Core
The introduction of alien species undermines the conservation target of the trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation, aimed at preserving the Wadden Sea ecosystem in as natural a state as possible. Successful invasions by alien species can affect native plants and animals, for example by displacement, predation, hybridisation, and introduction of pathogens. Such bio-invasions can also have negative impacts on the economy, such as higher maintenance costs for ships and harbours. Current control measures are primarily focused on preventing such introductions.

Approach
Early detection is paramount to countering invasive introductions; hence, several approaches towards an ‘early warning’ programme are being explored. Hereby, recent developments in the monitoring of (invasive) alien species, both nationally and in the framework of the trilateral cooperation, are being taken into consideration. This includes an analysis of the effectiveness of inventories of species at presumed hotspots of (new) invasions, the value of molecular techniques, and the involvement of non-scientists in the signaling of new arrivals.

EARLY DETECTION OF NEW ALIEN SPECIES INCREASES LIKELIHOOD OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES

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