Eve O'Sullivan

Subject: Haulbowline DAS application - sediment chemistry results
Attachments: Comments to EPA - Haulbowline2023.docx

From: margot.cronin@marine.ie <margot.cronin@marine.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 11:56 AM
To: Alison McCarthy <A.McCarthy@epa.ie>
Subject: RE: Haulbowline DAS application - sediment chemistry results

Hi Alison,

Hapy new year.

Attached are my comments on sediment chemistry at Haulbowline . Apologies for the delay. It took some time to establish the correct coordinates.

All the best, Margot

To: Alison McCarthy, EPA
From: Margot Cronin, MI
RE: Haulbowline Dumping at Sea application, 2023
Date: 09/01/2024

DaS application from Department of Defence, Haulbowline.
Ref S0005-03

This application is for maintenance dredging of ~20,000 tonnes of predominantly fine sediment from the entrance channel and basin at Haulbowline, and for disposal of this material at the existing dumpsite off Power Head. Sediment sampling and analyses were carried out according to recommended 2021 Sampling and Analysis Plan.

Sediment chemistry was assessed on the basis of results provided to EPA as part of this application, and in reference to previous sampling campaigns. Guidance levels from the 2006 Guidelines for Assessment of Dredged Material, and the 2018 revised guidance levels. Note, this application refers solely to areas outlined in Figure 1 of Byrne Looby Dumping at Sea Permit Report. Sediment from the graving dock, and from an area at the pontoon have been excluded from this application as a result of contamination found in some samples.

Yields for CRM are mostly acceptable. CRM yield for mercury is considered low but results are broadly similar to previous analysis where CRM yields were perfectly acceptable.

All samples can be classed as predominantly silt/mud, with <63um fraction greater than 90% for all samples.

Sediment chemistry results indicate some class 2 heavy metal contamination, namely for zinc, copper and lead. All bar one of the class 2 results are in the lower quartile of the relevant action level and therefore considered to be marginally contaminated. The remaining class 2 just exceeds the lower quartile for copper and zinc.

Results of these analyses for the area to be dredged indicate overall similar or slightly lower contaminant levels to those of previous years (2016, 2008 and 2003).

Recommendations:

Based on the revised area to be dredged, conventional dumping at sea would not be out of line with previous permits. In the absence of a feasible alternative use, I would not object to conventional dumping at sea at the designated dumpsite off Power Head.