

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 5**  
**14 - 15 March 2012**  
**Leeuwarden/**  
**The Netherlands**



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| <b>Agenda Item:</b>  | 5                |
| <b>Subject:</b>      | Life application |
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| <b>Date:</b>         | 5 March 2012     |
| <b>Submitted by:</b> | CWSS             |

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Attached is information on the application for a trilateral project on invasive alien species under the LIFE+ program, including a request to the WSB to support such a project.

## **Proposal**

The meeting is invited to discuss the proposal.

## **LIFE+ application Invasive Alien Species (AIS)**

### **Background**

With the support of PRW, the CWSS has started with the preparation of a trilateral project proposal on invasive alien species, to be submitted under the LIFE+ program (call June 2012). Such a project can substantially contribute to the practical implementation of a trilateral strategy on invasive alien species, as currently elaborated by the TG-M.

A first draft outline of the project is in **Annex 1**.

A national Dutch workshop with potential partners was held in December 2011, in Groningen. At this workshop several demonstration project options were discussed. In Germany, a meeting with involved authorities was held 27 February 2012 with the aim to investigate the feasibility of such a project.

The CWSS has furthermore been informed that the Danish Ministry of the Environment is principally interested in such a project.

### **Next steps**

The outcome of the national preparations so far has made clear that regarding the contents, there is a solid basis for a project application. It is the intention to discuss the results of national consultations in a trilateral workshop to be held early 2012, as the basis for a project application. Money has been reserved in the context of the PRW to engage an external consultant to assist in elaborating the LIFE+ project application. This is of course under the condition that there is a fair financial basis for the project.

The national preparations have not yet given clarity about the self-financing of a LIFE+ project. Depending on the type of demonstration projects, the total project budget will be some 3 – 5 million Euro. This implies that self-financing by the partners of 1.5 to 2.5 million will have to be found. This includes contributions in cash and in kind, as well as relevant activities already planned or, in some case, in progress. Before the work on the project application can continue, it is necessary that the trilateral partners find sufficient self-financing to make the project possible.

### **Proposal**

The Wadden Sea Board principally supports a LIFE+ project on invasive alien species in the trilateral Wadden Sea and the national partners will in the coming month thoroughly investigate funding possibilities. If this investigation results in a positive outcome, i.e. a fair financial basis for the project, work will continue with a trilateral workshop and the drafting of the application.

## **ANNEX. Project Summary**

### **Invasive alien species in the international Wadden Sea: early warning, communication, prevention and elimination.**

[LIFE+ CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2012 Theme: Biodiversity]

## **Background**

The Trilateral Ministerial Conference in March 2010 decided to have a Common Strategy on Invasive Alien Species in 2013.

As part of the designation of the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site, monitoring and management of invasive alien species was recommended.

The EU will develop a (draft) Common Strategy on Invasive Alien Species in 2012 for consultation to be finalised in 2013.

Ballast water regulations will be implemented in 2011-2012 (NL) as a result of the ratification international Ballast Water Convention.

Hull fouling guidelines are currently developed and discussed as part of the Ballast Water Convention.

In the Netherlands the potential introduction of invasive alien species by aquaculture is regulated by a licensing system in the framework of national laws implementing the EU Habitat and Bird Directives.

## **Area**

Trilateral Wadden Sea area (Habitat Directive, Natura 2000, World Heritage Site), Offshore North Sea zone (up to 12 sm), covering marine and coastal habitats.

## **Problems in marine and coastal habitats**

Introduction of invasive alien species with:

- hull fouling of commercial and recreational vessels. Marinas in the Wadden Sea area are hot spots for marine alien species. Invasive aliens can colonize more vulnerable habitats, like mussel beds, from these entry points and with hard substrates as stepping stones. Contrary to the situation for commercial shipping, there seems to be insufficient awareness amongst owners of recreational vessels and managers of marinas about these problems. In commercial shipping there is already much attention to the application of environmental friendly coatings also in relation to reduction of fuel consumption.
- Ballast water.

- Mussel transports.

**Objective**

To contribute to a common integrated Wadden Sea specific Strategy on Invasive Alien Species by developing and integrating basic elements of an adaptive management/policy cycle: (1) early warning and inventories; (2) risk assessment; (3) take management action (prevention, elimination, management or no action); (4) risk communication; (5) evaluation.

**Approach**

- Rapid assessment & monitoring alien macroflora and macrofauna on hard substrates, including wind turbines within 12 sm (potential stepping stones), development of monitoring protocol;
- Risk analysis of hull fouling in recreational vessels;
- Prevention: Raising public awareness (marinas, yacht owners about risks of alien species;
- Prevention: Promotion of good hull husbandry;
- Development of ballast water treatment facilities;
- Development of safer mussel transports;
- Testing management and eradication method which have been successful elsewhere;
- Develop communication strategy, identifying stakeholders, sustainable tourism, shipping, green ports, sustainable aquaculture;
- Evaluation management.

**Outcome**

Contribution to Common Strategy on Invasive Alien Species Wadden Sea Area through:

*Reduced introduction risks*

- Better hull fouling cleaning practice (hull husbandry) and application of environmental friendly anti-fouling coatings.
- Eradication of established invasive species on hard substrates in and around marinas with cost efficient methods.
- Implementation of ballast water treatment facilities.
- Safer mussel transports.

*Communication and information*

- Information and communication material and instruments focused on raising the awareness of the recreational sector in the Wadden Sea

**Impact**

The results of the project will lead to conservation and restoration of important habitats in the Wadden Sea through

- Prevention of introduction of alien species into marine and coastal habitats by recreational vessels, hull fouling and ballast water.
- Better public awareness of risks of invasive alien species.

**Proposed lead organisation**

CWSS

**Partners**

Responsible ministries and official institutions

Scientific institutions

Marinas & port organisations

**Letters of Support**

Tourist organisations

Nature Conservation Organisations (NGO's)

**Costs**

2013-2016 € 3,000,000 – 5,000,000