



Marine Institute
Foras na Mara

**Environmental Protection
Agency**

15 JUL 2016

To: Suzanne Wilde, EPA
From: Margot Cronin, MI
RE: Aughinish Dumping at Sea application, 2016
EPA Ref: S0026-01
Date: 15/07/2016

Dear Suzanne,

Background: This application is to plough dredge an annual maximum of 8000 m³ of sediment from three areas (A- outer berth, B – inner cells at east shore and C -inner berth) per year for eight years (estimated maximum of 128,000 tonnes total).

Sediment sampling and analyses were carried out according to recommendations made by MI in 2015. One sample was subject to satisfactory retest.

Assessment: Sediment chemistry was assessed on the basis of results provided to EPA . Yields for CRM are acceptable. All samples can be classed as predominantly sand & silt with 100% of material below 2mm grainsize, and approximately 50% below 63um.

The test results indicate one elevated zinc concentration (low class 3) from Area B. The quantity of material to be dredged from Area B is estimated to be 800m³ maximum. The remaining sample analyses results indicate that the remaining material is essentially clean and comparable to material sampled and analysed from Foynes, and which is permitted for conventional dumping at sea.

Recommendations: On the basis of the test results, it appears that there is possible zinc contamination in Area B; however given the relatively minor quantities involved here (max 800m³), and the fact that there is no other indication of contamination here, I would not object to the dumping at sea of this material.

The sampling and analyses plan provided is considered adequate for classification of up to 25000m³ of material to be dredged, according to OSPAR guidelines. At the time it was generated it was not known that the quantities proposed were to be a (maximum) annual amount for eight years. The sample numbers proposed in the original plan would not usually be considered sufficient for the new increased quantities involved and, consequently, it is recommended that further sampling and analyses should be carried out at intervals during the eight year operations.

Best regards,

M Cronin

Margot Cronin