

Biosecurity Plan Template

Marine Maintenance Dredging

This Biosecurity Plan Template is intended to be used by marine maintenance dredging operators and contractors in order to minimise the risks posed by marine invasive non-native species (INNS), particularly related to minimising spread to new areas. It is difficult to directly manage INNS in the marine environment once they are present, therefore, prevention is key which is recognised in the GB Invasive Non-native Species Strategy (2015)

“Where direct management is not feasible, as is often the case in the marine environment, we will seek to reduce the spread of species by improved and targeted biosecurity”.

There are a number of legislative drivers for this work including the Marine Strategy Framework directive (MSFD); EU IAS (Invasive Alien Species) Regulation and the Wildlife and Countryside Act (W&CA) 1981, Schedule 9. Section 14 of the W&CA states that it is an offence to ‘release or allow to escape into the wild any animal which is not ordinarily resident in Great Britain or any species listed in Schedule 9 of the Act’. Schedule 9 of the act lists a number of marine INNS particularly relevant to marine dredging activities, these include the Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*), American Oyster Drill (*Urosalpinx cinerea*) and the American Slipper Limpet (*Crepidula fornicata*).

With respect to maintenance dredging activities in Wales and in order for the potential risks posed by these species to be managed in the most effective way it is important that NRW obtain as much information as possible. In certain circumstances where the activity is deemed not to contribute to the further geographic spread of those species on Schedule 9 (W&CA), NRW may issue an exemption in the form of a ‘General Species Licence’, however, this will be assessed as part of the licensing process.

1. Introduction

Airbus Operation Ltd.’s Load out Facility (LoF) is located on the River Dee, Broughton, in North Wales. The LoF enables the transportation of Airbus A380 wings from Broughton to the Port of Mostyn, on the Welsh coast of the River Dee. In order to maintain an even keel and height, the Dee River Craft rests upon a frame when wings are being loaded. The nature of the river is such that sediment accumulates in the berth, effectively covering the frame, thus providing an uneven surface that is unsuitable for the DRC to rest upon. Consequently, a bespoke dredger has been used since 2007 to remove sediment from the frame on a daily basis. The bespoke dredging vessel deposits the dredged material by ‘rainbowing’ the sediments into the River Dee. This is the fifth application to be submitted by Airbus, for this on-going operation, since the introduction of the dredger. The dredging of the LoF is essential for the continual transportation of A380 wings from Broughton to the Port of Mostyn.

1.1. Applicant Name: Airbus Operations Limited

1.2. Marine Licence reference number: DML1617

- 1.3. Description of Operation:** *Maintenance dredging of the River Dee at the Load-out-Facility, Broughton.*
- 1.4. Dredge and disposal Site Location(s):** *Load-out-Facility, River Dee, Broughton, North Wales (53 ° 11.60' N, 2° 58.10'W)*
- 1.5. Activity period:** *Daily between 21st May 2016 to 7th August 2019*
- 1.6. Biosecurity Manager/Officer:** *Chris Hallam, Strategic Marine Services Ltd.*
- 1.7. Approval Date:** *To be completed by NRW Marine Licensing Team*
- 1.8. Document version number:** **1**

2. Information related to the Environmental conditions affecting biosecurity

	Source environment/location	Receiving environment/location
Marine Non-native species known to be present	NA	NA

3. Vessels & equipment involved in the operation¹ (please list all vessels, barges and equipment to be used as part of the maintenance dredging operation – insert additional rows as necessary)

Vessel name	Photo reference (Please insert images in the appendix)	Vessel type	Details, Risk factors & Justification e.g. Pathway, vessel speed, biofouling control, Inspection history, Internal treatment history etc..	Risk: (High/Medium/Low)
<i>Arenig Fawr</i>	<i>ARENIG FAWR.jpg</i>	<i>Suction dredger</i>	<i>This vessel works only on the maintenance dredging associated with this scheme. The vessel completes maintenance dredging activities on a daily basis and does not leave the LoF location. The dredge material is deposited at a location, less than</i>	<i>Low</i>

¹ The licence holder should update and submit a revised plan as a result of any amendments to the list of vessels and/or equipment to be utilised as part of current licence.

			20m from the source and therefore no biosecurity risk identified	
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3.1. Vessel & Disposal site Proposed activity log

In relation to maintenance dredging activities, marine invasive non-native species typically have three main vectors by which spread can potentially occur from one location to another. These are hull fouling, transfer in vessel ballast water and transfer within marine sediments. In order to better understand the potential risks associated to the current operation it is important to outline a brief history of vessel/equipment movements. This includes information such as vessel/equipment recent activity history (including any periods of inactivity) as well as information on ports visited and dredge/disposal site locations associated to the current licensable activity.

(Please note: a separate row should be inserted for changes in vessel and/or disposal site)

Vessel name	Brief description of vessel activity over the last 12 months	Transit ports (list all ports to be visited on route to the current dredge activity if applicable)	Transit ports arrival and departures		Disposal site name & reference
			Arrival date	Departure date	
Arenig Fawr	The vessel completes maintenance dredging activities on a daily basis and does not leave the LoF location.	NA	NA	NA	NA.

4. Activities which have a significant risk of introducing or spreading marine invasive non-native species (Please provide as much detail as possible of how each of the activities have the potential to increase the risk of introduction or onward spread of marine invasive non-native species – insert additional rows as necessary)

Activity and brief description	Details of how this could potentially increase the risk of introducing and/or spreading MINNS	Mitigation and Biosecurity measures to be implemented
NA	NA	NA

5. Mitigation & Biosecurity Control Measures – Instructions for staff/contractors/site users *(insert additional rows as necessary)*

Who	What	Where	When
Airbus Operations Ltd.	A Biosecurity Management Plan is not required for this vessel. There are no ballast tanks on board and the vessel does not leave the LoF. Keel coolers are cleaned by HP washing at low water so fouling remains in river. Vessels is lift out on to the hard at the LOF for maintenance every 2 to 3 years. Hull is cleaned and painted with anti-foul.	NA	NA

6. Operational surveillance and reporting procedure

NA

7. Contingency Plan *(i.e. when changes to the plan necessary and have been identified - insert additional rows as necessary)*

Action	Responsibility	Location of Equipment
NA	NA	NA

8. Location of biosecurity logbook

NA

9. Annual Review Date

26/04/2020

Useful reference documents

IMO Guidelines for the control and management of ships biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species

http://www.imo.org/blast/blastDataHelper.asp?data_id=30766

Shetland Biosecurity Plan

<http://www.nafc.uhi.ac.uk/departments/marine-science-and-technology/BiosecurityPlan.pdf>

Marine Biosecurity Planning Guidance (England & Wales November 2015 – adapted from SNH, Payne, Cook Macleod February 2014)

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/downloadDocument.cfm?id=1401>

GB non-natives species secretariat

[Marine biosecurity - key guidance documents and websites](#)

Non - native species records can be accessed via the local record centres

<http://www.lrcwales.org.uk/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

or the National Biodiversity Network

<http://www.nbn.org.uk/>

or the marine biological Association

<http://www.mba.ac.uk/>

NRW marine experts can also give advice on Non-native species records.

Appendix



ARENIG FAWR.jpg