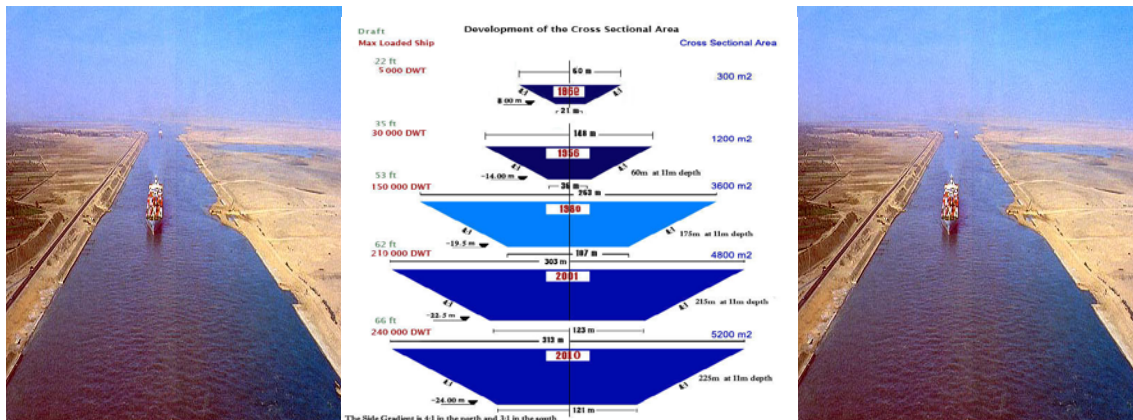


THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE SUEZ CANAL

TOWNHALL MEETING

Thursday, 26 February, 14:15 to 15:00 at Andalusia 1 on Floor 1 of the Congress Centre



On August 2014, Egypt made public the plans to enlarge the Suez Canal, doubling its capacity by creating a new waterway parallel to the current channel. The enlargement of the existing Suez Canal will result in increasing rates and numbers of invasions from the Red Sea with a diverse range of deleterious effects on the Mediterranean marine biodiversity, as well as the ecosystem structure and functioning, with implications to the provision of services to humans.

We recognize that global trade and shipping are vital to society, however, the existing international agreements also recognize the urgent need for sustainable practices that minimize unwanted impacts and long term consequences. Given the sensitivity and specificity of the Mediterranean Sea, a project of this size and potentially negative environmental consequences, requires a transparent and scientifically sound Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to facilitate both the identification of risks and the implementation of mitigating strategies and infrastructure.

A “Letter to Editor” of the journal *Biological Invasions* expressed concern over the Egyptian plan of doubling the Suez Canal. The letter is available as Open Access resource at: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10530-014-0778-y>

Join us to learn what has been done and to discuss the way forward

Angelos Hannides and Bella Galil

For more information: hannides@hawaii.edu , bella@ocean.org.il