



HARBASINS – sub task WP3 meeting

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1. What this is about

For Harbasins WP3 to be carried out properly, agreement has to be reached on several issues regarding field sampling and laboratory techniques. It is therefore that the Dutch WP3 lead partner, RIKZ, organises a brief international workshop, where all those involved in WP3 are invited to participate.

This paper is to introduce alle participants to the goals of the workshop.

2. How this paper is setup

For those needing a short introduction, a brief overview of Harbasins and the WP3 subtask is provided (see below, shaded area).

Immediately following this section, the goals of the WP3 international meeting are described.

Harbasins project – overview

1. Aims of the overall project

HARBASINS, an INTERREG North Sea project, is an acronym for HARmonisation of riverBASIN management.

The Wadden Sea Quality Status Report (QSR) 2004 revealed, that a harmonised assessment of monitoring results of hazardous substances is still hampered by limited comparability and (time frame) consistency of data. This, nondespite that technical guidelines and quality assurance procedures have been available from the OSPAR guidelines as well as from the ICES for several years.

Comparability of monitoring data is highly relevant in the quality assessment of river basins, particularly in the Water Framework Directive (WFD) reporting obligations.

In HARBASINS, the common monitoring program of the Wadden Sea (TMAP) will be evaluated to improve comparability and more over (time frame) consistency of data.

Harbasins general aims are:

- Set up a network of bodies involved in monitoring of North Sea Coastal Zone and Estuaries.
- Overview of Water Framework Directive implementation strategies with respect to:
 - a. Operational (Trend) Monitoring
 - b. Assessment of priority compounds
 - c. Transport of priority compounds through the 12 mile North Sea Coastal Zone by residual currents
 - d. Responsibility shifting between river basins by trans basin transport of priority compounds

2. Description of the Harbsins WP3 subtask

EU memberstates are deemed to implement European legislation (directives) into national laws. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is an important new law of river basin oriented water management at a European scale. The often transboundary river basin management requires tuning between bording memberstates. This includes both river and marine (North Sea) coastal zones, covered by the WFD till 1 (biology) repectively 12 (chemistry) nautical miles offshore. The (North Sea) coastal zones again are interconnected by the tidal and residual currents. It is only in the marine part that individual river basins can affect the linked basins via transport of water, suspended water, sediment or biota associated elements. The concern of WP3 (workpackage 3) are the chemical compounds, particularly the priority

ones, and the question to which extent individual river basin management can or will affect the consequent river basins. The mutual responsibility of EU member states requires reliable and justly comparable information with respect to the river basin. This holds at Europe's mainland where several member states are partaker in managing the same river. Once the marine coastal zone is incorporated many more member states are partaker, including those solely managing entire river basins such as Great Britain. In case of the (southern) North Sea the management of British, Belgian, Dutch, German and Danish riverbasins is connected by the tidal and residual currents.

3. Aims of the WP3 sub task

WP3 aims at obtaining reliable and just information by focussing at the following items:

- 1) how do member states implement their WFD (operational and trend) monitoring;
- 2) do WFD monitoring and assessment methods produce the required information and how would they have to be adjusted;
- 3) are chemical compounds transported from one river basin to the next, and
- 4) is there a basis for responsibility shifting in case the chemical status would not comply.

3. Introduction to the goals of the workshop

In Work Package 3 (WP3) the results will be used to execute a field campaign along the eastern UK coast and the western European continental coast opposite of the UK. The purpose of this campaign is two-fold:

- 1) to agree on the best-available method of collecting and analysing sediment and SPM bound contaminants with a reference to the WFD total-water sampling.
- 2) to commonly execute a field sampling campaign in order to determine the coastal water transport of contaminants from one river-basin to the next, focussing on the river-basins along the British east-coast and the European west-coast.
- 3) use and costs of sea-going vessels

During the workshop, participants will discuss all relevant issues concerning the above described purpose of the sampling campaign. This includes: sampling stations, sampling techniques, compounds and biological responses to be studied, etc, and are discussed in a little more detail below

- a) to evaluate the methods applied in the national monitoring programs with the aim to choose best method with regard to e.g. grain-size correction of concentrations in sediment, normalization of concentrations in biota (dry, wet, fat weight), to be implemented in the WP3 field plan
- b) to consider the existing and required quality assurance procedures, e.g. with regard to sample handling and possible sample contamination, use of laboratory container at the ship
- c) to review the proposal of the WP3 field plan, specifically concerning the proposed methods, (bio- and chemo-) analytical parameters and choice of locations. These locations (2 per river basin) are critical, since the results would have to enable an estimation of the inflow into the coast water caused by the river and the residual situation in the coastal water.
- d) to act as a national contactperson with respect to authorizing sampling at the locations chosen. To advise in other matters concerning the field campaign. This concerns e.g. the availability of research vessels along the UK east coast and possibly the sediment coring locations in the Skagerrak.

The WP3 lead partner will provide a brief overview on all issues during the workshop.

4. Participation

The attending persons would preferably be involved in the national (estuarine and marine) monitoring program in both organizational and technical aspects and have knowledge of the locations in the selected river basins (estuaries). A list of invitees is given below. If, to your knowledge, somebody else should (also) be invited, please do not hesitate to contact us immediately!

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