



KIMOCC - supporting information:

Importing exotic marine Organisms to Germany (Kiel)

[- Only for non-commercial (fundamental research) use of organisms! If you plan to collaborate with companies, commercial aspects have to be considered, too, and things get more complicated – especially with respect to benefit sharing with various parties in the sampling state/country/region/city. Please read the below mentioned DFG document for further information on this topic. -]

Background

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was adopted by the United Nations in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It became effective in Germany in 1993. Apart from the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity, the fair sharing of results and benefits derived from its use is a main goal of the CBD. The “Nagoya protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity” was adopted in 2010 in Nagoya (Japan) to implement a legal framework for the “fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources”. It entered into force in October 2014.

See also: http://www.bfn.de/index_abs.html

The CBD has to be followed when applying for funding for a project that includes the use of biological material at the DFG (“Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft”). Furthermore, more and more publishers ask for the relevant permissions (see below) before allowing a manuscript to be published in one of their scientific journals.

If you are interested in more detailed information on the relevant DFG rules please read this document: **“Supplementary Instructions for Funding Proposals Concerning Research Projects within the Scope of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)”** (http://www.dfg.de/formulare/1_021e/index.jsp)



Important steps to follow when organizing an import of exotic organism to GEOMAR/Germany:

- I) Start planning **early**: Some of the below mentioned steps will/may take several weeks or even months!
- II) Find out which permission you need. It is generally *allowed* to culture marine organisms that are:
 1. not dangerous to human health,
 2. non- endangered/protected,
 3. not protected by German animal welfare law (such as most vertebrate life stages, as well as decapod crustaceans and cephalopod molluscs) and
 4. that were collected in Germany and not in protected marine areas (PMAs).If your desired organism does not fall into this group (all four points valid), it is likely that you need some kind of permissions, see below.
- III) Obtain confirmation from the BfN (“Bundesamt für Naturschutz” = The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation) or from the LLUR (“Landesamt für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und ländliche Räume, Schleswig-Holstein” = State Agency for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas Schleswig-Holstein) that the desired species is no endangered/protected species.

Contacts

BfN: citesma@bfm.de (Mrs. Regina Theis)

LLUR: Arne.Drews@llur.landsh.de, Ruediger.Albrecht@llur.landsh.de

- IV) Write a method description of the activities (= culture, experiments) that you plan to conduct with the desired organisms, including culture duration and what will happen to the organisms at the end of your project.
- V) If you want to culture vertebrates or cephalopods or decapod crustaceans contact the responsible person for animal welfare of Kiel University (“Tierschutzbeauftragter”, Prof. Dr. G. Schultheiß, <http://www.tierschutz.uni-kiel.de/de>) and request an authorization to carry out animal experiments.
- VI) If possible, organize the transport of your organisms by an international courier company (e.g. World Courier, Fed Ex, DHL).
- VII) Get GPS coordinates of the sampling site(s). If you are not sampling yourself ask the sampling person / your cooperation partner in the donor country to give you the coordinates.



VIII) Necessary permissions:

1) NAGOYA: Permission to collect (in 'donor state') and export organisms

- Contact the Geomar Nagoya department (nagoya@geomar.de) respectively Jan Dierking (jdierking@geomar.de) and inform him about your plans and ask for advice.
- Contact the national contact point (= "national focal point") of the donor state and ask for rules to sample organisms in the framework of scientific research, i.e. which permissions you have to get from whom (find national competent contact/focal points: at <https://absch.cbd.int>). First, always try contacting the contact point directly. If this is not successful, ask the BfN (as the official German counterpart) to help you.
- Find collaboration partner(s) in the donor state that help(s) you finding a suitable site and identifying relevant rules to follow, persons to contact and permissions to get. Possibly, your collaborator(s) can arrange the collection of animals and take(s) over part of the responsibility.

Always find consensus (within the rules of good scientific practice) and set-up a formal agreement on benefit sharing with collaborators that is signed by all partners involved - ideally prior to handing-in your proposal.

The national focal points (<https://absch.cbd.int>), KIMOCC (kimocc@geomar.de) or the DFG (postmaster@dfg.de, http://www.dfg.de/en/service/contact_imprint/visitors_information/index.html#micro784115) may help to find a collaboration partner.

2) Permission to import organisms to EU/Germany

- Wildlife conservation: The permission to import an exotic organism to Germany with respect to wildlife/species conservation issues can be obtained from the BfN [see above (III)]: citesma@bfm.de.
- Epidemic control: Whether you need official health statements generally depends on the donor states:

EU donor state:

(Usually) no official organism health statement is necessary.



Non-EU donor state:

- A) Statement of a veterinarian (or agricultural expert) in the donor state that the organism was healthy (not having an infectious disease) before being exported: “phytosanitary certificate” or “veterinary certificate”.
- B) Statement of a veterinarian (or agricultural expert) in Germany (arrival city airport) that the organism is healthy after transport.

However, not all organisms imported from outside the EU need a veterinary statement and possibly the epidemic status of a certain species/region inside EU will change and make a statement necessary. Please contact the official veterinarian of the City of Kiel (“Amtstierarzt”, Dr. Wennemuth, 0431-9012162, veterinaerabteilung@kiel.de) for clarification.

