

Marine Pathways Project conference – Discussion session.

We have only one and a half hours to cover three major areas of work, to facilitate this we have constrained each section to three key questions we really appreciate you taking the time to give us your views.

A) Risk reduction – biosecurity (30 minutes)

Introduction

Reducing risk of introduction and spread of INNS through improved biosecurity is a key aspect of prevention and particularly important in the marine environment when it is so difficult to remove species once they have arrived. The project set out to engage with different industry sectors to look at how we could incorporate advice on easy and effective biosecurity measures and biosecurity planning into industry guidance and training.

However, we recognise that we need to look at whether there is need for further work.

Questions to discuss

- 1. What is current uptake of biosecurity best practice within your organisation/sector?**
- 2. What are the remaining key issues/barriers to implementing measures/biosecurity planning and how can different sectors be encouraged to take up best practice biosecurity?**
- 3. What solutions are there to the above issues and in terms of priorities, what are the 3 key next steps to address these issues? Identify how/who should take these forward and how they could be funded (if required):**

B) NIS introduction, monitoring and surveillance (30 minutes)

Introduction

Identifying areas at high risk of introduction of INNS is fundamental for targeting finite resources where they are needed most. The pathways project identified four key pathways (shipping, recreational boating, aquaculture and natural dispersal) and assessed the activity and therefore the risk associated with these pathways in coastal regions around GB and Ireland. This information can be used to develop and implement future surveillance and monitoring programmes for INNS. However, this process could be improved and built on with your input.

Questions to discuss

- 1. Are there any other pathways which you think need considering?**
- 2. We investigated the use of offshore buoys for detecting NIS species. Are there any other offshore structures which could be used for early detection of NIS?**
- 3. How do you think you (as an individual or an industry) could contribute to the surveillance and monitoring of NIS?**

C) Control and Management (30 minutes)

Introduction

The central goal of the marine pathways project is to protect marine biodiversity in the UK and Ireland by managing key pathways by which NNS are introduced and spread. However, it is not possible to prevent all introductions of NNS and methods of control and/or eradication need to be available when prevention has failed. Therefore, work under the marine pathways project has included experimental studies concerned with control and eradication of NNS. There are currently three experimental projects being undertaken under the marine pathways project (see project list) which aim to gather information which will aid the control of NNS following their introduction or spread.

Control and management of NIS in the marine environment is technically very difficult and we acknowledge that these projects, along with the work already carried out at Holyhead for *D.vex*, are only the start of being better equipped to deal with NIS in the marine environment.

Questions to discuss

- 1. Which pathway do you think are most easily managed and how?**
- 2. When is management/eradication a priority in the marine environment?**
- 3. How do we develop/adopt management and control techniques and is training needed?**