responses to questions received through web site or mail.

At two WP6 core team meetings in the past quarter, preparations for NSBWO-Europort 2013 were an important part. We reported on WP6 for NSBWO report 9 to Interreg JTS and planned for the coming project period. As to safeguarding the dissemination of the NSBWO deliverables for the future, when asking for an update on potential transfer of the NSBWO website or

its material to EMSA we found that a transfer of the running web site would not be an option because of the high costs that would bring. We haven’t heard since on our suggestion that just (a selection of) the web site material might be permanently stored on the EMSA web site, as an information source.

For the project we accepted the invitation to attend the KIMO – Groningen SeaPorts Sustainable Shipping Conference (25th September, Delfzijl, Netherlands). We also received several invitations to attend other workshops and meetings in and close to the North Sea region. To one, NoviMaritim, organising a first workshop of a ballast-water project under the Interreg IVA, Oresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak programme, we expressed our interest to participate, as a token of interest in initiatives on the issue in related Interreg programmes.

We set out to draw attention to a potential need for a new approach to evaluating environmental acceptability of newly emerging BWM systems, such as those based on disinfection by acoustic means. For the IMO-GloBallast and ROK 5th Global R&D Forum We submitted an abstract and prepared a paper.

