

Grainne Power

Subject: FW: for discussion...Fenit

From: Francis X O Beirn [mailto:Francis.XOBeirn@Marine.ie]
Sent: 09 September 2015 18:33
To: Tara Higgins
Cc: margot.cronin@marine.ie
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Hi Tara,

A monitoring program for turbidity should focus upon known sensitivities in the vicinity of the dredging operation. To the best of my knowledge, this is the native oyster fishery area to the east of Fenit harbour. If a monitoring program is implemented it should have a clear goal communicated.

Given that there does not appear to be any baseline turbidity data generated for the site, it would be important that any monitoring point in the vicinity of the operations has a corresponding control location well outside any influence of the dredging. Therefore only two sampling locations would be necessary; a control and one approx 150m from the edge of the oyster beds.

Furthermore, the establishment of any trigger levels should also have a response associated with any exceedence that would likely ensure the protection of the sensitivity. As with other areas, if trigger levels were to be employed then we recommend that approximately 5 times greater than the control levels over a sustained period of 6 hours might be suitable. This is based on the following:

- a. There is insufficient baseline data to reflect the natural variability of the estuary in terms of turbidity and suspended solids.
- b. The reason for the sustained period of 6 hours is to include both the higher and lower energy states of the tide (max and min current).

If continuous monitoring is to be employed, the Marine Institute recommends that these devices are employed as soon as possible to gather baseline data from the instruments as it cannot be assumed that the data recorded by the hand held instruments will be entirely comparable to those recorded by the moored buoys. Furthermore, the collection of continuous data, while it may not result in real-time data, will be available to inform any future deliberations and or discussions.

All the best,
Francis O'Beirn
Margot Cronin

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