# NE ATLANTIC MARINE BIOLOGICAL AQC SCHEME COMMITTEE MEETING

# *Meeting Agenda – 3rd of March 2022 10.30-13.00*

Invitation to attend via Teams from Joey O’Connor

**Confirmed Attendees:** David Johns (DJ, MBA, Chair), Graham Philips (GP, EA, Finance Manager), Claire Mason (CM, Cefas, PSA Technical Manager), Myles O’Reilly (MoR, SEPA, Invertebrates Technical Manager), Rafael Salas (RF, Observatorios de Canarias, Phytoplankton Technical Manager), Jim Ellis (JE, Cefas, Fish Technical Manager), Claire Taylor (CT, MBA, Technical Secretary), David Hall (DH, APEM, Benthic Invertebrates), Joey O’Connor (JOC, JNCC, Epibiota Technical Manager), Ross Griffin (RG, Ocean Ecology, Contractors Rep), Matthew Green (MG, NRW, Marine Monitoring Ecologist), Søren Pears (SP, Principle Biologist, APEM) and Alex Callaway (AC, AFBI, Senior Scientific Officer).

**Apologies:** Paul McIIwaine (PC, Cefas, Marine Benthic Ecologist)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Last Meetings Actions** (summarised below on the agenda)
 |  | ALL |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **New Website Demonstration (update)**
 |  | CT |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Minutes of the last meeting**
 |  | CT |
| **Approval of November meeting minutes** |  | DJ |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Epibiota update**
 |  | JOC |
|  |   |  |
| 1. **Phytoplankton update**
 |  | RS |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Priorities to HBDSEG**
 |  | DJ |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **PSA Update**
 |  | CM/SP |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Benthic Invertebrates update**
 |  | DH/MoR |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Macroalgae**
 |  | CY |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Fish update**
 |  | JE/DW |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Zooplankton update**
 |  | DJ/CT |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **AOB – website update**
 |  | ALL |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Finance update\* Confidential**
 |  | GP |

1. **Actions Arising from Previous Meeting (ALL)**

**Carried Forward:**

CM to make document outputs from PSA workshops available (originally circulated to workshop participants). Action: CM – include workshop notes and Guide for Asbestos in NMBAQC PSA guidance as part of update for completion by the end of May. Updated PSA guidance will be circulated to committee for comment before being finalised and being made available on the website. Update: CM currently updating general text, with MG, JOC, MoR, TM and GP involved in reviewing. Further action: CM to set up meeting with what she is planning (this can now be removed) and CM to upload guidance onto website – Post meeting Note: DONE by CT (on new website)

**Action: JOC to look at adding results/reports onto the website. JOC has started to put this together.**

JE advised must also consider the area where the survey has occurred – do we need everything kept from the same area? JOC advised JNCC send samples to Scottish and Welsh museums but there is nothing similar for samples from English waters.

Further action: MG/RG to arrange separate meeting with JOC, CM, PM and DJ to discuss specimen collection. **Action: CM to raise this within Cefas to see if this can be looked at. Could also work together with NRW.**

Unusualness Statistic paper hoping to be finally accepted. **Action: CM to send link to group- paper has been published. Done and linked to in teams chat (to remove action)** [**https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278434321002041?via%3Dihub**](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278434321002041?via%3Dihub)

**Website:**

**Action: Please could all send your thoughts to CT with any updated content asap, also what you think it should look like, could add join the scheme in bold on the home page, is it too wordy?, could the news be moved to a tab down the side etc. along with any useable images asap. It also needs linking to HBDSEG.** Update: CT the website is virtually completed and I have asked the Technical Managers to check their area and provide feedback. Thanks to those who have helped me find missing reports/literature etc.

