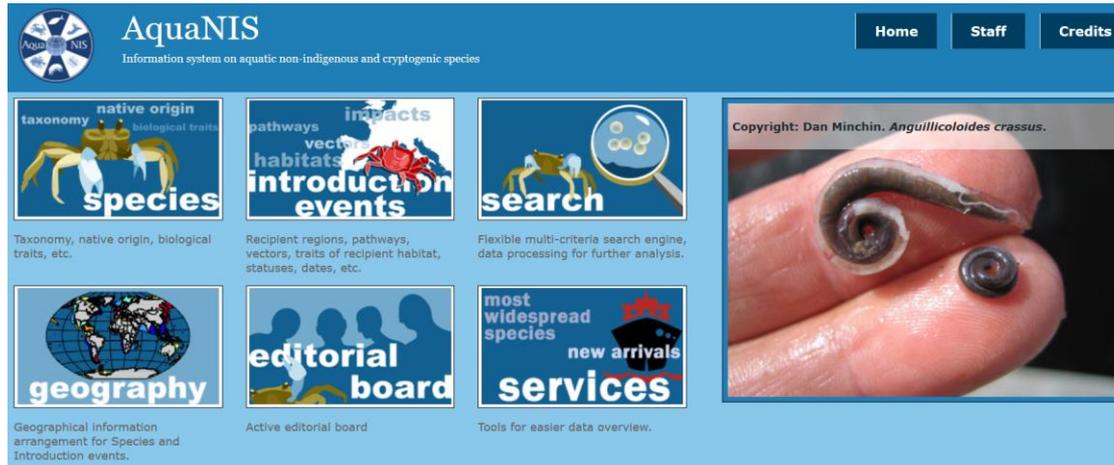


**3J HELCOM**  
**indicators and assessments**  
**‘The maintenance of the**  
**AquaNIS database’**

**Sergej Olenin**

**Marine Research Institute, Klaipėda University, Lithuania**

# Information system on aquatic non-indigenous and cryptogenic species



[www.corpi.ku.lt/databases/aquanis](http://www.corpi.ku.lt/databases/aquanis)

- Developed in a framework of the EU FP7 funded project VECTORS (2012-2015), international team of scientists (incl. Germany, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania).
- Based on the former Baltic Sea Alien Species database (1997-2013) and other projects and initiatives (e.g. FP6 DAISIE).
- First presented to the HELCOM Aliens 3 and BALSAM project joint meeting (Helsinki, October 2013)
- The long-term commitment to maintain AquaNIS database by the Klaipėda University.
- AquaNIS is a reporting platform for non-indigenous species in the ICES area since 2015 (ICES WGITMO annual report, 2014).

# The use of AquaNIS

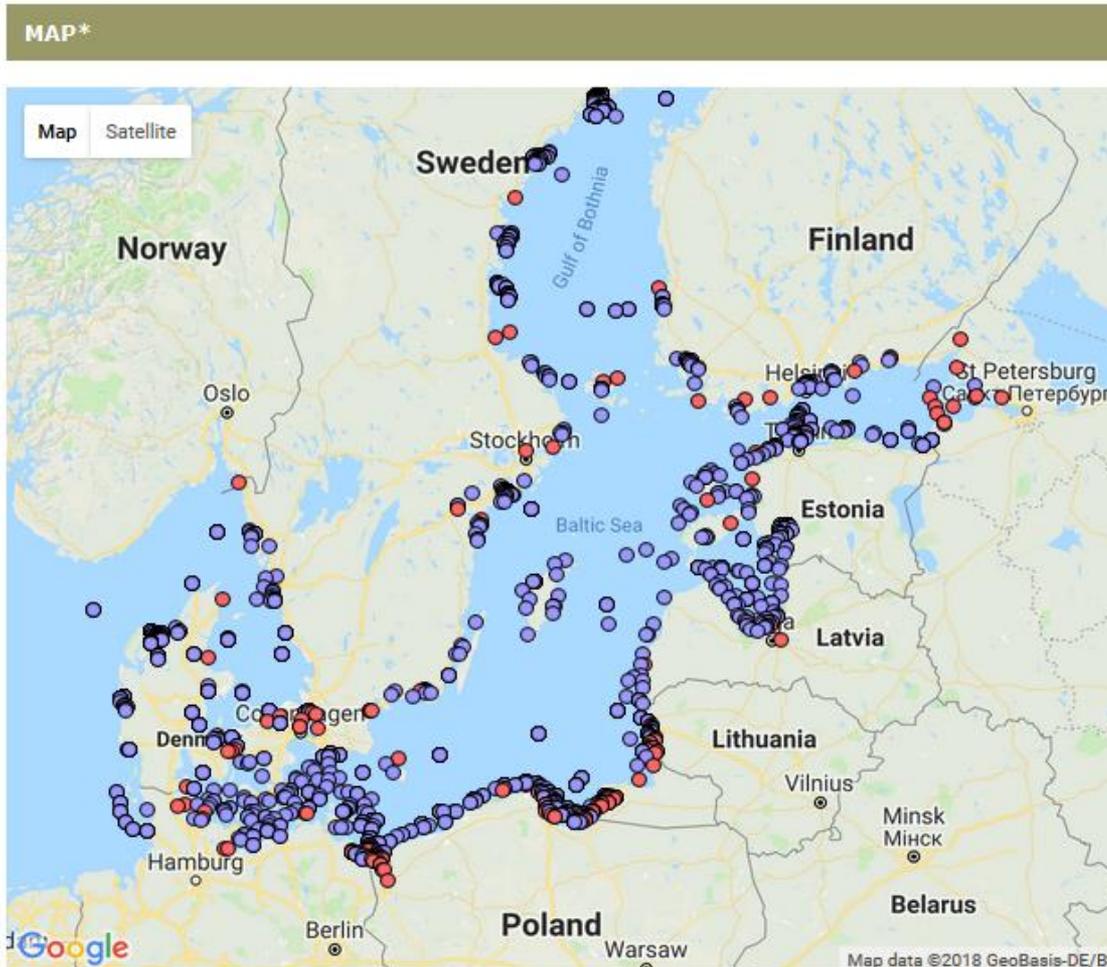
- **Assessment ‘Alien species in the Baltic Sea’** in HELCOM “Guide to Alien Species and Ballast Water Management in the Baltic Sea” (HELCOM, 2014).
- The information source for Core indicator ‘**Trends in arrival of new non-indigenous species’** (HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION, Tallinn, November, 2016 and HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST, Brussels, November, 2016).
- A central data storage facility for the HELCOM **NIS monitoring system** (HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION, November, 2016).
- Functional links between AquaNIS and the HELCOM Online Decision Support Tool under Joint Harmonised Procedure for **ballast water management exemptions** (HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 8-2017, Helsinki, November 2017).

