# Circle Description automatically generated with medium confidenceNE ATLANTIC MARINE BIOLOGICAL AQC SCHEME COMMITTEE MEETING

**Annotated Agenda****18th April 2023 1100-1400**

**Confirmed Attendees:** David Johns (DJ, MBA, Chair), Tim Mackie (TM, DAERA, Senior Scientific Officer), Claire Mason (CM, CEFAS, PSA Technical Manager), Claire Taylor (CT, MBA, Technical Secretary), Marianne Wootton (MW, MBA, Zooplankton Technical Manager), Myles O’Reilly (MoR, SEPA, Invertebrates Technical Manager), Matt Green (MG, NRW, Marine Monitoring Ecologist), Lydia McIntyre-Brown (LmB, APEM Ltd, PSA administrator), Georgina Brackenreed-Johnstone (GBJ, APEM Ltd, Macroalgae administrator), Debbie Walsh (DW APEM, Fish administrator) and Ross Griffin (RG, Ocean Ecology, Contractors Rep).

**Apologies:** James Albrecht (JA, JNCC, Epibiota Technical Manager), Claire Young (CY, DAERA, Macroalgae Technical Manager), Paul McIIwaine (PM, CEFAS, Marine Benthic Ecologist), David Hall (DH, APEM Ltd, Benthic Invertebrates), Jim Ellis (JE, Cefas, Fish Technical Manager) and Graham Phillips (GP, EA, Finance Manager)

Names in red denote attendance via Teams

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Last Meetings Actions** (summarised below on the agenda) |  | ALL |
| 1. **Minutes of the last meeting** |  | CT |
| Approval of November meeting minutes |  | DJ/CM |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Epibiota update** |  | JA |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Phytoplankton update** |  | RS |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Priorities to HBDSEG** |  | DJ |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **PSA update** |  | CM/LMB |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Benthic Invertebrates update** |  | DH/MoR |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Macroalgae update** |  | CY |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Fish update** |  | JE/DW |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Zooplankton update** |  | MW |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **AOB** |  | ALL |
| Update for any literature/reports/timetables to website |  | CT |
| 1. **Finance update\* Confidential** |  | GP |

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

**Carried over from last meeting:**

**Epibiota:**

JOC to look at adding epibiota results/reports onto the website. JOC had started to put this together (has now left JNCC). **Action: to update onto new website – Further Action: JA is to review notes from handover prior to next meeting**

**Website:**

**Action: CT to set up a ‘clinic’ for members towards the end of summer to contact her live to discuss amendments/additions/tweaks etc.** Update: thanks to all those who took part or sent me stuff, currently working my way through the tweaks. Please see AOB for further comments. Would also like to get Google Analytics working, will email Cefas again as may need them to do some of the tweaking too (CT). Update: CM/CT to arrange meeting with Cefas **– Done though CEFAS IT yet to make changes which I am unable to do and google analytics still not working (CT). Action: CM to chase**

**Miscellaneous:**

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 **Further update: GP to have completed by the next committee meeting, GP should have final version completed by the end of this week - ongoing**

eDNA was also discussed and this is an area that is growing quickly. It was discussed by the committee - do we need eDNA as another component? What involvement does NMBAQC play in this?Whilst many labs now participate in eDNA, there is no one undertaking QA/QC**. Action: DJ to mention this area is being looked into at next HBDSEG meeting and for the committee to let DJ/CT know if they are aware of any experts in this field of work. CM may have contact in Weymouth and there was a meeting to discuss community eDNA which she will try to get minutes from.** DJ waiting to hear back from Kate Wade @JNCC who is looking into aligning work in the UK – **ongoing, DJ to chase.**

**Actions from Epibiota Update:**

MG discussed using quality assurance documents as there was a query using a drop down video when looking at the flow chart in the guidance framework documents alongside the habitat mapping proforma. Action: JA to look into and review/amend as necessary: MG/JA to arrange a meeting, with additional colleagues to discuss - ongoing

**Actions from Phytoplankton Update:**

Awaiting updateAction: DJ to contact RS for post meeting update – CT has heard from RS and he is going to send some documents to her to update on Phyto component part of our website – ongoing.