**Action: CM to ask Cefas if we could get any analytical stats i.e. what pages are the most popular?** CM advised that Aaron Buck (Cefas) would show CT how this is done

**New JNCC Microsoft Teams Set up:**

Action: Next meeting to be on Microsoft teams (CT) and RG to liaise with JOC re ideas. **DONE –** JOC and RG met up and there’s currently one channel for each component and then a private channel for non-committee members (add as needed).  **Action: All members to check that is it working OK and access is provided. RG sent instructions of how to view the channels – see below. Any amendments/thoughts please let JOC/RG know**

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**PSA:**

After the PSA update, Blue Carbon measurements were discussed. Could this be incorporated into the PSA component? **Action: CM to look into – may already be a scheme up and running, could we link to this on our website –** Further update to be raised by CM at meeting week commencing 7/03/22. Post Meeting Note (email from CM):

Just to confirm QUASIMEME do already have a ring test for organic carbon of marine sediments.

Please see [Marine Sediment Exchange Programmes - WEPAL](https://www.wepal.nl/en/wepal/Home/Proficiency-tests/Marine-Sediment/M-SEP.htm)

MS1:

[MS-1 Trace Metals in Sediment](https://participants.wepal.nl/MS1.pdf)

MS2:

[MS-2 Chlorinated Organics in Sediment](https://participants.wepal.nl/MS2.pdf)

MS3:

<https://participants.wepal.nl/MS3.pdf>

Participants receive 2 samples per round twice a year to complete for each MS-1, MS-2 and MS-3. Submitted data is checked against bench test data and participants receive a certificate confirming the level of performance.

DH advised new starters may find it easier (and cost effective) to join in with other beginners for any training. This may also fit in with APEM in house training and in turn, could open up to others such as those working at Ocean Ecology. Action: CM to discuss with DH to see if live guidance could be used on the PSA component. This can be **removed.**

**AOB:**

**Action: GP to add VAT/EORI numbers to next form.** Yes, will be added onto next application form, to **remove** action.

An updated UKTAG IQI workbook for use in fish farm industry is almost available. It is hoped to be signed off in early December after an advisory group water framework meeting. **Action: GP to issue once available. MoR advised there will still be limitations. Action: MoR to consult with RG/GP.** Update: GP to make available when finalised (currently out for feedback)

One point raised last year concerned Solenogastres ID guidance. This has now been expanded in TDP. **Action: RG to update those who originally raised this.** Done, to **remove** action

DW has received a request from the EA to send pictures this year. DW is looking into the Oceanteacher platform https://classroom.oceanteacher.org/ to see if this is appropriate. **Action: DW to contact RS and Mike Fraser from EA.** Update: DW to contact Claudia Delgado directly, to **remove** action.

1. **Website Demonstration - Link to new website is** [**https://nmbaqcs.cefastest.co.uk/**](https://nmbaqcs.cefastest.co.uk/)

CT has almost completed the website – just needs a few tweaks. The content has been added with images and a link to Twitter and HBDSEG. Before it goes live, any feedback would be appreciated. Update: CT has asked IT@Cefas if the website could go live 01/04/22 (awaiting confirmation of this) and any feedback to be provided, ideally before this date or though general tweaks are easier enough to do once live. Participants’ area to be included on Team channels instead. CT to work on image resolutions (**Done**). Post Meeting Note: Cefas have advised the website should go live during the first week of April 2022.

Cefas have also advised that the website will be able to be used on mobile devices and with other browsers due to accessibility laws.

The old website is now housed within the National Archives.

1. **Approval of April Meeting Minutes (DJ/CT)** Approved
2. **Epibiota update (JOC)**

JNCC have just completed development of an eQA comparison proforma based on the QAF proformas for comparing results of stills and video analysis undertaken by different analysts for quality assurance purposes and will trial this with analysis contracts for three imagery datasets involving five sets of analysts/labs in March 2022.

