

Eve O'Sullivan

From: Licensing Staff
Subject: Ballycotton Harbour
Attachments: Ballycotton chemistry.pdf

From: Margot Cronin <margot.cronin@marine.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 13 April 2022 18:04
To: Alison McCarthy [REDACTED]
Subject: Ballycotton Harbour

Hi Alison,

Attached are my recommendations on the dumping at sea application for Ballycotton Harbour.

If you need clarification on anything, give me a shout.

All the best, Margot

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To: Alison McCarthy, EPA

From: Margot Cronin, MI

RE: Cork Co Co Ballycotton Dumping at Sea permit application

Date: 12/04/2022

Background

This application concerns the removal of approximately 25,000 m³ of sediment. The original sampling and analysis plan (SAP) recommended five samples indicated areas of contamination within the harbour. A follow SAP with ten additional samples aimed to delineate the areas most contaminated.

Discussion

The sediment quality is mixed, with areas considered contaminated. While most samples from the central area of the harbour had concentrations of metals, PAH, TBT, PCB below lower guidance levels, there were several areas showing results above both lower and upper guidance levels for copper, lead and TBT. There were also some PAH results above the lower guidance level¹.

Table 1. Details of samples exceeding national guidance levels.

<u>Determinand</u>	<u>Sample no/area</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Copper	R6, S2	Class 3
	S3, S4, R1, R3	Class 2
Lead	S4	Class 3
	S1, S2, R1,	Class 2 (S1 v high Class 2)
TBT	S2, R6	Class 3
	S3, S4, R9	Class 2
PAH	S3, R1	Class 2

As the contamination appears to be reasonably localised in the west corner and along the east side of the proposed dredging area, it is possible to delineate the contaminated areas. It is recommended that these areas be excluded from dumping at sea. These areas are illustrated in Figure 1, below.

Conclusion

The chemistry of the samples outside of the exclusion areas would not preclude conventional dumping at sea, in the absence of a feasible alternative.

Sediment from the area within the exclusion areas should be treated separately and subjected to alternative management options.

¹ Ireland does not have an upper guidance level for PAH.



Figure 1. Recommended areas to be excluded from Dumping at Sea permit, indicated by red line —