

**Agreement No. CE 59/2020 (EP)
Environmental Monitoring and
Audit for Disposal Facility to the
East of Sha Chau (2021-2026)
– Investigation**

Monthly EM&A Report for
Contaminated Mud Pits to the East of Sha Chau
– October 2024

November 2024

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) is managing a number of marine disposal facilities in Hong Kong waters, including the Contaminated Mud Pits (CMPs) to the East of Sha Chau (ESC) for the disposal of contaminated sediment, and various open-sea disposal grounds located to the South of Cheung Chau (SCC), East of Tung Lung Chau (ETLC) and East of Ninepins (ENP) for the disposal of uncontaminated sediment.

Environmental Permits (EPs) (Ref. No. EP-312/2008/A) was issued by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the CEDD, the Permit Holder, on 28 November 2008 for the Project - Disposal of Contaminated Sediment – Dredging, Management and Capping of Sediment Disposal Facility at Sha Chau.

Under the requirements of the EP, EM&A programmes which encompass water and sediment chemistry, fisheries assessment, tissue and whole body analysis, sediment toxicity and benthic recolonisation studies as set out in the EM&A Manuals are required to be implemented. EM&A programmes have been continuously carried out during the operation of the CMPs at ESC. A review of the collection and analysis of such environmental data from the monitoring programme demonstrated that there had not been any adverse environmental impacts resulting from disposal activities.^{1,2} The current programme will assess the impacts resulting from dredging, disposal and capping operations of CMP V.

A proposal on the change of number of sample replication of water quality and sediment monitoring as well as combination of routine water quality monitoring and water quality monitoring during capping operation was submitted to EPD and agreed by EPD on 3 December 2020. The proposed changes have been effective for the EM&A activities since December 2020. In early 2022, after implementing the Phase 1 optimisation for at least one year, a further data review was conducted. The monitoring data has been reviewed and demonstrated that the data robustness and representativeness are maintained. Therefore, a technical note presenting the data review results served as a supplementary information was submitted to EPD and presented that Phase 2 optimization of sample replication of water quality and sediment monitoring for the Project will be implemented in 2022. EPD expressed no comment on the review and note the implementation of Phase 2 optimization of sample replication on 18 May 2022, and thus this optimization has been effective for the EM&A activities since July 2022.

The latest sampling schedule is provided in **Appendix A**.

The present EM&A programme under Agreement No. CE 59/2020 (EP) covers the dredging, disposal and capping operations of the ESC CMP V (see **Appendix A** for the EM&A programme.) Detailed works schedule for ESC CMP V is shown in **Table 1.1**. In October 2024, the following works were undertaken:

- Disposal of contaminated mud at ESC CMP Vb; and
- Capping operations at ESC CMP Vd.

¹ ERM (2013) Final Report. Submitted under Agreement No. CE 4/2009 (EP) Environmental Monitoring and Audit for Contaminated Mud Pit at East Sha Chau. For CEDD.

² ERM (2017) Final Report. Submitted under Agreement No. CE 23/2012 (EP) Environmental Monitoring and Audit for Contaminated Mud Pits to the South of The Brothers and at East Sha Chau (2012 - 2017). For CEDD.

2 Brief Discussion of Monitoring Results for ESC CMP V

2.1 Introduction

This section presents a brief discussion of the results obtained from the following monitoring activities for ESC CMP V during the reporting period:

- Water Column Profiling of ESC CMP Vb;
- Routine Water Quality Monitoring of ESC CMPs; and
- Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry of ESC CMP Vb.

2.2 Water Column Profiling of ESC CMP Vb – in October 2024

Water Column Profiling was undertaken at a total of two sampling stations (Upstream and Downstream stations) on 9 October 2024. The monitoring results have been assessed for compliance with the Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) set by Environmental Protection Department (EPD). This consists of a review of the EPD routine water quality monitoring data for the wet season period (April to October) of 2013 – 2022 from stations in the North Western Water Control Zone (WCZ), where the ESC CMPs are located.³ For Salinity, the averaged value obtained from the Reference (Upstream) station was used for the basis as the WQO. Levels of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Turbidity were also assessed for compliance with the Action and Limit Levels (see **Table B1** of **Appendix B** for details).

2.2.1 In-situ Measurements

Analyses of results for October 2024 indicated that levels of Salinity, pH and DO complied with the WQOs at both Downstream and Upstream stations (**Table B2** of **Appendix B**). Levels of DO and Turbidity at all stations complied with the Action and Limit Levels (**Tables B1 and B2** of **Appendix B**).