## Multipurpose data provider on NIS:

- HELCOM holistic assessments,
- MSFD national and regional assessments,
- IMO BWMC (e.g. for selection of target species), storage of port baseline data, etc.

# New data retrieving functions

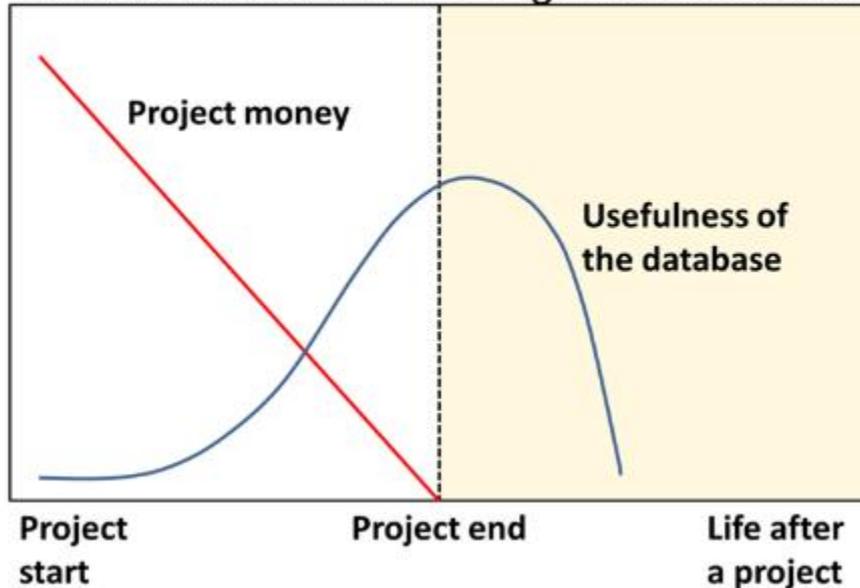
Geography data block



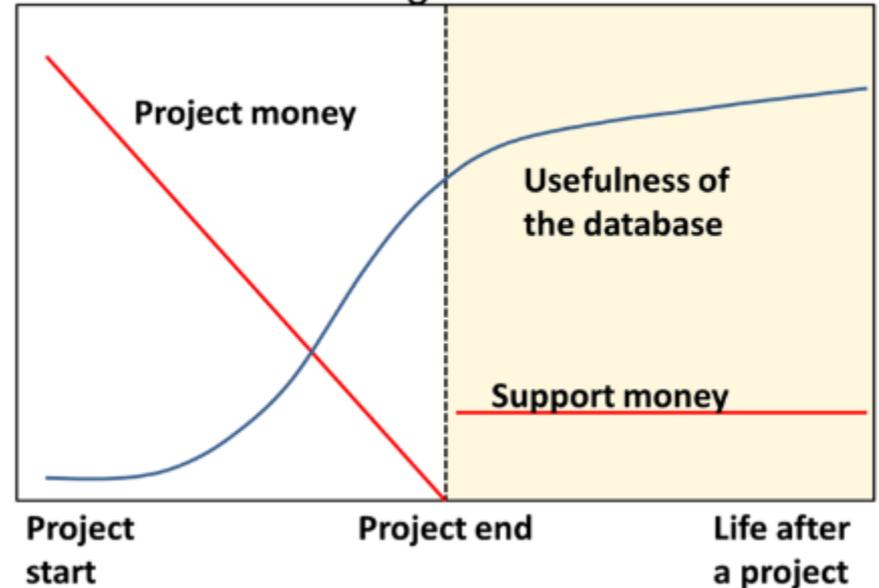
>3,500  
georeferenced point  
on NIS findings

# The need for permanent support and further development

*“Business as usual”* management scenario



*“Ideal”* management scenario



- Many NIS databases have been developed within the framework of short-term national or international projects.
- Without continuous maintenance, update and data quality control, the usefulness of databases diminishes over time and their users may be hampered by outdated and therefore misleading information.
- The benefits of “living” database grow as it accumulates and updates entries, incorporating them into the existing structure.
- Therefore, the funding of a database should be secured at a basic level for technical support and for data management after the end of the project.

# Request for support: cost breakdown

Item	Explanation	Specialist
Technical maintenance	Server maintenance and regular system upgrade, security insurance, regular data backup at the ICES data center.	IT technician
System development	Framework update, development of new functional modules, user administration and support, custom report generation, link with external data sources and information services /decision support systems.	IT developer
Information management	Data mining and acquisition on NIS environmental tolerance limits, biological traits, association with shipping vectors and other information, which is not provided by national focal points.	Ecologist
<b>TOTAL</b>		annual cost: <b>€ 22,000</b>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**