



QUASIMEME QUEST FOR QUALITY

A Newsletter of the QUASIMEME Laboratory Performance Studies
Wageningen UR, The Netherlands.

2007: Preparing for EU-WFD

2007 is an important year for monitoring in the EU. Article 8 of the EU-Water Framework Directive requires that end 2007 monitoring programmes have been defined by Member States, and are ready for commencement. All monitoring laboratories in the EU are in the process of adapting their programmes to the demands of the WFD. Most of the Quasimeme participants are based in the EU. Therefore, also Quasimeme has been considering how to adapt the scheme to continue optimal support of our clients. The results of our discussions and investigations are presented briefly in this newsletter. In addition, we inform you on developments within Quasimeme Project Office and the on project in general.

WUR Alterra Centre for Water and Climate has moved.

November 2006 most of the Centre for Water and Climate has moved to a new building. This also applies for the Quasimeme Project Office. As a result, our telephone numbers have changed – the new address and telephone is given at the end of this newsletter.

Modifications to the Quasimeme programme in 2007/2008

In 2007, we will make some significant changes to a number of groups:

- In BT-3, we will offer the possibility to report TEQ's obtained with DR CALUX.
- The number of determinants in AQ-5, AQ-6 and AQ-8 will be extended in order to cover the priority pollutants prescribed by the EU-WFD. In making these modifications we take the analytical procedures as much as possible into account. As a result, some compounds will be added to two groups, e.g. AQ-5 and AQ-8, as different analytical strategies can be followed.
- In the past AQ-7, pentachlorophenol in seawater has been deleted owing to a lack of participants. This package is reinstated in 2007.
- Following the recommendations of the participants at the Quasimeme workshop on Alkyl Phenols and Phenol Ethoxylates which was held on September 26 and 27 at the Federal Environmental Agency in Berlin, Germany we add a new work-package AQ14 which will contain nonylphenol, 4-

(para)nonyl-phenol, octylphenol and para-tert-octylphenol sorbed on

- A new group, AQ-13, will be added. This group will contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in *unfiltered* seawater, i.e. seawater including suspended solids.
- In October 2007, we intend to start with a completely new exercise. In the past years, ICES working groups have devoted a lot of time and effort in the development and testing of passive sampling techniques for organic contaminants. In collaboration with Foppe Smedes at the Dutch National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management (RIKZ) we are planning to start a development study based on silicone rubber sheets. More information will be provided in the brochure and in special communications in 2007.

The groups AQ-5-AQ-8 frequently have problems owing to the relatively few participating laboratories – the establishment of an assigned value based on the data submitted becomes impossible when only part of the participants submit data. In the past months we have studied whether we could use the nominal concentrations in cases

where too few data are submitted. We have come to the conclusion that this is possible and adopt this approach whenever possible.

Quasinote and the Sharepoint site

Quasinote has been incorporated in the Sharepoint site. A number of laboratories have used Quasinote to ask for information from other participants. Unfortunately, the response seems to be rather limited. We kindly request you all to look occasionally at Quasinote and to offer your assistance when you have an answer to a question!

We have been advised that the low response may be due to the lay-out of the Sharepoint site. In 2007 we will see if the Sharepoint site can be redesigned.

Database and data assessment

By now, most of the difficulties with the database have been solved, a few issues remain. We expect to find solutions to these problems in the near future. In 2007, we will provide a paper which will explain the statistical procedures in a clear manner.

QUASIMEME Workshops

For your diary:

Brominated Flame Retardants 23-28 April 2007, Amsterdam, in connection with the International Symposium BFR2007

Details will be sent to all QUASIMEME participants once the workshop programme is

confirmed, and will also be included in future newsletters and on the website.

Data Submission

Participants in **Round 47** AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-11, BT-7 and DE-10 are reminded that the deadline for receipt of their data is **30 January 2007**.

Participants in **Round 45** DE-3, DE-5 and DE-7 are reminded that the deadline for receipt of their data is **30 January 2007**. The samples were dispatched in round 47 as mentioned in Newsletter 37. Templates are available on the lab specific part of the Sharepoint site under templates R47.

Please upload your data to the QUASIMEME Sharepoint site on time. Any data received after the deadline may not be included in the Assessment

Reports

From now on the Quasimeme exercise reports are placed on the sharepoint-site (as mentioned in Newsletter 37 you can set an alert to be notified of any changes). In this way the reports are only accessible for Quasimeme participants and can be accessed by these labs at all times. Labs are free to print them or copy them on to a CD as they wish.

The lab specific files will be placed on the labs sub-site to be accessed by that lab only.

The report for **Round 45** has been placed on the sharepoint-site on 3 October 2006. The lab specific part have also been placed on the labs sub-sites.

Round 48 Test Material Distribution

Round 48 test materials for AQ-1, AQ-2, MS-1, MS-2, MS-3 BT-1, BT-2, BT-3, BT-4, BT-5 and BS-1 will be dispatched from Wageningen, The Netherlands, during the week beginning **15 January 2007**.

If you have subscribed to any of the above studies and have not received your test materials within one week of the dispatch date, or if your test materials arrive damaged, please contact QUASIMEME. We will then arrange to send replacements.

All test materials are in good condition and securely packed when they leave Wageningen. Please report any missing or damaged packages promptly, but at least within two weeks and retain any damaged package as the couriers may require proof of damage.

The **templates** and **protocols** for these studies will be placed on your labs sub-site, for you to access whenever you require them.

Please circulate this newsletter, and display it on your notice board. Multiple copies have been provided to facilitate distribution to other colleagues.

Requests for further information, comments or contributions to:

QUASIMEME Project office

Wageningen UR
Alterra CWK
P.O. Box 47
6700 AA Wageningen
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0) 317 486546
Fax: +31 (0) 317 41 90 00
E-mail: quasimeme@wur.nl
www.quasimeme.org