2.2.2 Laboratory Measurements for Suspended Solids (SS)

Analyses of results for October 2024 indicated that the SS level at both Upstream and Downstream stations complied with the WQO and the Action and Limit Levels (**Tables B1 and B2** of **Appendix B**).

Overall, the monitoring results indicated that the mud disposal operation at ESC CMP Vb did not appear to cause any deterioration in water quality during this reporting period.

2.3 Routine Water Quality Monitoring of ESC CMPs – in October 2024

Routine Water Quality Monitoring of ESC CMPs was undertaken on 8 October 2024. The monitoring results have been assessed for compliance with the WQOs (see **Section 2.2** above for details). The monitoring results are shown in **Tables B3, B4 and B5** of **Appendix B** and **Figures 1 to 11** of **Appendix C**. A total of ten (10) monitoring stations were sampled in October 2024 as shown in **Figure 2.1**.

³ <http://epic.epd.gov.hk/EPICRIVER/marine/?lang=en>

2.3.1 In-situ Measurements

Graphical presentation of the monitoring results (Temperature, DO, pH, Salinity and Turbidity) is shown in **Figures 1 to 6 of Appendix C**. Analyses of results indicated that the levels of pH, and DO complied with the WQOs at all stations in October 2024.

The levels of DO and Turbidity complied with the Action and Limit Levels at all stations (**Table B3 of Appendix B; Figures 3 and 6 of Appendix C**).

Overall, *in-situ* measurement results of the Routine Water Quality Monitoring indicated that the disposal and capping operation at ESC CMPs did not appear to cause any unacceptable impacts in water quality in October 2024.

2.3.2 Laboratory Measurements

Refer to **Section 1.4**, laboratory analysis data of Mercury in October 2024 are still under consolidation, which will be presented in the Monthly EM&A Report of the next reporting period.

Laboratory analysis of samples obtained during the reporting period indicated that the concentrations of Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Nickel and Zinc were detected in the samples at some/ all stations and their concentrations were generally similar across stations; except the concentrations of Silver were only detected at Intermediate station. (**Table B4 of Appendix B; Figure 7 and 8 of Appendix C**).

For nutrients, concentrations of Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN) were lower than the WQO (0.5 mg/L) at all stations. (**Table B5 of Appendix B; Figure 9 of Appendix C**). The concentrations of Ammonia Nitrogen (NH₃-N) were lower at Intermediate (INF) station and the concentrations of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅) were lower at Reference (RFF) and Ma Wan stations. (**Table B5 of Appendix B; Figure 9 and 10 of Appendix C**)

Analyses of results for the reporting period indicated that the SS levels complied with the Action and Limit Levels at all stations, except SS levels were slightly higher than wet season WQO (11.9 mg/L) at Reference (RFF) and Impact (IPF) stations. (**Tables B1 and B5 of Appendix B; Figure 11 of Appendix C**).

Based on the available results of the Routine Water Quality Monitoring which indicated that the disposal and capping operation at ESC CMPs did not appear to cause any unacceptable deterioration in water quality during the reporting period. Detailed statistical analysis will be presented in the Quarterly EM&A Report to investigate any spatial and temporal trends of potential concern.

2.4 Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry of ESC CMP Vb – in October 2024

Monitoring locations for Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry for ESC CMP Vb are shown in **Figure 2.2**. A total of six (6) monitoring stations were sampled on 7 October 2024.

The concentrations of all inorganic contaminants were lower than the Lower Chemical Exceedance Levels (LCELs) at all stations. (**Figures 12 and 13 of Appendix C**).

For organic contaminants, the concentrations of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) were higher at Active-Pit stations ESC-NPCA and ESC-NPCB. (**Figure 14 of Appendix C**). The concentrations of Low Molecular Weight Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) were higher than LCEL at Pit-Edge station ESC-NECA. (**Figures 15 of Appendix C**).

For High Molecular Weight Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), the concentrations were higher than LCEL at Pit-Edge station ESC-NECA. (**Figures 15 of Appendix C**).

The concentrations of Tributyltin (TBT), Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Total dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) and 4,4'-dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE) were below the limit of reporting at all stations during the reporting period.

It is observed that the elevated level concentrations of Low Molecular Weight and High Molecular Weight PAHs (i.e. higher than LCEs) only occurred within Pit-Edge station NECA, but the concentrations of other organic and all inorganic contaminants were lower than the LCEs at the Pit-Edge station.

