

Jose Alonso

To: Margot Cronin
Subject: RE: request for comments - DAS application - Port of Waterford (S0012-05)

From: Margot Cronin <margot.cronin@marine.ie>
Sent: Friday 1 August 2025 16:38
To: Jose Alonso <J.Alonso@epa.ie>
Subject: RE: request for comments - DAS application - Port of Waterford (S0012-05)

Hi Jose,

Attached are my comments on sediment chemistry for PoW S0012-05. If you need me to clarify anything, just give me a shout.

Have a good weekend.

All the best, Margot

To: Jose Alonso, EPA
From: Margot Cronin, MI
RE: Port of Waterford, Dumping at Sea application, 2025
Date: 30/07/2025

Ref S0012-05

This application is for a permit for the maintenance dredging of sediment from the channel in Port of Waterford and approaches for an eight year period from January 2026 until December 2033.

Maximum anticipated quantities for disposal at Hook Head designated site is 1.1 million wet tonnes annually, including 25% contingency.

The application also includes a request for plough dredging of 159,165 wet tonnes, annually.

Sediment sampling and analyses were carried out in line with the December 2022 Sampling and Analysis Plan from the Marine Institute.

Results:

Sediment granulometry indicates that the material ranges from fine gravel to very coarse silt.

The sediment chemistry results indicate very marginal exceedances of the lower action level for arsenic in four samples. These concentrations are broadly in line with analyses results from previous campaigns and are likely to reflect the natural geology of the area. The material would be therefore considered relatively uncontaminated and similar to material previously disposed of at the Hook Head site.

On the issue of absence of certain parameters from some samples:

- Sample 4 – No PSD. Insufficient sample for both physical and chemical analysis. The very low moisture content, lower-than-average chemical results and narrow channel location would suggest the material is coarse sediment. Not considered an issue.
- Sample 6 – No density. Not considered an issue.
- Sample 10 – No analysis carried out. This was a new location to be sampled. It appears it is not a suitable area as it appears to be an area of mussels, and there is insufficient sediment for analysis. There is sufficient information to make a decision even excluding this sample. Not considered an issue.
- Sample 16 – No PSD. Insufficient sample for both physical and chemical analysis. Sample 16 was taken in close proximity to samples 17 and 18 and has similar chemistry. Not considered an issue.

Yields for CRM are considered acceptable/adequate.

Recommendations:

Based on the sediment chemistry analysis results, I would not object to plough dredging within the specified areas, or to conventional TSHB dumping at sea at the designated dumpsite off Hook Head, in the absence of any feasible alternative use.