

Newsletter #5 | September 2025



DEMASK newsletter #5

Dear ,

Over the past months, DEMASK has been active on multiple fronts. From publishing a new policy brief aimed at fostering quieter seas to participating in key international workshops and conferences, the project continues to build momentum.

In this edition, we highlight efforts to refine acoustic metrics for better protection of marine life, reflect on the third Quieting URN workshop, report on the Dutch round table and on the Underwater Acoustics Conference in Greece. Step by step, DEMASK advances its mission to tackle underwater noise pollution through science, collaboration, and policy.

Project news



New DEMASK policy brief: paving the way for quieter seas

To address growing underwater noise in the North Sea, DEMASK has published a policy brief outlining challenges, knowledge gaps, and policy needs. The brief highlights major sources such as shipping, wind farm operations and recreational vessels, and proposes scenario-based approaches to reduce noise and support evidence-based decision-making.

[Read the full summary here](#)



Workshop on acoustic metrics for underwater noise: exploring sound metrics to protect marine life

On May 27, 2025, DEMASK and SATURN co-hosted a dedicated workshop in Brussels on acoustic metrics for underwater noise - a critical and evolving topic in marine environmental protection. Bringing together leading experts from across Europe, the event focused on how we measure and compare underwater sound to better understand its effects on marine species. The discussions, led by Christ Dejonghe (discussion leader and rapporteur), Niels Kinneging (DEMASK) and Gerry Sutton (SATURN), revealed just how complex underwater noise truly is and why using a combination of sound metrics is essential to capture its full impact, particularly in heavily trafficked waters like the North Sea.

[Read the full article here](#)



DEMASK on the Underwater Acoustics Conference and Exhibition in Halkidiki – Greece

From June 15th to the 20th, DEMASK has participated in the 2025 Underwater Acoustics Conference and Exhibition (UACE2025)! DEMASK's Timo Gaida, Christ de Jong and Bas Binnerts from TNO have presented their research on shipping lane underwater noise simulations. Among other researchers, they have presented their study in the 'Underwater Noise in the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive: Implementation, Monitoring, assessment and measures' session.

[Read the full article here](#)



Dutch round table: working together on underwater noise from ships

What can the Dutch maritime sector do to reduce underwater noise from shipping? That was the central question during a national round table in Utrecht on 23 June, organised by the DEMASK project and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.

For the first time within DEMASK, Dutch stakeholders from government, industry, science and NGOs came together to explore concrete solutions. Maarten Verdaasdonk, Project Lead Clean Shipping at Stichting De Noordzee, attended the event and shared his impressions.

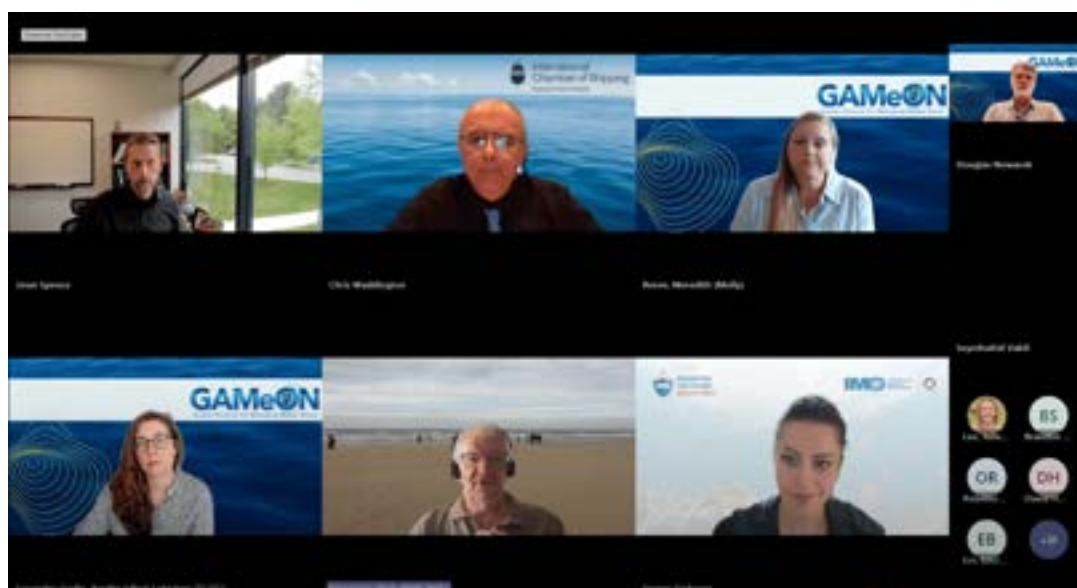
"The strength of this round table was in sharing knowledge, making new connections, and identifying practical actions," Maarten said. "We didn't spend time debating whether underwater noise is a problem because we know it is. We focused on what's already possible: quieter propellers, slower sailing speeds, avoiding sensitive areas. The time to act is now."

[Read the full article here](#)



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Third workshop of the Quieting URN series

On May 20–21, DEMASK partners gathered for the third Quieting URN workshop to address underwater radiated noise from vessels. The event focused on setting and achieving noise reduction targets through

data-driven strategies, collaboration, and policy alignment. Key themes included impact thresholds, incentive approaches, and the need for long-term monitoring, including the presentation of the DEMASK view on underwater noise in the context for European and North-East Atlantic policies by Niels Kinneging.

[Read the full article here](#)



DEMASK presents key insights at Aquatic Noise 2025

During the *Aquatic Noise 2025* conference in Prague, DEMASK shared new insights into managing underwater noise in marine ecosystems. Our team presented a scoring system to identify vulnerable species,

and new modelling showed how quiet ship design and slow steaming can reduce underwater noise by up to 16 dB. The presentations generated wide interest and strengthened international dialogue on sound management in the marine environment.

[Read the full article here](#)

DEMASK: The Project Video



The North Sea is alive with sound - not just from marine life, but increasingly from human activity. DEMASK's project film invites you to listen beneath the surface and discover how underwater noise affects our oceans.

Watch and share the video to help raise awareness for quieter, healthier seas.



DEMASK



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