*Table 1: Imagery analysis quality assurance exercises completed by/for JNCC since 2014*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Dataset** | **Summary** | **Outputs** |
| 2014 | East Rockall Bank & Anton Dohrn Seamount (surveyed together in 2009), Wyville Thomson Ridge & Faroe-Shetland Channel (surveyed together in 2012) and Hebrides Terrace Seamount (surveyed in 2012) MPAs | Seastar Survey Ltd were commissioned by JNCC to analyse a subset of seabed imagery data collected from MPA surveys in Scottish deep-sea, offshore waters. JNCC compared results of this analysis to the results of the original analyses of these data, which had been undertaken by three different sets of analysts, to quality assure the original analyses and to further develop the Quality Assurance (QA) framework for JNCC’s evidence base. The principal objectives of the reanalysis were to characterise the habitats and identify any fauna present within the seabed imagery. In addition the absence/presence of Annex I habitat subtypes and Scottish MPA (SMPA) search features were assessed.The comparison undertaken was focussed on still image analysis, as stills analysis and reanalysis undertaken represent interpretations of defined spatially and temporally fixed data points, and as such these analyses are directly comparable.Comparing taxonomic identification and abundance values assigned to each still image common to both analyses, JNCC found that large differences exist between the taxa identified by each analysis for all survey datasets.Smaller differences were observed between abundance values assigned to each still image for all survey datasets, though the scale of these differences varied from survey to survey. | Subset reanalysis: results proformas, GIS shapefiles, summary reportJNCC comparison: comparison spreadsheets, summary report(All unpublished to date) |
| 2016 | Solan Bank Reef (surveyed in 2014) | In 2015 Marine Ecological Solutions were commissioned by JNCC to analyse seabed imagery collected by JNCC and MSS at Solan Bank Reef SAC to inform development of a national indicator of ‘Good Environmental Status’ as part of the UK’s obligations under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).JNCC then commissioned three independent experts to peer review the report produced by Marine Ecological Solutions, which captured the analysis of the data from the survey.    The purpose of the review was to ensure that:-              Methods used were appropriately designed and fit for purpose-              Interpretation of new and existing evidence was based on best scientific practice, analytical methods are sound (particularly those used to analyse the video collected), sources of other evidence are used appropriately and clearly referenced, and conclusions follow logically there from-              Evidence quality and the uncertainty associated with its interpretation are clearly communicated-              Other stakeholders are able to understand outputs, and other scientists would be able to use the same data to obtain the same results | Reviewers comments (unpublished) and revised report ([https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/82565f06-561e-4534-b203-caa69c950a82](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhub.jncc.gov.uk%2Fassets%2F82565f06-561e-4534-b203-caa69c950a82&data=04%7C01%7CJoey.OConnor%40jncc.gov.uk%7C9a504019b317407762c108d9fad2e753%7C444ee4e8b2fd491d8c318b0508370a6b%7C0%7C0%7C637816606003022626%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=JdzGnqYrMa5z6o%2FQt4E8nT%2F8PB%2Bs3IkmFPiOK3U5pvI%3D&reserved=0))   |

The Big Picture project secured funding from Defra in December to the end of March to continue its work. Since then there have been 5 workshops to review species that should be added to the Epibiota Identification Protocol (EIP) and in total 223 new taxa have been added to the EIP. The updated EIP will be sent to NMBAQC at the end of the financial year so it can be made available to download from the Quality Assurance Framework webpage. A workshop on standards for sharing and archiving marine image annotations was held for the Big Picture Group in January 2022. Attendees provided feedback on the draft [iFDO standard](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmarine-imaging.com%2Ffair%2F&data=04%7C01%7CJoey.OConnor%40jncc.gov.uk%7C9a504019b317407762c108d9fad2e753%7C444ee4e8b2fd491d8c318b0508370a6b%7C0%7C0%7C637816606003022626%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=VmNAbWuxaoNaZjZ8nz6vQ%2FU9Z5THiGnhXUQm7A%2F77Zc%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank" \o "https://marine-imaging.com/fair/) and options for having this standard recommended through MEDIN were discussed.

An eDNA sampling protocol has been drafted by NatureMetrics and is currently with JNCC’s communications team to format and then publish on the JNCC website (due April 2022).

**Action: JOC to look at adding results/reports onto the website** Update: to link onto new website

I am aiming to populate Table 1 as above with summaries of all imagery analysis quality assurance exercises completed by/for JNCC since 2014 (16 identified so far) by end Q1 FY22/23. Feedback on table structure very welcome.

DJ asked JOC if there was an appetite for Epibiota ring tests – JOC advised the participants, at present, do not have an interest in participating but they would look into if there were such requests.

