

First six-month report (1 December 2001 – 31 May 2002)

Characterisation of the Baltic Sea Ecosystem (CHARM)

Contract EVK3-CT-2001-00065

1. Introduction

This report includes status and progress from the project Characterization of the Baltic Sea Ecosystem (CHARM) - Contract EVK3-CT-2001-00065, covering the period 1 December 2001 to 31 May 2002. In addition, the report status and progress are related to the deliverable list (form B2) in the Description of Work document (DoW).

2. Administrative status

Overall, CHARM is now in operation, and it is my general impression that activities and progress so far are in good shape. There seems to be a good and growing spirit and I trust that problems are turned into challenges. The start of the project on 1 December 2001 was not optimal. Apparently, it turned out that the month of December in some way disappeared, leaving the first part of the work to be carried out to include only five months. The contract was signed mid-November, and this was very close to the starting day. Consequently, activities in December were difficult to plan.

As the first deliverable (**deliverable no. 1**), a workshop was held in Copenhagen 15-16 January 2002. All members of the steering committee participated, and a total number of 38 participants, including Catherine Eccles from the Commission, were present at the kick-off meeting. The agenda for the meeting included:

- The co-ordinator's welcome (goals, characteristics of CHARM, CHARM and the world around us, mini SWOT, steering committee, project secretariat, reporting and CHARM and CREAM)
- Work packages (structure for the work)
- Description of the project web site (charm.dmu.dk) was presented

Details on the agenda, a list of participants and minutes from the meeting are presented in enclosure 1. A project web site has been made (**deliverable no. 5**) and is in operation. All information from the kick-off meeting is presented at the web site. A compilation of mailing list of authorities (**deliverable no. 2**) is presented at the web site.

3. Status for deliverables

Below is inserted a section of the "Description of Work" document from CHARM (page 28) now including the status of the six deliverables with deadlines at or before month 6. Delivery no. 6 is assumed to be fulfilled with the approval of this six-month report.

Deliverable no.	Deliverable title	Delivery date	WP no.	Dissemination level	Status
1	Workshop 1	Month 1	7	PU	done
2	Compilation of mailing list of authorities	Month 1	1	PU	done
3	Quality controlled data sets for surface sediments, phytoplankton, macrophytes, benthic fauna and water chemistry	Month 6	1-5	PU	delay*
4	Morphometrical inventory of the Baltic	Month 6	1	PU	delay**
5	Project web site	Month 6	7	PU	done
6	Report to the Commission	Month 6	1-7	PU	done

4. Comments on delayed deliverables and progress for the work to be carried out

***Deliverable 3: Quality controlled data sets for surface sediments, phytoplankton, macrophytes, benthic fauna and water chemistry**

Overall there is a delay in deliverable 3. Some of the WPs have completely fulfilled the delivery (WP2 and WP4 – a web page presentation will be presented within few weeks), others have presented most of the data on the web page (WP3, presented under the restricted area, then select "documents" and "annex 3"). WP1 reports a delay. Based on request material, it is suggested that in cases without raw data of coastal sediments, the general map will be split into regional – mainly country maps. It is my impression that WP1 will be on schedule during September 2002. Also WP5 reports a delay and is expected to be on schedule during September 2002. The data in this WP include coastal hydrochemical data for the Baltic and they originate, in contrast to offshore data, from a large heterogeneous group of organisations. This means that many of the data are stored in quite diverse formats, and had to be reformatted into a common format, in order to be assessable for the CHARM community. Many data sets were incomplete (i.e. lacking coordinates, time, etc.) or had obvious problems with units (ug or mg?). This meant that these data sets had to be sent back to the originators for further control and update, with obvious time-delays as a result. A 6-month time frame for collecting and quality checking of coastal hydrochemical data was obviously too optimistic.

****Deliverable 4: Morphometric inventory of the Baltic**

According to WP1, a message has been distributed asking for relevant data and other types of essential information. Some data has been delivered and a simple database model has been constructed. WP1 expects to be on schedule during September 2002.

Progress for the coming deliverables are assumed to be on schedule, and I expect that the overall progress for the project as a whole is well under control. Details on the next workshop are expected to be presented on the web site in due time.

5. Other plans

A phytoplankton workshop (WP2) is under preparation for discussions on work to be carried out. It will most likely be held in Italy during September 2002. Information will be presented on the web site in due time.

Roskilde, Denmark, 31 May 2002

Bo Riemann
Co-ordinator

Enclosure 1: Participant list – CHARM – kick off meeting 15-16 January 2002
Minutes of CHARM kick-off meeting 15-16 January 2002