Eve O'Sullivan

Subject: Rosslare Europort - Dumping at Sea material analysis
Attachments: 20230203_Rosslare_chemistry.docx

From: Margot Cronin <margot.cronin@marine.ie>
Sent: Friday 3 February 2023 11:09
To: Alison McCarthy <A.McCarthy@epa.ie>
Subject: RE: Rosslare Europort - Dumping at Sea material analysis

Hello Alison,

Attached are my comments on Rosslare Harbour sediment chemistry.

Let me know if you need clarification on anything.

All the best, Margot

To: Alison McCarthy, EPA
From: Margot Cronin, MI
RE: Rosslare Europort, Dumping at Sea permit application
Date: 28/04/2022
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Background

This application concerns the dredging and dumping of a maximum yearly amount of 140,000 m^3 sediment, biannually over five years, to a maximum of 290,000m^3 in the of the five year period[1]. The original sampling and analysis plan (SAP) specified fourteen samples within the harbour and small boat harbour area.

Discussion

The sediment from the small boat harbour and inner basin areas are intended for dumping at sea at designated site in 23-33 m depth.; the sediment from the outer basin and approaches is intended for beach nourishment at Rosslare Beach.

The sediment quality is generally good, with most samples classed as clean and just two exceedances of the lower guidance levels; one for cadmium, one for and zinc. All other results are below lower guidance levels.

Area	**Determinand**	**Comment**
Small boat harbour	Cadmium	Very low Class 2
Rosslare Pier, Berth No.4	Zinc	Class 2

Table 1. Details of areas exceeding national guidance levels.

Samples 1 – 5 are from the small boat harbour and have been described as fine sediment, which is supported by the particle size analysis (PSA). Samples 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are in the harbour silt area, and have likewise been described as fine, again supported by PSA. Samples 7, 9,12,14 are described in the application as sandy, however this is not borne out by the PSA of two of the samples taken closest to Berth No.4, which show some very high proportions of fine material.

Conclusion

The sediment quality is considered fairly good. The concentrations seen are lower than those observed in the last campaign, although are in line with campaigns previous to that. The sediment chemistry would not preclude dumping at sea, in the absence of a feasible alternative.

Regarding the material intended for beach nourishment, the sediment from Berth No.4 should be rechecked for particle size, and if necessary, excluded from the beach placement.

[1] Sediment testing is repeated every three years.