1. **Phytoplankton update (RS)**

Raf gave a verbal update at the meeting and advised the move is now complete to Gran Canaria - they are fully set up. 59 labs participated in the last IPI assessment (all completed) with the lab looking to seek ISO accreditation. They are also applying for funding from Horizon 2020 and currently investigating new areas such as biovolume measurements, with 65-70% of labs have said they would take part. Another IPI exercise is planned for this year.

DH asked if RS had encountered problems with transport but RS advised there had been no issues.

1. **Priorities to HBDSEG (DJ)** – next meeting 8-9th March 2022. **Action: ALL to let DJ know if there is anything to be raised.**
2. **PSA update (CM/SP)**

**PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**2021-22, Year 28**

* 1. **Subscriptions**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LabCode | PS80/81 | PS82/83 | PS-OS22/23/24 |
| PSA\_2701 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2702 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2703 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2704 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2705 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2706 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2707 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2708 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2709 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2710 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2711 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2712 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2713 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2714 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2715 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2716 | - | - | 1 |
| PSA\_2717 | - | - | 1 |
| PSA\_2718 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2719 | - | - | 1 |
| PSA\_2720 | - | - | 1 |
| PSA\_2721 | - | - | 1 |
| PSA\_2722 | - | - | 1 |
| PSA\_2723 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2724 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2725 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2726 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2727 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2728 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2729 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2735 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Total (change from last year) | **18 (+1)** | **18 (+1)** | 1. **(+9)**
 |

**7.2 2021-2022, Year 28 Operations**

All circulations of PS exercises will be distributed in line with the 2021-2022 timetable (available below). Returns and results are summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| PS80 | Samples distributed: 08/10/2021 | Fines Test  |
| Sample deadline: 03/12/2021 |  |
| Interim reports issued: 22/12/2021Final reports issued: 21/01/2022 | 14 out of 18 returned results1 communicated non-participation |
| **Exercise complete** | 3 non-communicated non-participation |
| PS81 | Samples distributed: 08/10/2021 | Diamicton Test |
| Sample deadline: 03/12/2021 |  |
| Interim reports issued: 22/12/2021Final reports issued: 21/01/2021 | 14 out of 18 returned results1 communicated non-participation |
| **Exercise complete** | 3 non-communicated non-participation |
| PS82 | Samples distributed: 19/11/2021 | Mud/sand Test |
| Sample deadline: 14/01/2022 |  |
| Interim reports issued: 28/01/2022Final reports issued: 25/02/2022 | 16 out of 18 returned results2 non-communicated non-participation |
| **Exercise complete** |  |
| PS83 | Samples distributed: 19/11/2021 | Gravel Test |
| Sample deadline: 14/01/2022 |  |
| Interim reports issued: 28/01/2022Final reports issued: 25/02/2022**Exercise complete** | 16 out of 18 returned results2 non-communicated non-participation |
| PS-OS22-24 | Samples request sent: 08/10/2021 |  |
| Batch 1Data submission deadline: 05/11/2021Sample submission deadline: 10/12/2021Reports Issued: 25/03/2022**Exercise in progress** | 5 out of 22 data sets submitted15 out of 66 samples selected15 out of 66 samples received0 out of 22 reports sent |
| Batch 2Data submission deadline: 25/03/2022Sample submission deadline: 15/04/2022Reports issued: 01/07/2022**Exercise in progress** |

* 1. **Issues arising**

PS exercises 80-83 now complete. The reporting deadlines for PS80 & PS81 were pushed back to accommodate late registrations/submissions. Publication of the web versions of these two reports were also delayed as two participants indicated that they may still submit data after the deadlines, but no data were subsequently submitted so are now considered to be non-participations.

There was a labelling error with the samples for PS82 & PS83 with both samples labelled as ‘PS83’. As soon as this error was identified by participants and confirmed as being present on all samples an explanatory email was sent to all participants to allow them to correctly distinguish the samples.

