

**Eve O'Sullivan**

---

**Subject:** Port of Cork S0013-02  
**Attachments:** Port of Cork\_chemistry.pdf

---

**From:** Margot Cronin <[margot.cronin@marine.ie](mailto:margot.cronin@marine.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 27 April 2022 20:21  
**To:** Alison McCarthy <[A.McCarthy@epa.ie](mailto:A.McCarthy@epa.ie)>  
**Subject:** Port of Cork S0013-02

Hi Alison,

Attached are my recommendations on the dumping at sea application for Port of Cork.

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

All the best, Margot

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Margot Cronin | Marine Institute  
Rinville, Oranmore, Galway, Ireland*

*Tel: +353 91 387200 | +353 91 387251 | +353 83 344 3280*  
[www.marine.ie](http://www.marine.ie)

*For inspection purposes only.  
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*

**To: Alison McCarthy, EPA**

**From: Margot Cronin, MI**

**RE: Port of Cork, Dumping at Sea permit application**

**Date: 27/04/2022**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Background

This application concerns the dredging and dumping of between 500,725 and 732,174 m<sup>3</sup> sediment, annually for eight years<sup>1</sup>. The original sampling and analysis plan (SAP) recommended thirteen samples within the harbour. A follow SAP added twelve samples for additional areas. One area could not be sampled due to coarse seabed in the area.

### Discussion

The sediment quality is generally good, with the vast majority of samples classed as clean and just occasional exceedances of the lower guidance levels for zinc, copper, mercury, nickel and PAH<sup>2</sup>. All other results are below lower guidance levels. areas considered contaminated.

Area	Determinand	Comment
City Quays	Zinc	Low to very low Class 2
Ringaskiddy (1/5 samples)	Zinc	Very low Class 2
Currabinny	Zinc Copper	Very low Class 2 Very low Class 2
Cobh Small Boat Harbour	Mercury	Low Class 2
Cobh Terminal	PAH	Low Class 2
Crosshaven	Zinc Nickel	Low Class 2 Low Class 2

**Table 1.** Details of areas exceeding national guidance levels.

### Conclusion

The sediment quality is considered fairly good. The chemistry of the samples is much in line with results from previous sampling campaigns and would not preclude dumping at sea, in the absence of a feasible alternative.

<sup>1</sup> Sediment testing is repeated every three years.

<sup>2</sup> Ireland does not have an upper guidance level for PAH.