The slightly elevated level of Low Molecular Weight and High Molecular Weight PAH at Pit-Edge station are possible induced by external factors rather than disposal operations. Therefore, there is no evidence indicating any unacceptable environmental impacts to sediment quality outside the pit area as a result of the contaminated mud disposal operations at ESC CMP Vb during the reporting period.

Statistical analysis will be undertaken and presented in the corresponding Quarterly EM&A Report to investigate whether there are any unacceptable impacts in the area caused by the contaminated mud disposal.

3 Future Key Issues

3.1 Activities Scheduled for the Next Reporting Period

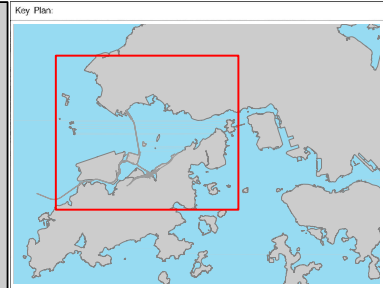
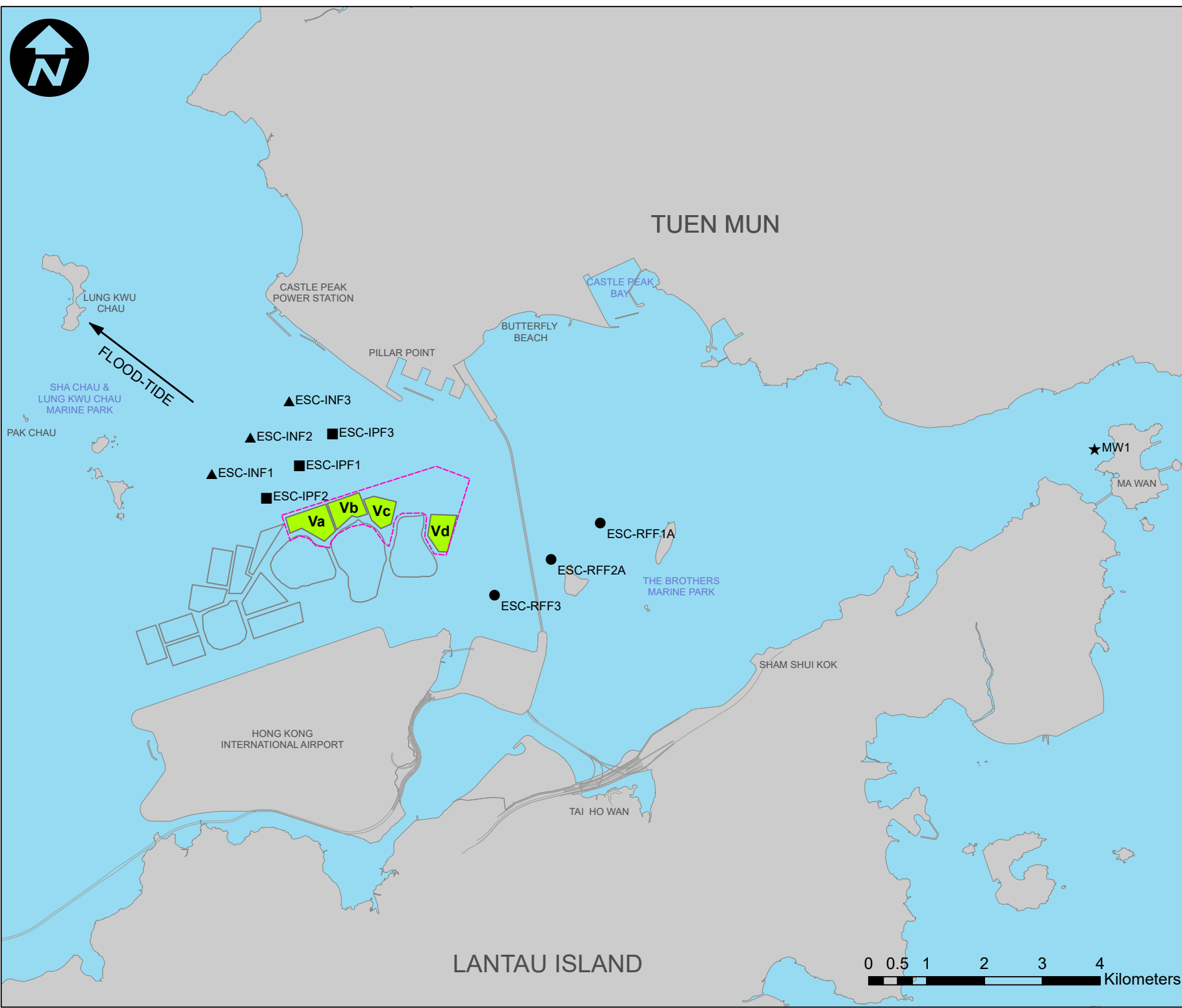
The following monitoring activities will be conducted in the next reporting period of November 2024 for ESC CMP V (see **Appendix A** for the sampling schedule):

- Water Column Profiling of ESC CMP Vb;
- Routine Water Quality Monitoring of ESC CMPs; and
- Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry of ESC CMP Vb;

3.2 Study Programme

A summary of the Study Programme is presented in **Appendix D**.

