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INITIAL SCOPING STUDY ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

The GEF/UNDP/IMO Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GloBallast) is commencing a consultancy to undertake an Initial Scoping Study on the Global Economic Impacts of Invasive Aquatic Species.

This aims to expose critical information gaps and thus identify research that needs to be addressed to better understand, prevent and control aquatic bio-invasions. It may therefore be used by member States to inform the development of future management responses and research and technical co-operation efforts.

It is intended that the review will quantify, as far as is possible from existing data only, the direct costs of aquatic species' invasions, at the global scale, on:

1. fisheries production
2. aquacultural production
3. coastal infrastructure (fouling)
4. shipping (fouling)
5. tourism and recreation
6. human health
7. other human resources

and the relative importance of different vectors (ships' hulls, ballast water, aquaculture and aquarium trades etc).

It is further intended that the review will quantify the costs associated with responding to aquatic species invasions, including those for prevention, control, eradication, research, monitoring, education, communication, regulation, law enforcement and technological development.

In order to assist the study, the GloBallast Programme Co-ordination Unit (PCU) is seeking an estimate of the expenditure in your country to date on responding to aquatic species invasions, broken down into expenditure in the following categories:

- prevention
- control
- eradication
- research
- monitoring
- education
- communication
- regulation
- law enforcement
- technological development

and where possible, differentiating between expenditure on responding to the ballast water vector versus other vectors.

It would be highly appreciated if your Government could forward this information to the contact below by 30 September 2004, as the study will be completed in late 2004.

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