Jose Alonso

To: Margot Cronin
Subject: RE: Request for comments: DAS application Port of Cork Company S0039-01

From: Margot Cronin <margot.cronin@marine.ie>
Sent: Friday 8 August 2025 18:09
To: Jose Alonso <J.Alonso@epa.ie>
Subject: RE: Request for comments: DAS application Port of Cork Company S0039-01

Hi Jose,

Attached are my comments on sediment chemistry for Ringaskiddy West DaS application.
Let me know if you need clarification on anything.

All the best, Margot

To: Jose Alonso, EPA
From: Margot Cronin, MI
RE: Port of Cork, Dumping at Sea permit application 2025 – Ringaskiddy West
Date: 05/08/2025

Ref S0039-01

Background: This application is for a permit for the capital dredging of sediment from the west side of Ringaskiddy Port. The application is for 650,000 tonnes to be dredged and dumped over an eight-year period from January 2026 to Dec 2033

Sediment sampling and analyses were carried out in line with the following plans from the Marine Institute:

- November 2023 Sampling and Analysis Plan. (Lab report nos. MAR02152 and MAR02152_V2)
- Verbal agreement for specific repeat analysis (based on unusual results) (Lab report no. MAR02205)
- July 2024 Follow-up plan to delineate HBC and include new locations. (Lab report no. MAR02443)

These sampling plans included vibracore samples taken at depths to -8 m and surface grab samples.

Results: Sediment particle size analysis indicates that the material is predominantly silt, with approximately 80% of sediment < 63 um.

Chemical analysis results in MAR02152 indicated some curious metals results in comparison to previous analyses in the vicinity (2003, 2007, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2021). When queried by MI, an investigation was carried out by the testing laboratory. This investigation highlighted a dilution error and so the metals analyses were repeated (MAR02152_V2).

The amended chemistry results indicated one exceedance of the lower guidance level for zinc, two exceedances of the lower action level for hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and one exceedance of the higher guidance level for HCB. HCB has rarely been detected above the lower guidance level in Irish port sediment. The samples with elevated HCB were located in the north west corner of the Ringaskiddy West area. Follow-up investigative and repeat sampling consisted of three surface and six deep in the same area. The analyses found all these samples to be below the lower guidance level.

The results indicate that the material is broadly similar to previous analyses, and is considered reasonably clean for port sediment.

The sediment chemistry results indicate clean material with no exceedances of lower action levels in any parameter.

Conclusion: On review of current and past chemical analyses for the area, the results indicate that the material is broadly similar to previous analyses and is considered reasonably quality for port sediment.

The sediment is of similar quality to sediment previously disposed of at the PoC dumpsite. The sediment chemistry alone would not preclude conventional disposal at sea at the designated dumpsite off Power Head, in the absence of any feasible alternative use.