Figures



Notes:

Key to symbols:

LEGEND

- ESC CMP V
 - ESC USABLE AREA 1
- #### WATER QUALITY SAMPLING STATIONS
- IMPACT STATION
 - INTERMEDIATE STATION
 - REFERENCE STATION
 - MA WAN STATION

Rev	Date	Drawn	Description	Ch'kd	App'd
P1	APR 2021	KN			

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Project **AGREEMENT NO. CE 59/2020 (EP)
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND AUDIT
FOR DISPOSAL FACILITY
TO THE EAST OF SHA CHAU (2021-2026)
- INVESTIGATION**

Title **ROUTINE & CAPPING WATER QUALITY
SAMPLING STATIONS (FLOOD-TIDE)
FOR ESC CMPS**

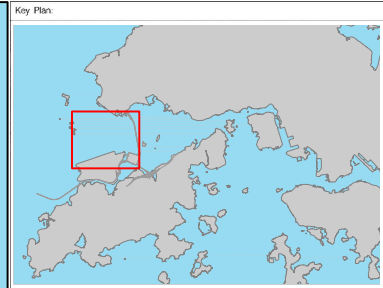
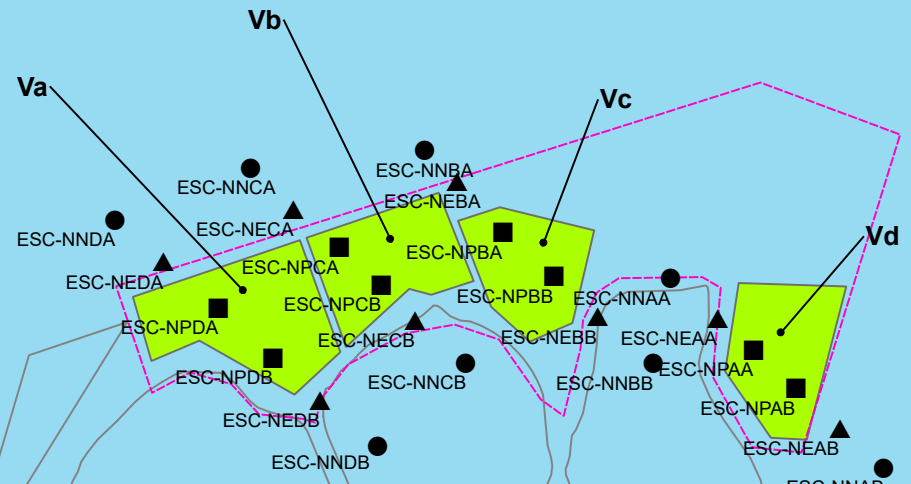
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Scale at A3	Status	Rev	

Drawing Number **FIGURE 2.1**



EBB-TIDE

FLOOD-TIDE



Notes:

Key to symbols:

LEGEND

- ESC CMP V
- ESC USABLE AREA 1
- ACTIVE-PIT STATION
- PIT-EDGE STATION
- NEAR-PIT STATION

PIT SPECIFIC SEDIMENT MONITORING STATIONS

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P1	APR 2021	KN			

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FOR DISPOSAL FACILITY
TO THE EAST OF SHA CHAU (2021-2026)
- INVESTIGATION**

PIT SPECIFIC SEDIMENT QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS FOR CMP V

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Scale at A3	Status	Rev	

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HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Appendices

- Appendix A Sampling Schedule
- Appendix B Water Quality Monitoring Results
- Appendix C Graphical Presentations
- Appendix D Study Programme

Appendix A. Sampling Schedule

Appendix B. Water Quality Monitoring Results

Table B1: Action and Limit Levels of Water Quality for Dredging, Disposal and Capping Activities at ESC CMP V