**Actions from Benthic Update:**

Taxonomic Discrimination (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 (early next year). Action: MoR/DH/CT. **Update: CT has received and will circulate to relevant personnel – done and Myles to release soon.**

**Actions from Macroalgae Update:**

There is still no new contract for rocky shore – Action: MG to contact CY (maybe via Paul Brazier) to see if there are any further developments. GP is also discussing macroalgae with CY so will ask too. **Update: MG to email CY and cc in TM – CY to respond this week.**

**Actions from Fish Update:**

JE advised they need more fish specimens for the ring tests and might have to rethink such as delay or send out in two batches, needs some thought. Action: DJ to contact MBA *Sepia* crew and PML/Plymouth Uni to find out if they can help. DW to send DJ a list of what species are needed. **Further action: DW to follow up with JE and DJ to give contact details for Emma Sheehan to DW.**

JE also advised there is a shortage of published ID books for British Fish. Digital copies of some literature is available but not preferred in the field. MG advised there is a new Seasearch publication out shortly. Action: GP to ask the EA if the publication by Wheeler can be reprinted - ongoing

**Actions from Contractor Questions:**

The committee discussed one question raised concerning a recurring query looking at the use of keys. Action: RG to follow up and try to ascertain more information **– update should be resolved now due to item below.**

MoR also highlighted that he is working on a document for new starters on how to use keys and what keys to use. He is also rescanning unpublished keys which can be added to our website. Action: MoR to send CT what he has scanned in so far and CT to upload to website, along with the document re keys once completed.- Update MoR now scanned in and to start sending to CT in batches for upload onto the website – completed, to remove action.

Action: Tm to look for key missing on website and send to MoR/CT if found - Unicomarine Key to Flabelligeridae 2000 - 2pp and unpublished.

**Actions from Website Update:**

Is there a mechanism in place to cite the most up to date documents about The NMBAQC - QA Standards (nmbaqcs.org) and NMBAQC - Marine Monitoring Standards (nmbaqcs.org) sections documents, including ISO and EN docs. Action: CM sits on standards committee who meet every 6 months, will let us know of any additions. DJ to let committee know of how to check for standard updates on their website. **Further action**: **CT to check links and add as a regular standard agenda item. CM to also check with secretary at her meeting for any updates.**

FAQ/About section/website**:** People call the NMBAQC a certification, this is obviously not correct. Can we add a little section on this in the FAQs or About section? Action: CT/DJ to meet, check wording on website and to add a few lines explaining our role – update DJ/CT to meet next week – **ongoing.**

**Actions from AOB:**

The next Annual report for the period 2021/2022 is now due. CT to email component leads next week but would like content by mid to end January in order to get this done by February. Action: CT – done in draft only as delays with Benthic Inverts. HBDSEG have received a draft copy. **Update MoR advised still delays with last year’s own sample ring tests which are holding things up. MoR to chase DH re backlog and need to define a clear deadline for yr. 28.**

1. **Approval of April Meeting Minutes (DJ/CT)** Approved
2. **Epibiota update (JA) – no update** Action: DJ to contact JA
3. **Phytoplankton update (RS)** – DJ contacted RS re Picoplankton, and using as an indicator. RS is currently investigating with the use of flow cytometry.
4. **Priorities to HBDSEG (DJ)**

QC standards for carbon sampling and analysis ‘sediment carbon and measuring for blue carbon – seems to fall into NMBAQC as it holds the reigns on sediment PSA and as the C is being measured.

1. **PSA update (CM/LMB)**

**PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**2022-23, Year 29**

**6.1 Subscriptions**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LabCode | PS84/85 | PS86/87 | PS-OS25/26/27 |
| PSA\_2901 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2902 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2903 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2904 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2905 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2906 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2907 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2908 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2909 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2910 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2911 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2912 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2913 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2914 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_2916 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2917 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2918 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_2921 | - | - | 1 |
| PSA\_2922 | - | - | 1 |
| PSA\_2923 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2924 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2925 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2926 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2927 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| PSA\_2928 | **-** | **-** | 1 |
| Total (change from last year) | **17 (-1)** | **17 (-1)** | 1. **(-4)** |

