



**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency  
*Atoms for Peace and Development*

# **Workshop on Harmonisation and Standardisation for Marine Algal and Toxin Surveillance Sampling, Toxin Analysis, and Quality Control Standards**

**Hosted by**

The Government of Cuba

**Through the**

Centro de Estudios Ambientales de Cienfuegos

Varadero, Cuba

**10-16 March 2025**

**Ref. No.: ME-INT7022-2406068**

## **Information Sheet**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the event is to discuss how to harmonize fieldwork and analytical protocols for sampling strategy for harmful algae identification and toxin analysis in marine ecosystem; biotoxin analysis in seafood using nuclear and complementary technics; and data reporting.

### **Working Language**

The working language of the event will be English.

## **Deadline for Nominations**

Nominations received after **10 January 2025** will not be considered.

## **Project Background**

The project INT7022 aims at strengthening the ocean health for sustainable development. With over 70 per cent of the Earth's surface covered by oceans, they are vital to maintaining livelihoods by providing food, regulating global climate, and preserving biodiversity. With threats such as pollution from radioactive and non-radioactive contaminants, climate change, ocean acidification and deoxygenation affecting marine life, food security and human health, the attainment of SDGs relating to ocean health remain in question.

There is a lack of scientifically validated data relating to the factors of ocean deterioration. Due to this, decision makers cannot adopt appropriate policies and employ actions that will ensure sustainability for the future. To achieve universal knowledge on the state of the world's oceans, the use of nuclear and isotopic techniques can help identify and understand the dynamics and effects of local and global marine stressors and improve evidence-based decision making for marine management.

Members of the INT7022 project shall strengthen their capacity in sample collection, data analysis and interpretation of the accumulation of organic carbon in sediment of coastal vegetated ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses and saltmarshes) to generate knowledge and scientific data that will contribute to a better understanding of the processes affecting ocean health. This will promote a better understanding of ocean health which can inform the decision-making processes, making the advancing the protection and conservation of the oceans in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **Expected Outputs**

After this workshop, Member States will have:

- i. Protocols for the collection, separation, identification and enumeration of HABs.
- ii. Protocols for field sampling of fish, shellfish and other invertebrates for toxin analysis.
- iii. Protocols for biotoxin analysis in water and seafood matrices.
- iv. Importance of Quality assurance and quality control in the above mentioned procedures
- v. Criteria for setting up laboratories for the analysis and readiness level assessment.
- vi. Reporting of results and integration to national, regional or international databases.

## **Participation**

The Workshop is open in total to 25 participants.

The meeting is organized for the countries participating in the INT7022 project, specifically those linked

to the HABs and Biotoxins Component with capacities to analysis of STX and/or CTX using RBA or other chemical techniques.

Each country is invited to nominate **one (1)** participant. In cases where separate individuals handle environmental monitoring and toxin analysis, **two (2)** candidates may be nominated from the same country.

Participants will be selected based on demonstrated experience in the topics. Please refer to the “Participants’ Qualifications and Experience” for more information.

## Participants’ Qualifications and Experience

The workshop is intended for experts actively associated with the assessment of HABs and Biotoxins Analysis.

Nominated experts should:

- (i) Be linked to the development of national assessments of HABs and Biotoxins analysis.
- (ii) Have demonstrated experience on HABs monitoring programs and analysis of marine biotoxins with emphasis on STX and CTX using RBA and chemical analysis techniques.

This experience must be described in the candidate's nomination under the Work Description section related to the project. A copy of the abbreviated CV must be submitted during the nomination process.

## Application Procedure

Candidates willing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate’s existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
  - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience (‘Profile’ tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
  - b. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2406068) under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

**NOTE:** Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to [InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org).

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the training course from the [IAEA website](#).

**NOTE:** A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

## **Administrative and Financial Arrangements**

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency American Express, or a travel grant, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

## **Disclaimer of Liability**

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

## **Note for Female Participants**

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions

may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

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