Parameters	Action	Limit
Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in mg L ⁻¹ (Surface, Middle & Bottom) ⁽¹⁾	Surface and Middle Depth⁽²⁾ 5%-ile of baseline data for surface and middle layer = 3.76 and Significantly less than the reference station's mean DO (at the same tide of the same day)	Surface and Middle Depth⁽²⁾ 1%-ile of baseline data for surface and middle layer = 3.11 ⁽³⁾ and Significantly less than the reference station's mean DO (at the same tide of the same day)
	Bottom 5%-ile of baseline data for surface and middle layer = 2.96 and Significantly less than the reference station's mean DO (at the same tide of the same day)	Bottom The average of the impact station readings are < 2 and Significantly less than the reference station's mean DO (at the same tide of the same day)
Suspended Solids (SS) in mg L ⁻¹ (depth-averaged) ⁽⁵⁾	95%-ile of baseline data for depth-averaged = 37.88 and 120% of control station's SS at the same tide of the same day	99%-ile of baseline data for depth-averaged = 61.92 and 130% of control station's SS at the same tide of the same day
Turbidity in NTU (depth-averaged) ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	95%-ile of baseline data = 28.14 and 120% of control station's Turbidity at the same tide of the same day	99%-ile of baseline data = 38.32 and 130% of control station's Turbidity at the same tide of the same day

Notes:

1. For DO, non-compliance of the water quality limits occurs when monitoring result is lower than the limits.
2. Action and Limit Levels for DO for Surface and Middle layers were calculated from the combined pool of baseline surface layer data and baseline middle layer data.
3. Given the Action Level for DO for Surface and Middle layers has already been lower than 4 mg L⁻¹, it is proposed to set the Limit Level at 3.11 mg L⁻¹ which is the first percentile of the baseline data.
4. "Depth-averaged" is calculated by taking the arithmetic means of reading of all three depths.
5. For turbidity and SS, non-compliance of the water quality limits occurs when monitoring result is higher than the limits.

Table B2: Water Column Profiling Results for ESC CMP Vb in October 2024

Station	Temp. (°C)	Salinity (ppt)	Turbidity (NTU)	Dissolved Oxygen (%)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg L ⁻¹)	pH	Suspended Solids (mg L ⁻¹)
WCP 1 (Downstream)	28.35	30.03	8.52	86.39	5.69	8.00	8.5
WCP 2 (Upstream)	28.40	30.11	10.95	84.30	5.54	7.96	6.5
WQO (Wet Season)	N/A	27.10-33.12 [#]	N/A	N/A	>4	6.5-8.5	11.9

Notes:

- # Not exceeding 10% of natural ambient level which is the result obtained from the Reference Station.
- Cell shaded yellow / red indicates value exceeding the Action/Limit levels.
- Cell shaded grey indicates value exceeding the WQO.

Table B3: In-situ Monitoring Results for Routine Water Quality Monitoring of ESC CMPs in October 2024

Station	Temp. (°C)	Salinity (ppt)	Turbidity (NTU)	Dissolved Oxygen (%)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg L ⁻¹)	pH
RFF (Reference)	28.50	29.70	9.96	87.43	5.75	8.06
IPF (Impact)	28.58	30.02	10.67	85.91	5.64	8.01
INF (Intermediate)	28.58	29.74	7.46	87.52	5.75	8.01
Ma Wan	28.54	30.70	6.07	82.83	5.42	8.04
WQO (Wet Season)	N/A	26.73-32.67 [#]	N/A	N/A	>4	6.5-8.5

Notes:

- # Not exceeding 10% of natural ambient level which is the result obtained from the Reference Station.
- Cell shaded yellow / red indicates value exceeding the Action/Limit levels.
- Cell shaded grey indicates value exceeding the WQO.

Table B4: Laboratory Results for Dissolved Metals and Metalloid in Routine Water Quality Monitoring of ESC CMPs in October 2024

Station	As (µg/L)	Cd (µg/L)	Cr (µg/L)	Cu (µg/L)	Pb (µg/L)	Hg (µg/L)	Ni (µg/L)	Ag (µg/L)	Zn (µg/L)
RFF	2.09	0.05	0.10	0.43	0.01	*	0.57	ND	3.63
IPF	2.45	0.12	0.10	0.50	0.02	*	0.52	ND	1.35
INF	2.39	0.04	0.12	0.48	0.01	*	0.56	0.01	0.51
Ma Wan	2.18	0.04	0.07	0.46	0.01	*	0.53	ND	4.86

Note:

1. "ND" indicates the concentrations of metals and metalloids are not detected.
2. * Laboratory analysis data of Mercury are still under consolidation, which will be presented in the Monthly EM&A Report of the next reporting period.