**Particle Size Component 2021-2022 Timetable (Scheme Year 28)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module / Exercise** | **Event** | **Date** |
| PS80 & PS81 | Samples distributed | 08/10/2021 |
|  | Results deadline | **03/12/2021** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 22/12/2021 |
|  | Final report deadline | 21/01/2022 |
|  |  |  |
| PS82 & PS83 | Samples distributed | 19/11/2021 |
|  | Results deadline | **14/01/2022** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 28/01/2022 |
|  | Final report deadline | 25/02/2022 |
|  |  |  |
| PS-OS22–24 | Request for sample data distributed | 08/10/2021 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 1 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **05/11/2021** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **10/12/2021** |
|  | Interim report final deadline (for samples received before 10 December 2021) | 25/03/2022 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 2 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **25/03/2022** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **15/04/2022** |
|  | Interim report final deadline | 01/07/2022 |
|  |  |  |
| Annual Report | Annual report deadline | 29/07/2022 |
| Workshop |  | TBC |

1. **Benthic Invertebrate update (DH/MoR)**

**BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**2021-22, Year 28**

* 1. **Subscriptions**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LabCode | RT61/62 | LR26 | OS77/78/79 |
| BI\_2801 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BI\_2802 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BI\_2803 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BI\_2804 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2805 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2806 | 1 | 1 | - |
| BI\_2807 | 1 | 1 | - |
| BI\_2808 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2809 | 1 | 1 | - |
| BI\_2810 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2811 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2812 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2813 | 1  | - | - |
| BI\_2814 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2815 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2816 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2817 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2818 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2819 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2820 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2821 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2822 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2823 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2825 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2826 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2827 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2828 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2829 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2830 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2831 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2832 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2833 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2834 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2835 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2836 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2837 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2838 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2839 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2840 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2841 | - | 1 | 1 |
| BI\_2842 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2843 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2844 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2845 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2846 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2847 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2848 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2849 | - | - | 1 |
| ° (change from 2021/22) | **23 (+1)** | **7 (+1)** | 1. **(+6)**
 |

**8.2 2021-2022, Year 28 Operations**

Benthic Invertebrate exercises are being distributed in line with the 2021-2022 timetable (available below). Returns, results and exercise status details are summarised in the table overleaf.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| RT61 | Specimens distributed 08/10/21;Submission deadline 03/12/21;Interim reports issued 15/12/21;Ring Test Bulletin reported 07/01/22;**Exercise complete** | General Ring Test; 20 out of 23 subscribing labs participated; 21 data sets received, inclusive of multiple analyst entries. |
| RT62 | Specimens distributed 19/11/21;Submission deadline 14/01/22;Interim reports issued 31/01/22;Ring test Bulletin deadline 25/02/22;**Exercise in progress** | Targeted Ring Test – Gastropoda19 out of 23 subscribing labs participated; 21 data sets received, inclusive of multiple analyst entries. |
| LR26 | Request for specimens distributed 08/10/21;Submission deadline 28/01/22;Interim reports deadline 18/03/22;LR Module Summary Report deadline 25/03/22;**Exercise in progress** | One of seven sets of specimens received to date |
| OS77-79 | Sample data requested 08/10/21;Data submission deadline Batch 1 05/11/21;Sample submission deadline Batch 1 10/12/21;Interim report final deadline Batch 1 25/03/22;Data submission deadline Batch 2 25/03/22;Sample submission deadline Batch 2 15/04/22;Interim report final deadline Batch 2 01/07/22;OS Module Summary Report deadline 15/07/22;**Exercises in progress** | 12 out of 34 datasets received; 12 out of 36 requested samples received, including 3 samples for external audit; no samples complete/reported to date  |

* 1. **Issues arising**

**Sample Distribution Issues**

Unfortunately, there was a failed delivery of RT62 to a participant based in Tenerife. Material could not be delivered in alignment with the exercise deadlines, so the options of a credit note for 2022/23 participation has been offered alongside re-attempting delivery and ‘unofficial’ participation/reporting for this exercise.

**Taxonomic Discrimination Protocol (TDP) Development**

TDP development draft version (and TDP spreadsheet) was circulated to the scheme participants and appropriate Committee members for comment (16/11/21). We are still awaiting feedback ahead of producing a finalised Version 1 for upload to the scheme website.