**6.2 2022-2023, Year 29 Operations**

All circulations of PS exercises will be distributed in line with the 2022-2023 timetable (available below). Returns and results are summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| PS84 | Samples distributed: **28/10/2022** | Fines Test |
| Sample deadline: **16/12/2022** |  |
| Interim reports sent: **06/01/2023**  Final reports due: 20/01/2023 | 14 out of 17 returned results  1 x communicated non-participation  2 x no communication |
| **Exercise in progress** |  |
| PS85 | Samples distributed: **28/10/2022** | Diamicton Test |
| Sample deadline: **16/12/2022** |  |
| Interim reports sent: **06/01/2023**  Final reports due: 20/01/2023 | 14 out of 17 returned results  1 x communicated non-participation  2 x no communication |
| **Exercise in progress** |  |
| PS86 | Samples distributed: **13/01/2023** | Mud/sand Test |
| Sample deadline: 17/03/2023 |  |
| Interim reports to be issued: 31/03/2023  Final reports to be issued: 21/04/2023 | 0 out of 17 returned results |
| **Exercise in progress** |  |
| PS87 | Samples distributed: **13/01/2023** | Gravel/ sand Test |
| Sample deadline: 17/03/2023 |  |
| Interim reports to be issued: 31/03/2023  Final reports to be issued: 21/04/2023  **Exercise in progress** | 0 out of 17 returned results |
| PS-OS25-27 | Samples request sent: 28/10/2022 |  |
| Batch 1  Data submission deadline: 30/11/2022  Sample submission deadline: 23/12/2022  Reports Issued: 24/03/2023  **Exercise in progress** | 6 out of 17 data sets submitted  18 out of 51 samples selected  12 out of 51 samples received  3 out of 17 reports sent |
| Batch 2  Data submission deadline: 24/03/2023  Sample submission deadline: 28/04/2023  Reports issued: 07/07/2023  **Exercise yet to start** |

* 1. **Issues arising**

PS84/85 - The first set of PS exercises (PS84 & PS85) were sent on time. All natural sediments that are to be used in Year 29 have been tested for asbestos and have returned negative results.

Deadline for results has now passed. All results returned bar 3. One lab asked for an extension to the deadline due to having no functional lab space whilst undergoing a lab relocation. Two participants did not return any results and did not communicate non-participation despite reminders.

All participants who received “Review” flags have re-submitted data, addressed issues or we are undertaking an investigation into ‘problem’ replicates. Due to this the final report for the website has been delayed. These investigations are due to be concluded within the next month.

PS86/87 - The second set of PS exercises (PS86 & PS87) were sent on time. All natural sediments that are to be used in Year 29 have been tested for asbestos and have returned negative results.

Deadline for samples is 17/03/23 – at the time of writing no results had been returned.

There have been some delivery problems with samples being sent to Belgium with samples being held at a delivery depot in Belgium as the Dutch customs hadn’t provided the import paper for them to be released. APEM and the participant involved have been in contact the delivery depot to try and resolve the issue.

PS-OS 25 – 27 – Five participants sent data to be analysed in Batch 1, out of this, one participant is yet to submit their samples for reanalysis and one participant sent their samples late due to postal strikes around Christmas. Three participants have had their samples reprocessed and reports sent.

Batch 2 is now underway with one set of data received and samples selected. Deadline for data submission is 24/03/2023.

PS-OS has revealed some methodology issues that have been arising with one lab in particular – we are in an on-going conversation with this lab to resolve the issue.

Claire Mason has started organising a PSA workshop to be held at Cefas’ Lowestoft laboratory at the end of March (22/23). Claire Taylor has circulated information to participants to gage interest. Action: CM to send report/pictures to CT for upload to website and social media.

**Particle Size Component 2022-2023 Timetable (Scheme Year 29)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module / Exercise** | **Event** | **Date** |
| PS84 & PS85 | Samples distributed | 28/10/22 |
|  | Results deadline | **16/12/22** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 23/12/22 |
|  | Final report deadline | 20/01/23 |
|  |  |  |
| PS86 & PS87 | Samples distributed | 13/01/23 |
|  | Results deadline | **17/03/23** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 31/03/23 |
|  | Final report deadline | 21/04/23 |
|  |  |  |
| PS-OS 25 - 27 | Request for sample data distributed | 28/10/22 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 1 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **30/11/22** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **23/12/22** |
|  | Interim report final deadline (for samples received before 23 December 2022) | 24/03/23 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 2 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **24/03/23** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **28/04/23** |
|  | Interim report final deadline | 07/07/23 |
|  |  |  |
| Annual Report | Annual report deadline | 28/07/23 |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – | Cefas - Lowestoft | 22/23 March 2023 |

Action: DW to send her Phytoplankton statistical results to LmB to see if similar stats can be utilised within PSA.