Table B5: Laboratory Results for Nutrients and Suspended Solid in Routine Water Quality Monitoring of ESC CMPs in October 2024

Station	NH ₃ (mg/L)	TIN (mg/L)	BOD ₅ (mg/L)	SS (mg/L)
RFF	0.05	0.30	<LOR	12.6
IPF	0.05	0.32	0.63	14.3
INF	0.03	0.34	0.45	9.5
Ma Wan	0.06	0.25	<LOR	5.5

WQO of TIN: 0.5 mg/L
 Wet Season WQO of SS: 11.9 mg/L

Notes:

1. "<LOR" indicates the concentrations of contaminants are below the limit of reporting.
2. Cell shaded yellow / red indicates value exceeding the Action/Limit levels.
3. Cell shaded grey indicates value exceeding the WQO.

Appendix C. Graphical Presentations

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for ESC CMP V - October 2024

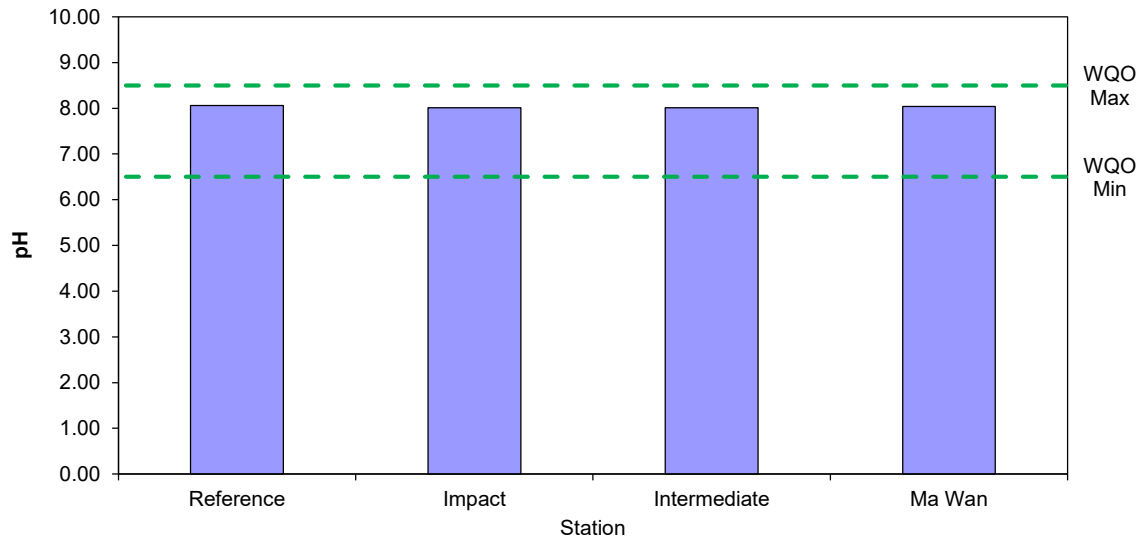


Figure 1: Level of pH recorded during Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for ESC CMP V - October 2024

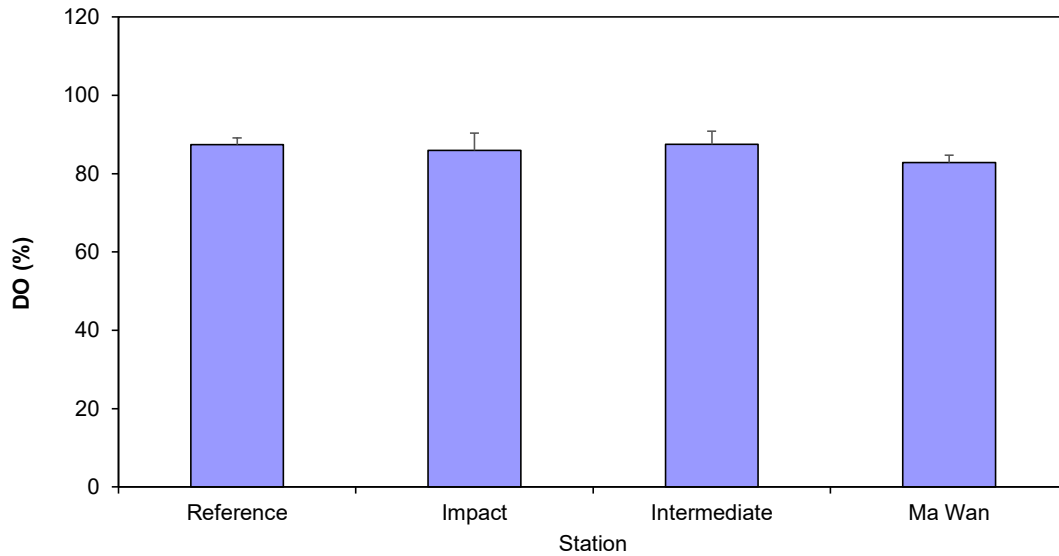


Figure 2: Level of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) (% saturation; mean + SD) recorded during Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

¹ The mean and standard deviation (SD) for in-situ data are the mean and SD for water columns within the area.

