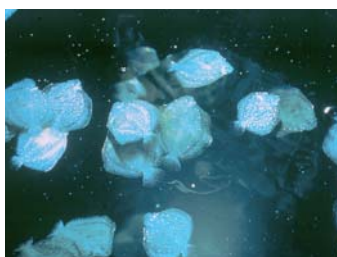


Quality Assurance for biological effects testing



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The programme

- fish disease measurement starts in December 2006
- water and sediment bioassays will start in January 2007
- Registration is open now

Bioassays offered

- *Arenicola*
- *Corophium*
- *Daphnia*
- *Tisbe*
- *Skeletonema*

1 BEQUALM logo

2 Turbot *Scophthalmus maximus*

About the scheme

BEQUALM is a Quality Assurance (QA) scheme for laboratories that undertake marine and freshwater biological effects testing as part of monitoring and regulatory programmes. The scheme has three components: biomarkers, whole organism and benthic community analysis. Cefas acts as the Project Office for the scheme, and is the Lead Laboratory for water and sediment bioassays and fish disease, within the Whole Organism component. We provide training workshops, intercalibration exercises and result reporting. The scheme is open to any laboratory that needs, or wants, to attain defined quality standards.

Track record

BEQUALM (Biological Effects Quality Assurance in Monitoring) started as a European Commission funded project 8 years ago. The scheme is now in its third year of being self-funded and has over 50 participants from 14 different countries. Although BEQUALM is an OSPAR driven scheme originally designed to meet the QA/QC needs of the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP), the remit for bioassays has extended to include QA/QC for regulatory ecotoxicity testing. It has established protocols, reference materials and standards for key biological effects measurements.

Participants benefit from:

- BEQUALM's successful track record
- contact with internationally recognised experts in biological effects monitoring
- involvement with a programme that influences international policy for improving the quality of environmental monitoring data
- producing quality assured monitoring data that is acceptable for submission to ICES and subsequent OSPAR assessment
- producing quality assured ecotoxicity data as part of national and international regulatory testing programmes

Why join BEQUALM

BEQUALM is the only scheme in Europe offering OSPAR approved proficiency testing for QA in marine biological effects monitoring. OSPAR rates the reliability of monitoring data by assigning category status to the techniques used. Once QA procedures are in place OSPAR rates the techniques at category I status. BEQUALM is developing QA to achieve category I status. The resulting data will be of acceptable quality for ICES. Our participants will have the advantage of demonstrating an established track record in quality assured biological effects techniques, which will be acceptable across the OSPAR area.

For more details on the Whole Organism Component, including new assays being planned, how to register and costs please visit: www.bequalm.org.

Contact us

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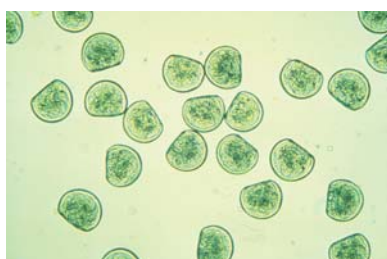
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1 Benthic copepod *Tisbe battagliai*

2 *Daphnia magna*

3 Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas*

About us

Cefas is a multidisciplinary scientific research and consultancy centre providing a comprehensive range of services in fisheries management, environmental monitoring and assessment, and aquaculture to a large number of clients worldwide.

We have more than 500 staff based in 3 laboratories, our own ocean-going research vessel, and over 100 years of fisheries experience. We have a long and successful track record in delivering high-quality services to clients in a confidential and impartial manner. (www.cefas.co.uk)

Cefas Technology Limited (CTL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cefas specialising in the application of Cefas technology to specific customer needs in a cost-effective and focussed manner.

CTL systems are developed by teams that are experienced in fisheries and environmental management and in working closely with clients to ensure that their needs are fully met. (www.cefastechnology.co.uk)

Customer focus

Our unique facilities and breadth of expertise in environmental and fisheries management, enable us to rapidly put together a multi-disciplinary team of experienced specialists, fully supported by our comprehensive in-house resources.

Our existing customers are drawn from a broad spectrum with wide ranging interests. Clients include:

- international and UK government departments
- the European Commission
- the World Bank
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO)
- oil, water, chemical, pharmaceutical, agro-chemical, aggregate and marine industries
- non-governmental and environmental organisations
- regulators and enforcement agencies
- local authorities and other public bodies

We also work successfully in partnership with other organisations, operate in international consortia and have several joint ventures commercialising our intellectual property.