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

**BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**2022-23, Year 29**

* 1. **Subscriptions**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LabCode | RT63/64 | LR27 | OS80/81/82 |
| BI\_2901 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2902 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2903 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2904 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BI\_2905 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BI\_2906 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2907 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2908 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BI\_2909 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2910 | 1 | 1 | - |
| BI\_2911 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2912 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2913 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2914 | 1 | 1 | - |
| BI\_2915 | 1 | 1 | - |
| BI\_2916 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2917 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2918 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_2919 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2920 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2921 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2922 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2923 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_2926 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2927 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2928 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2929 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2930 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2931 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2932 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2933 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2934 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2935 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2936 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2937 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2938 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2939 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2940 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2941 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2942 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2943 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2944 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2945 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2946 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2947 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2948 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2949 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2950 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2951 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2952 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_2953 | - | - | 1 |
| ° (change from 2021/22) | **23 (-)** | **6 (-)** | 1. **(+6)** |

**7.2 2021-2022, Year 28 Operations – Outgoing Scheme Year**

Returns, results and exercise status details for the remaining live exercises and reports are summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| 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 (extended)  Interim report final deadline Batch 2 01/07/22  OS Module Summary Report deadline 15/07/22  **Exercises in progress** | 29 (94%) out of 31 datasets received;  84 (100%) out of 84 requested samples received, including 4 samples for external audit;  53 (63%) samples complete to date;  All samples received before the original exercise deadlines have been reported. |
| 2021/22 Annual Report & SoPs | Annual Report & Statement of Performance documents deadline 28/07/22 (delayed by LR & OS Modules) | A partial draft annual report (excluding the on-going OS Module) was provided (09/02/23) |

Action: MG to chase his participants re exercises as above.

* 1. **2022-2023, Year 29 Operations**

Benthic Invertebrate exercises are being distributed in line with the 2022-2023 timetable (available below). Returns, results and exercise status details are summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| RT63 | Specimens distributed 28/10/22  Submission deadline 16/12/22  Interim reports issued 23/12/22  Ring Test Bulletin issued 30/01/23  **Exercise complete** | General Ring Test;  21 out of 23 data sets received |
| RT64 | Specimens to be distributed 13/01/23  Submission deadline 17/03/23  Interim reports to be issued 31/03/23  Ring Test Bulletin deadline 21/04/23  **Exercise in progress** | Targeted Ring Test – Peracarida excluding Amphipoda;  1 out of 23 data sets received to date. |
| LR27 | Request for specimens distributed 28/10/22  Submission deadline 23/12/22 (extended)  Interim reports deadline 17/03/23  LR Module Summary Report deadline 24/03/23  **Exercise in progress** | 1 of the 6 sets of specimens received to date |
| OS80-82 | Sample data requested 28/10/22  Data submission deadline Batch 1 30/11/22  Sample submission deadline Batch 1 23/12/22  Interim report final deadline Batch 1 24/03/23  Data submission deadline Batch 2 24/03/23  Sample submission deadline Batch 2 28/04/23  Interim report final deadline Batch 2 07/07/23  OS Module Summary Report deadline 14/07/23  **Exercises in progress** | 18 (49%) out of 37 datasets received;  30 (56%) out of 54 requested samples received;  no samples complete/reported to date |
| 2022/23 Annual Report & SoPs | Annual Report & Statement of Performance documents deadline 28/07/23 | Template report prepared |

* 1. **Issues arising**

**Black Sea Consortium Join the Scheme**

Five organisations that monitor the Black Sea have joined the NMBAQC scheme Own Sample Module. A bespoke methodology has been developed to facilitate access to the scheme. Romanian, Bulgarian, and Georgian laboratories are represented, with the potential for Turkish involvement later in the year (or in the next scheme year).