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for ESC CMP V - October 2024

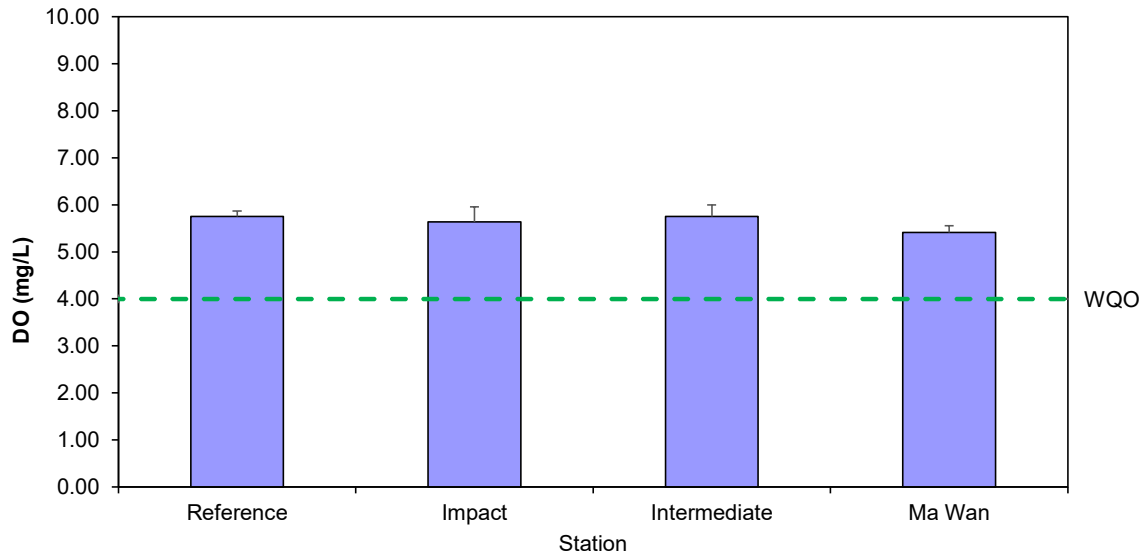


Figure 3: Concentration of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) (mg/L; mean + SD) recorded during Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for ESC CMP V - October 2024

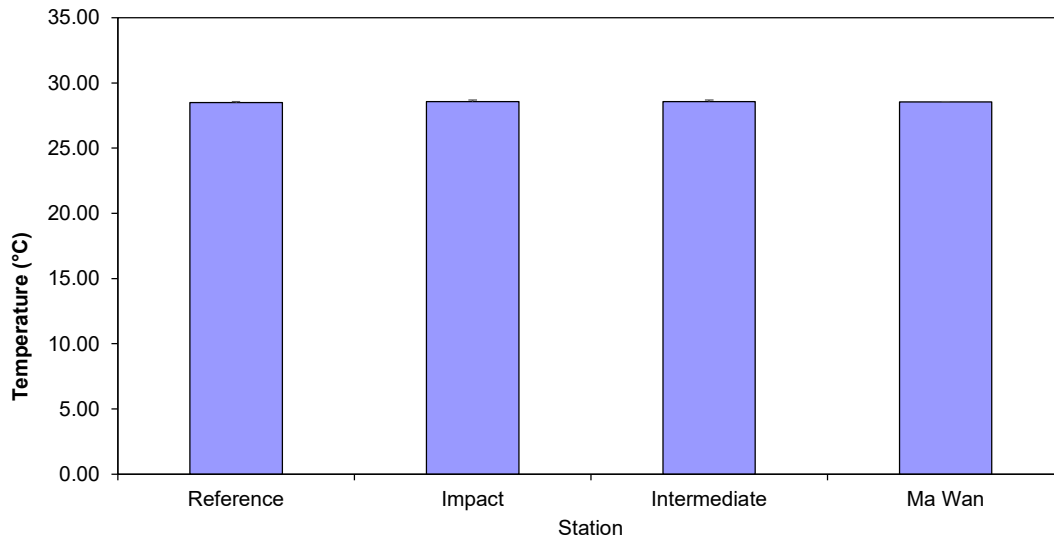


Figure 4: Level of Temperature (°C; mean + SD) recorded during Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

¹ The mean and standard deviation (SD) for in-situ data are the mean and SD for water columns within the area.

