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**Historical baselines in marine bioinvasions and implications for invasive species management and policy**

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**Abstract**

Introduction of marine non-indigenous species (NIS) is centuries, perhaps even millennia old, but only relatively recently has been acknowledged as a major driver of change. Early marine introductions were overlooked because they occurred centuries before the onset of biogeographical studies, yet even throughout much of the 20th century, as records of shipping, interoceanic canals and mariculture-introduced species kept appearing in the scientific literature, their number and impact were considered largely inconsequential. Concerns were raised only in the 1980s following conspicuous outbreaks with dire environmental, economic, and public health impacts. While some intentional and accidental introductions have significant economic benefits in terms of increased employment and revenues, many more have placed community and food web integrity at risk, and lead to human health hazards and economic loss. The development and implementation of management policies have been a mostly reactive process, evolving from local and voluntary to widespread and mandatory. A major gap between regulatory and policy needs, and the capability of scientists to address these needs, impedes management of unintentional introductions. Yet, lessons learnt should be used in addressing and controlling major introduction vectors to reduce the risk for further harming marine ecosystems. We summarise key historical baselines in marine bioinvasions, including invasion vectors’ histories, dynamics of drivers and perceptions, methodologies in detection, identification and surveillance, and management actions and policies.

**Keywords:** human activities, colonisation histories, surveillance/analysis methodologies, impacts, uncertainties, management and policy

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