



Marine Institute
Foras na Mara

To: Tara Higgins, EPA
From: Margot Cronin, Francis O'Beirn and Terry McMahon, MI
RE: Kerry County Council, Dumping at Sea application, 2015
Date: 05/08/2015

Environmental Protection
Agency

17 AUG 2015

Environmental Licensing

1. Kerry County Council (Fenit Harbour) S0007-02, received on 20/03/2015

The only elements established to be in concentrations exceeding their lower action levels are Arsenic and Nickel, both of which can be considered as low category 2. Similar results were found in 2006 and are believed to reflect the natural geology in the area. The OCP LoDs are higher than requested but no OCPs have been detected in any of the samples, and I really would not expect to see elevated results in this area.

There was an error in the original results for PAHs, which indicated that all samples were highly contaminated. This appears to be the version submitted by the applicant. Upon investigation, the lab identified an error in calculations and recalculated the results. The corrected values were all below the lower action level.

These sediments are considered essentially clean and the quality of the material would not preclude Dumping at Sea, in the absence of a feasible alternative.

Fenit Dumpsite:

- Grab size too small (0.025m²) – 0.1m² is traditional size. Therefore, the determination of community type is unlikely to be definitive.
- The community type found at the dump site, based upon the faunal returns, appear to consist of clean sandy habitats that would be considered relatively low in organic matter. The dredged material is of a finer nature than that found at the dump site with higher organic matter values. However, the level of sediment accumulation on the seabed is such that it is unlikely to adversely impact the habitat over the longer term.¹
- The water quality management programme does not identify any thresholds or actions to be taken in the event of threshold being exceeded.

On the basis of the available information submitted by the applicant the MI has no objections to a permit being granted.

¹ Reference: 1 Schaffner, L. 2010. Patterns and Rates of Recovery of Macrobenthic Communities in a Polyhaline Temperate Estuary Following Sediment Disturbance: Effects of Disturbance Severity and Potential Importance of Non-local Processes. Estuaries and Coasts DOI 10.1007/s12237-010-9301-61