**Project milestones:**

* first draft shared with NMBAQC Scheme participants and initial comments requested before 2021-year end;
* Ring Test Bulletins going forwards (RT61 onwards) now include notes regarding the TDP, where relevant;
* publication of first draft TDP (overview, family level, one family to species level) on Scheme website;
* workshop to agree family level TDP;
* completion of provisional TDP to species level for all groups;
* circulation of each provisional species level TDP for participant feedback;
* workshops or feedback to resolve species level TDP for each group;
* publication of full TDP (overview and all taxa) on Scheme website.
	1. **Outstanding issues**

No items to report for this meeting.

**Invertebrate Component 2021-2022 Timetable (Scheme Year 28)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module / Exercise** | **Event** | **Date** |
| RT61 - General | Samples distributed | 08/10/21 |
|  | Results deadline | **03/12/21** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 10/12/21 |
|  | Final report deadline | 24/12/21 |
|  |  |  |
| RT62 - Targeted | Samples distributed | 19/11/21 |
|  | Results deadline | **14/01/22** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 28/01/22 |
|  | Final report deadline | 25/02/22 |
|  |  |  |
| LR26 | Protocol and request for specimens distributed | 08/10/21 |
|  | Specimen submission deadline | **28/01/22** |
|  | Interim reports deadline | 18/03/22 |
|  | LR summary report deadline | 25/03/22 |
|  |  |  |
| OS77–79 | Request for sample data distributed | 08/10/21 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 1 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **05/11/21** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **10/12/21** |
|  | Interim report final deadline (for samples received before 22 October 2021) | 25/03/22 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 2 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **25/03/22** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **15/04/22** |
|  | Interim report final deadline | 01/07/22 |
|  |  |  |
|  | OS summary report deadline | 15/07/22 |
|  |  |  |
| Annual Report | Annual report deadline | 29/07/22 |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – experts | Venue TBC | TBC |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – beginners | TBC – subject to demand | TBC |

1. **Macroalgae update (CY)**  verbal update given by SP

**MACROALGAE BIOMASS AND PERCENTAGE COVER COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

 **2021-22, Year 28**

* 1. **Subscriptions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lab Code | Rt13 OMC | RT13 OMB |
| MA\_2901 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2902 | 1 | 2 |
| MA\_2903 |
| MA\_2904 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2905 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2906 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2907 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2908 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2909 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2910 | 1 | - |
| MA\_2911 | 1 | - |
| MA\_2912 | 1 | 1 |
| Total (change from last year) | **11 (+4)** | 1. **(+6)**
 |

**9.2 2021-2022, Year 28 Operations**

All circulations of MA exercises will be distributed in line with the 2021-2022 timetable (available below). Returns and results are summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| RT13 OMC | Samples distributed: 24/01/2022 |  |
| Sample deadline: 04/03/2022 |  |
| Interim reports issued: 01/04/2022Final reports issued: 22/04/2022 |  3 out of 11 returned results |
| **Exercise in progress** |  |
| RT13 OMB | Samples distributed: 24/01/2022 |  |
| Sample deadline: 04/03/2022 |  |
| Interim reports issued: 01/04/2022Final reports issued: 22/04/2022 | 2 out of 10 returned results |
| **Exercise in progress** |  |

* 1. **Issues arising**

The previous ring test, RT12 2021, used Lab Code **MA28\*\*** it was therefore decided to avoid confusion for labs that had previously participated to use MA29\*\* for these Year 28 ring tests and to amend this issue in the following year.

**Macroalgae Biomass and Percentage Cover Component 2021-2022 Timetable**

**(Scheme Year 28)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module / Exercise** | **Event** | **Date** |
| RT13 OMB | Samples distributed | 24/01/2022 |
|  | Results deadline | **04/03/2022** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 01/04/2022 |
|  | Final report deadline | 22/04/2022 |
|  |  |  |
| RT13 OMC | Samples distributed | 24/01/2022 |
|  | Results deadline | **04/03/2022** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 01/04/2022 |
|  | Final report deadline | 22/04/2022 |
|  |  |  |

