

WBP ACADEMIC/VOLUNTEER RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL 7

Project title:	INNS Pathways : prevention, early warning and rapid response		
Lead Organisation:	WG/Natural Resources Wales (Suggested) RSPB proposing project, but would expect above to lead.	Project leader: Gareth Cunningham (1 st point of contact), Swyddog Polisi Morol/ Marine Policy Officer, RSPB Cymru	
Address: RSPB Cymru Headquarters/Pencadlys RSPB Cymru, Sutherland House/Tŷ Sutherland, Castlebridge/Pontycastell, Cowbridge Road East/Heol Ddwyreiniol y Bont-faen, Cardiff/Caerdydd, CF11 9AB		Email: gareth.cunningham@rspb.org.uk Tel: 02920 353040 Mob:	
Collaborating institutions:	RSPB, others including NGOs, Universities.		
Location:	All Wales		
Start date:	No set date	Completion required by:	No set date
Project rational/ What is the specific question being asked?			
<p>There are many – how many is simply not known – marine species that are a potential threat, so the chances of alighting on the ‘right one’ (even if there were only one) are very small. We must also bear in mind the lesson of previous experience, including Didemnum: that once a marine INNS – especially algae, vasc. plants or inverts – is introduced and established, it is often too late to take effective remedial action. The emphasis must be on prevention, and then early warning and rapid response, as specified Art 8c of the CBD.</p> <p>Assuming that here we want genuinely effective, applied, problem-solving conservation research done, the area where we should focus is on <i>pathways</i> – by that I mean on the mechanisms and routes whereby marine INNS might be introduced to the welsh marine environment.</p>			
Can this project be divided into more than one project? If yes, clarify above			
Aims: The aims of this research should be to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the pathways; This will need both quantitative and qualitative work, some desk-review and some active communication with people active (in multiple ways) around coastal areas. Ballast water discharge, vessel fouling and movement, fishing, aquaculture and leisure activity (yachts etc) movements, and presence of INNS in contiguous areas or areas where material is moved from, to welsh waters. Identify how introduction risk can be minimised (i.e. prevention); This will need to identify best practice and explore how it can be implemented. For example, how might Wales implement the recommendations of the IMO Ballast Water treaty, which calls for measurement and strict restrictions on how many organisms are allowed to be released in ballast water (even though the UK is not signatory – yet – this represents best practice). How can awareness/knowledge and vigilance be maximised among key audiences? What are training requirements? Pinpoint monitoring requirements to facilitate early detection; This will need to identify the ‘pinch points’ where introductions are most likely (eg around ports, marinas, aquaculture installations etc.) and identify a cost-effective way of picking up on new species at a very early stage. 			

4. Recommend how best to establish rapid response capacity: This will need to identify how the resource and people needed to ‘nip in the bud’ newly established species can be accessed and, critically, how decision-making processes (including assessing whether nipping in the bud actually feasible) can be made quick, simple, universally understood and agreed, and efficient. Lines of responsibility must be explicit and short.				
Scale of project?	Site-specific? <i>Name site & any designation.</i>	Range of sites? <i>Name sites & any/ designation.</i>		Suggested site/s/locations?
This is potentially a very large project which could encompass a wide range of sites and taxonomic groups		There are numerous sites where the research could take place. Site location could be tailored to suit individual students		
Access to previous data/reports on site?		YES/NO	RA¹ attached	NO
Logistics managed by:	Lead Organization:	YES/Joint	Researcher	YES/joint
Opportunity for follow-on student placement with Lead Organisation?				YES/NO
Training element/skills required:				
Expected deliverables:				
Resources required:				
Any special considerations:				

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¹ RA: Risk Assessment