

Cohabiting with the EU - An environmental manager's viewpoint on the synergies and conflicts between EU and national regulations in the aquatic environment.

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Abstract: International and regional instruments are under development to deal with invasive alien species in the aquatic environment. The most notable of these instruments are IMO's Ballast Water Convention, the EU's Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Directive. Countries are obligated to take measures to prevent the degradation of water's ecological status, which includes determining the impacts of IAS and preventing harm caused by them. This requires access to international and regional information on presence, abundance and impacts of IAS and the development of Early Warning and Rapid Response Systems. As this requires a large commitment in resources within the next 6 years, member countries see a need for coordinating efforts and finding cost-effective solutions for developing such systems. There is a need to discuss and agree on if it is possible to develop one system which could meet the needs for all requirements.