**Taxonomic Discrimination Protocol (TDP) Development**

TDP development draft version (and TDP spreadsheet) was circulated to the scheme participants and appropriate Committee members for comment (November 2021). Feedback and comments have been received, collated, and incorporated into a revised version for upload to the scheme website (February 2023). Action: if there is further feedback please let MoR soonest before it is uploaded to the website. CT to update annually.

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

**Next contract:**

Update family level TDP with discussion of historical records, identification standardisation problems and literature

Combine TDP text file with literature list update, to include discussion of most important literature (draft format shared with Contract Manager, February 2023)

Workshops 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

**Taxonomic Workshops**

Taxonomic workshops are being planned for 2023. A beginner taxonomic course is at an advanced stage of planning for June 2023, to be hosted at the Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute, University of Galway, Galway, IE. If the venue is a success, an ‘expert’ / targeted faunal groups workshop will follow in the autumn. Favourable discussions have been completed with potential session leaders (crustacean & mollusc groups) and more details will be shared with the participants soon. **Update: Call of interest with joining details disseminated to community and again with reminder for beginner’s workshop - CT. Further action – CT to send out last call of interest and TM advised some of his staff maybe able to attend – done.**

**Invertebrate Component 2022-2023 Timetable (Scheme Year 29)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module / Exercise** | **Event** | **Date** |
| RT63 - General | Samples distributed | 28/10/22 |
|  | Results deadline | **16/12/22** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 23/12/22 |
|  | Final report deadline | 20/01/23 |
|  |  |  |
| RT64 - Targeted | Samples distributed | 13/01/23 |
|  | Results deadline | **17/03/23** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 31/03/23 |
|  | Final report deadline | 21/04/23 |
|  |  |  |
| LR27 | Protocol and request for specimens distributed | 28/10/22 |
|  | Specimen submission deadline | **23/12/22** |
|  | Interim reports deadline | 17/03/23 |
|  | LR summary report deadline | 24/03/23 |
|  |  |  |
| OS80–82 | Request for sample data distributed | 28/10/22 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 1 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **30/11/22** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **23/12/22** |
|  | Interim report final deadline (for samples received before 23 December 2022) | 24/03/23 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 2 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **24/03/23** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **28/04/23** |
|  | Interim report final deadline | 07/07/23 |
|  |  |  |
|  | OS summary report deadline | 14/07/23 |
|  |  |  |
| Annual Report | Annual report deadline | 28/07/23 |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – beginners | Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute, University of Galway, Galway, IE – subject to demand – EOI in draft | June 2023 |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – experts | Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute, University of Galway, Galway, IE – subject to demand | Autumn 2023 |

1. **Macroalgae update (CY)**

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

**2022-23, Year 29**

* 1. **Subscriptions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lab Code | Rt14 OMC | RT14 OMB |
| MA\_2901 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2902 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2903 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2904 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2905 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2906 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2907 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2908 | 1 | - |
| MA\_2909 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2910 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_2911 & 2912 | 1 | 2 |
|  |  |  |
| Total (change from last year) | **11 (+0)** | 1. **+1)** |

**8.2 2022-2023, Year 29 Operations**

All circulations of MA exercises will be distributed in line with the 2022-2023 timetable (available below). Returns and results are summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| RT14 OMC | Samples distributed: 23/01/2023 |  |
| Sample deadline: 03/03/2023 |  |
| Interim reports issued: 31/03/2023  Final reports issued: 28/04/2023 | 2 out of 11 returned results |
| **Exercise in progress** |  |
| RT14 OMB | Samples distributed: 23/01/2023 |  |
| Sample deadline: 03/03/2023 |  |
| Interim reports issued: 31/03/2023  Final reports issued: 28/04/2023 | 2 out of 11 returned results |
| **Exercise in progress** |  |

* 1. **Issues arising**

Of the two OMC returns so far one participant laboratory has provided results from two individuals for both seagrass and macroalgae. The second laboratory has submitted results from six individuals for seagrass only.

As mentioned previously in the final RT13 2022 Component Reports, the macroalgae component was out of synchrony with the other NMBAQC components in past years. Therefore, the prefix ‘29’ has been repeated in this scheme year so that the macroalgal component is now consistent with the other NMBAQC scheme components.