Contacts for health statements:

Frankfurt Airport:

Landesbetrieb Hessisches Landeslabor (LHL)
- Tierärztliche Grenzkontrollstelle Hessen -
Perishable Center, Geb. 454
60549 Frankfurt a. M.
Tel.: +49 (0)69 69502-400
Fax: +49 (0)69 69502-510

Hamburg Airport:

Behörde für Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz
- Veterinär- und Einfuhramt
(Grenzveterinär)
Reiherdamm 18
20457 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 (0)40 42837 4148
Fax: +49 (0)40 427 9 48440
GKS-Hafen@bgv.hamburg.de

Kiel Harbor:

Stadt Kiel, Veterinärangelegenheiten
“Amtstierarzt”, Dr. Wennemuth,
Sophienblatt 100, V. Etage
24114 Kiel
Tel.: +49 (0)431-9012162
Fax: +49 (0)431-90162088
veterinaerabteilung@kiel.de



- TRACES (TRAdE Control and Expert System) Permission to import animals / animal material / animal by-products:

“The Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), is a web-based veterinarian certification tool used by the European Union for controlling the import and export of live animals and animal products within and without its borders. Its network falls under the responsibility of the European Commission.” (Wikipedia)

With respect to TRACES regulations there are two different cases that can apply to you:

a) If you want to import (whole) living animals, this requires permission from the local official veterinary of the City of Kiel. To get this permission, you have to send an informal email to (“Amtstierarzt”, veterinaerabteilung@kiel.de) where you describe what and how many animals we want to import and ask for permission. You can also call them (0431-9012096) if you have further questions - especially when importing animals that fall under German animal welfare regulations (decapod crustaceans, cephalopods, vertebrates).

b) If you want to import tissue samples (no matter if still living or dead cells) of animals, these are officially called 'animal by-products'. In this case you also have to ask for permission to import, however, at the veterinary department of the Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization (MELUND). Contact person is Mrs. Kühne: 0431- 988-7090, uta.kuehne@melund.landsh.de. An informal email should also be enough (as above).

- CUSTOMS: Contact the Geomar customs department (zoll@geomar.de; Mr. Kroll: tel. 600-1476, Mr. Perplies: tel. 600-1698) and inform them about your plans and ask for advice. Write a customs declaration: “Proforma Invoice” (help at CAU: Mr. Thamm (athamm@uv.uni-kiel.de, Tel. 880-3597). State that the samples you plan to import do not have any commercial value (if *no cooperation with company* in your project – otherwise see comment above)!

Announce (best per fax or email) the arrival of your organisms (date and estimated time of arrival, the scientific/Latin name of the species, number of specimen) at the respective customs office (see below) at least 18 hours before touchdown/disembarking in Germany!

The responsible public agencies with respect to customs and organism health/epidemic threats depend on the city of first touchdown/disembarking (of the plane/ship transporting



the exotic organisms) in EU/Germany (e.g. Frankfurt: Hessen, Hamburg: Hamburg, Kiel: Schleswig-Holstein), see below.

Contacts customs:

- Frankfurt Airport customs:
 - a. Imports via passenger traffic contact:
+ 49 69-690-49083 (Fax) or email: GS-C.HZA-FFM@zoll.bund.de

If importing via passenger traffic you have to leave the arrival area at the airport at the so called „red exit“ (= "Roter Ausgang") for notifiable/declarable goods (= "anmeldepflichtige Waren) and declare your organisms showing all original documents/permissions!

- Hamburg Airport customs:
 - b. Imports via freight traffic contact:
+ 49 69-690-56261 (Fax) or + 49 69-690-53101 (phone)

Declaration of organisms at freight customs can be done – showing all original documents/permissions - by you or your courier company.

- Hamburg Airport customs:
 - Zollamt Hamburg-Hamburg
Flughafenstr. 1-3
22335 Hamburg
Phone: 040 50 75 2618
Fax: 040/5075 -2836
poststelle.za-hamburg-flughafen@zoll.bund.de

- Kiel Harbor customs:
 - Zollamt Wik
Uferstr. 6
24106 Kiel
Phone 0431/3209880
Fax 0431/3209888
poststelle.za-wik@zoll.bund.de

[Here you can find any German custom office: <http://www.zolltarifnummern.de/zollamt.php>]



3) Permission to culture exotic organisms at GEOMAR

It is generally allowed to culture *non-dangerous, non-endangered/protected non-animal-welfare-relevant marine organisms* for non-commercial fundamental research purposes. However, this is valid only for non-exotic organisms from German waters. To obtain permission to culture *exotic* organisms contact:

- The Schleswig-Holstein Chamber of Agriculture (“Landwirtschaftskammer Schleswig-Holstein”, FB Pflanzenschutz, Mr. Matthey: 04331-9453390, jmatthey@lksh.de) *if you plan to culture plants* or
- The official veterinary of the City of Kiel (“Amtstierarzt”, Dr. Wennemuth, 0431-9012162, veterinaerabteilung@kiel.de) *if you plan to culture animals*.

!!! Whether you really need their permission may depend on the species as well as on the donor country/region and this may change due to changes in epidemic situation or changes in regulations. Therefore: *Always* contact the Chamber of Agriculture or the official veterinary when planning a project and ask them: They do know about the recent situation!!!