

Maintenance Dredging at Stonehaven Harbour

Method Statement

Introduction

This method statement covers the planned maintenance dredging operations at Stonehaven Harbour, where the dredged spoil is to be disposed of at sea, in accordance with the applicable legislation and the conditions of the dredge licence.

Disposal of dredge spoil at sea

Dredge vessel characteristics

- Aberdeenshire Council will procure an external dredge contractor to carry out the maintenance dredging works
- The dredge vessel (“dredger”) will be equipped with either a backhoe excavator or a grab crane and will fill an on-board hopper
- The dredger will also be fitted with a GPS device so that it can more accurately control its dredge depth
- Further details of the proposed dredge vessels can be found in the data sheets which are attached separately (see Appendices 04 to 07)

General comments

- During any down time throughout the dredging operations, the dredger will be berthed at Stonehaven Harbour
- Dredging in the hours of darkness will be avoided where possible, to minimise any health and safety risks
- As such, depending on the time of year and the tide times, it may be possible to dredge once or twice within in each 24-hour period
- This dredge is only expected to occur once per year

Pre-dredging activities

- Any boats moored in locations which may impede the safe navigation and working of the dredger will be moved to temporary berths

Anticipated daily dredging sequence

- The dredger will begin working approximately 3 hours before high water
- The dredger will work for approximately 1.5 hours to fill its hopper (approx. 100 m³)
- The dredger will exit the harbour and travel 1 nautical mile to the Stonehaven Deposit Site. The route to and from the disposal site shall be at the Master and Harbour Master discretion, subject to port operations and environmental conditions.
- The dredger will return to Stonehaven Harbour and repeat the filling and unloading cycle for as long as there is sufficient water depth, typically 3 hours after high water.
- The above cycle will be repeated around the next high-water period, if a second tide is to be worked.

Post dredging activities

- Any boats that were moved to accommodate the dredge will be returned to their original moorings.
- The Stonehaven Harbour work boat “Sea Helper” will be fitted with a plough dredge mechanism in order to assist with any post dredge bed levelling operations that may be required.
- A multibeam echo-sounder survey will be carried out to measure the harbour bathymetry. The survey will be scheduled to occur as close as is reasonably practical to the completion of the dredge in order to verify the dredge levels achieved and the approximate volumes removed.