Any laboratories who participated last year have been assigned a different numerical code in this scheme year to avoid confusion with RT13.

As a result of participant feedback in previous years, two of the three macroalgal biomass tests in RT14 comprised of mixed artificial materials. The third was a trial of a new alternative material as a representative for membranous macroalgae.

**Macroalgae Biomass and Percentage Cover Component 2022-2023 Timetable (Scheme Year 29)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module / Exercise** | **Event** | **Date** |
| RT14 OMB | Samples distributed | 23/01/2023 |
|  | Results deadline | **03/03/2023** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 31/04/2023 |
|  | Final report deadline | 28/04/2023 |
|  |  |  |
| RT14 OMC | Samples distributed | 23/01/2023 |
|  | Results deadline | **03/03/2023** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 31/04/2023 |
|  | Final report deadline | 28/04/2023 |
|  |  |  |

GBJ advised she has received good feedback using the new methods. Any suggestions for other materials which may been of use, please let GBR know.

1. **Fish update (DW)**

**FISH COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**2022-2023, Year 29**

* 1. **Subscriptions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| LabCode | F-RT16 | F-RRT14 |
| F\_2901 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_2902 | 1 | - |
| F\_2903 | 1 | - |
| F\_2904 | 1 | - |
| F\_2905 | 1 | - |
| F\_2906 | 1 | - |
| F\_2907 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_2908 | - | 1 |
| F\_2909 | - | 1 |
| F\_2910 | - | 1 |
| F\_2911 | - | 1 |
| F\_2912 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_2913 | - | 1 |
| Total (change from last year) | **8 (+2)** | **8 (-3)** |
|  |  |  |

* 1. **2022-2023, Year 28 Operations**

2022-2023 timetable for fish exercises created, as summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| F-RRT14 | Request for specimens distributed 17/10/22  Specimen submission deadline 16/12/22  Final report deadline Delayed 03/2023  **Exercise in progress** | Request for specimens sent  Request for deadline extension  7 out of 8 submitted |
| F-RT16 | Samples distributed Delayed 03/2023  Results deadline 05/23  Interim report deadline 06/23  Final report deadline 06/23  **Exercise in progress** | Preparing to send samples |

* 1. **Issues arising**

F-RRT14 - boxes distributed, no shipping problems. One lab with multiple submissions has requested a deadline extension. Results collated ready for distribution to participants for final check.

F-RT16 – Continued to have problems sourcing enough fish for the exercise. Hope to have enough species to distribute this month through a planned survey in March.

A light box has been purchased which should help with image quality of the specimens, as was highlighted the previous year.

* 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 2022-2023 Timetable (Scheme Year 29)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Module / Exercise | Event | Date |
|  |  |  |
| F-RRT14 | Protocol and request for specimens distributed (including supply of fish postage boxes) | 17/10/22 |
|  | Specimen submission deadline | **16/12/22** |
|  | Final report deadline | Delayed 03/2023 |
|  |  |  |
| F-RT16 | Samples (specimens & images) distributed | Delayed 03/2023 |
|  | Results deadline | **05/23** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 06/23 |
|  | Final report deadline | 06/23 |
|  |  |  |
| Annual Report | Annual report deadline | 06/23 |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – experts | TBC – subject to demand | TBC |

Last fish tests sent out Jan/Feb to 16 participants across 11 laboratories. Reverse ring tests to be sent out this month.

DW advised still looking for more fish, may look at reducing the specimens if this continues to be a problem.

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

MW provided verbal update at meeting re ring test. 10 specimens sent out with written test and enumeration component. Have been severe delays with international postage.

Workshop arranged for July. Cefas giving talk re talk on macro egg survey to workshop participants which will include some fish egg training.

Also providing an Introduction to Plankton course in October.

1. **AOB**

Contractor Questions (RG): nothing further to report

MG discussed recent article re the scheme in the Porcupine bulletin. Action: MG to send CT the article for social media.

DW looking for a particular freshwater phytoplankton article from JMBA. Action: CT has asked NMBL library but they only have a hard copy, CT has asked DW if she would like any particular pages scanned and sent across?