

# NMCAG AQC APPROACHES

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# NMCAG AQC

- The early days
- QUASIMEME
- QUASH
- The NMCAG Data Filter
- MERMAN
- The Green Book
- Protocols DB
- Summary

# The early days

- No UK or international co-ordination of marine monitoring programmes
- ICES MCWG
  - Ad hoc intercalibration schemes
- Few CRMs
- UKAS M10 standard
- No ISO standard

# QUASIMEME

- QUality ASsurance of Information for Marine Environment Monitoring in Europe
- Aim to develop a holistic quality assurance programme for marine monitoring
- Pump primed by EU funding driven by MCWG – 1993
- Subscription scheme introduced in 1996
- Transferred to Alterra in 2005

# QUASIMEME

- Two PT rounds per year
- Covers CBs, OCPs, PAH, BFRs, metals, organotin compounds, nutrients, co-factors
- Sediment, biota, water
- Driven by commission requirements e.g. OSPAR, MEDPOL, AMAP, HELCOM
- WFD
- Runs development exercises, workshops etc. etc.

# QUASH

- Quality Assurance of Sample Handling
- One off two year programme
- Covered biota sampling, dissection
- Co-factors e.g. lipid determination, normalisation (TOC, AI, lipid, particle size)

# NMCAG data filter

- Aims to make an “independent” assessment of an individual CMAs data and it’s fitness for purpose for NMMP/UKMMAS
- Determinand/matrix combinations that fail to meet the required standard are flagged on MERMAN

# MERMAN

- AQC returns are submitted on two spreadsheets, one for PT performance another for lab AQC
- Datafilter scores determined automatically, proportion still checked for anomalies

# The Green Book

- Out of date
- Suffers from lack of editorial control
- Owned by CSSEG but delegated to AQC groups
- Adherence not enforced
- Future ?

# The Protocols DB

- Is it what was wanted ?
- Future ?
- Relationship between Green Book and Protocols DB ?

# Summary

- AQC requires a degree of commitment and co-ordination
- It's a long slog
- It's not cheap
- It doesn't mean standard methods
- The competition can be fun !!