1. **Fish update (JE/DW)**

**FISH COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**2021-22, Year 28**

* 1. **Subscriptions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| LabCode | F-RT15 | F-RRT13 |
| F\_2801 | 1 | - |
| F\_2802 | 1 | - |
| F\_2803 | 1 | - |
| F\_2804 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_2805 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_2806 | 1 |  |
| F\_2807 | 1 |  |
| F\_2809 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_2810 | - | 1 |
| F\_2811 | - | 1 |
| F\_2812 | - | 1 |
| F\_2813 | - | 1 |
| F\_2814 | - | 1 |
| F\_2816 | - | 1 |
| F\_2817 | - | 1 |
| F\_2818 | - | 1 |
| Total (change from last year) | **8 (0)** | **11 (+2)** |

**10.2 2021-2022, Year 28 Operations**

2021-2022 timetable for fish exercises created, as summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| F-RT15 | Specimens and images to be distributed 22/11/21;Results deadline 26/01/22;Interim reports due 18/02/22;Final report due 11/03/22**Exercise in preparation** | Specimens sent7/8 submissions receivedAll submissions received, interim results sent 01/03/2022 |
| F-RRT13 | Protocol and request for specimens to be distributed 08/10/21;Specimen submission deadline 03/12/21;Interim report due 21/01/22**Final report in preparation** | Request for specimens sentExtension granted 14/01/2022Interim results sent |

* 1. **Issues arising**

F-RRT13 – Extension granted for submissions until 14/01/2022. Eight out of eleven registered labs submitted specimens. Interim results not contested. One lab requested photos to confirm ID. Final report in progress.

F-RT15 – All labs now submitted data, 1 late submission. One participant used only photos for ID as specimens were not in good condition, there were 7 submissions from this lab. It is possible that these specimens had been thawed and frozen multiple times. Interim results sent. Final report in progress.

* 1. **Taxonomic Workshop**

Currently no taxonomic workshop is planned for fish. A targeted workshop can be developed if sufficient interest is shown.

* 1. **Outstanding issues**

N/A

**Fish Component 2021-2022 Timetable (Scheme Year 28)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module / Exercise** | **Event** | **Date** |
| F-RRT13 | Protocol and request for specimens distributed (including supply of fish postage boxes) | 08/10/21 |
|  | **Specimen submission deadline** | **03/12/21** |
|  | Interim report deadline | 21/01/22 |
|  | Final report deadline | 04/02/22 |
| F-RT15 | Samples (specimens & images) distributed | 22/11/21 |
|  | **Results deadline** | **26/01/22** |
|  | Extension granted | 14/01/22 |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 18/02/22 |
|  | Final report deadline | 11/03/22 |
| Annual Report | Annual report deadline | 01/04/22 |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – experts | TBC – subject to demand | TBC |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – beginners | TBC – subject to demand | TBC |

DW advised that she was looking to using Oceanteacher to take photos of specimens.

DJ asked if Fish larvae are identified – DH advised this would be useful but would take a while to build up and at the moment, they include what labs ask for. MG advised NRW do not get fish larval stages in their samples.

1. **Zooplankton Update (DJ/CT)**

There will be another ring test later this year (planned for Autumn 2022). This time around it will be a reverse ring test and Marianne Wotton, who organises these, has asked if we could seek advice on how to implement this from those organisers involved in the fish reverse ring tests**. Action: CT to provide Marianne with contact details for Dave Hall** – **Done**

1. **AOB**

From MG:

**Invertebrates:**

* Infauna TDP update. This has now been completed
* Brief discussion about recording litter in benthic grab samples. MG advised that NRW follow a technical note produced by Thomson. What does everyone else do? CM advised Cefas use ICES protocol for defining capture litter**.** MG advised this is for larger stuff but not from samples which are sieved. DH advised of the importance not to introduce litter from the lab itself i.e. through clothes.JOC provided a link to what JNCC use as guidance: <https://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/201702074014.pdf>.

The overarching decision to be discussed at HBDSEG **Action: DJ to send CPR Survey plastics protocol to NRW**

* Correcting species records from historic datasets (where that species is known to not exist in UK waters). AC advised that there should be communication before any new classification goes live – MoR advised he still uses certain species names (which are known now not to exist in the UK) in his work? There should also be a link about historical datasets in TDP.

**General:**

* Reference collection guidance discussion (brief) This has been discussed previously.

MoR: advised that eDNA is big in Scotland and replacing macrofaunal analysis.

**DONM : tba – likely June 2022**