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for ESC CMP V - October 2024

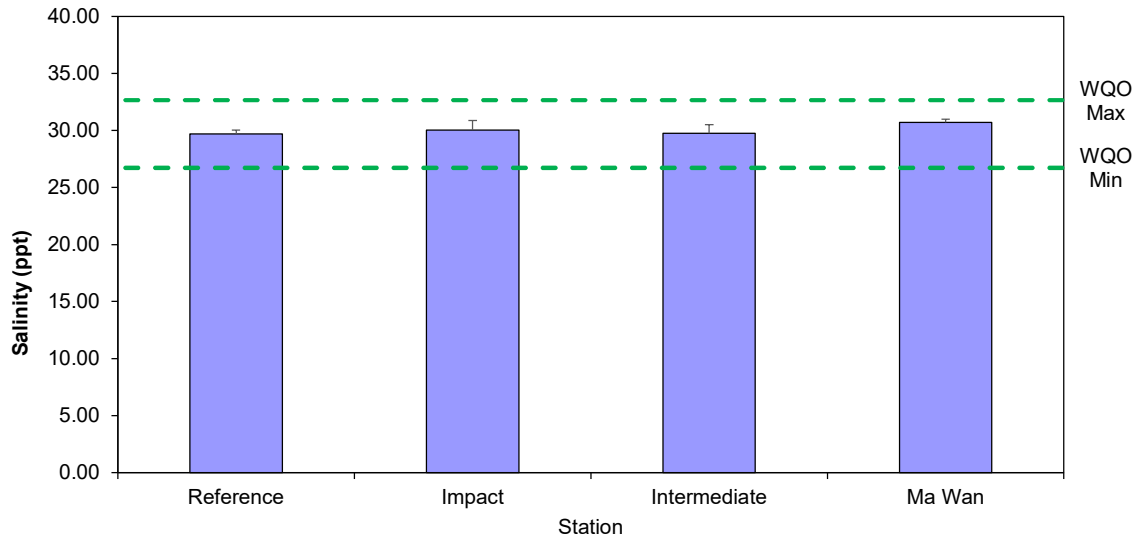


Figure 5: Level of Salinity (ppt; mean + SD) recorded during Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for ESC CMP V - October 2024

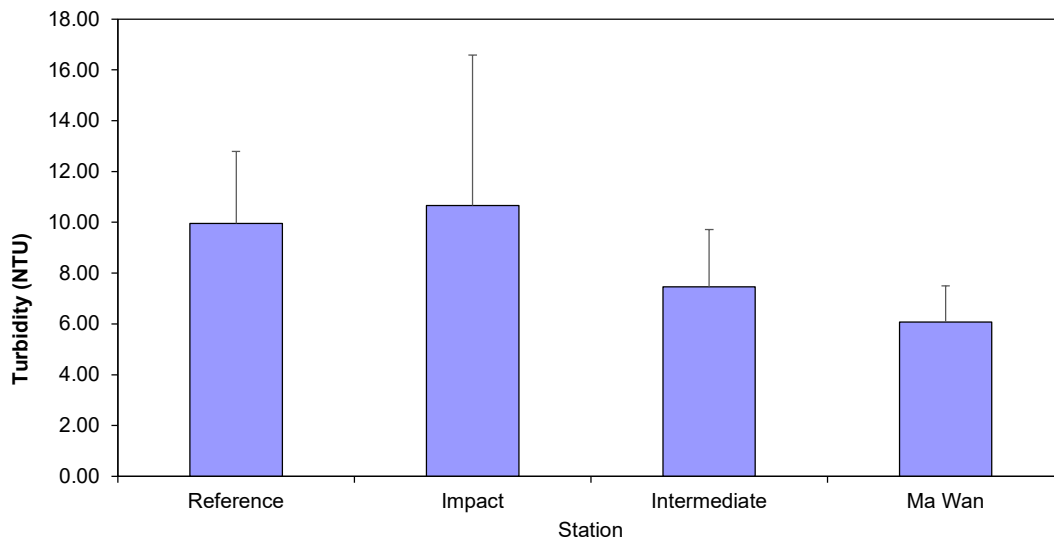


Figure 6: Level of Turbidity (NTU; mean + SD) recorded during Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

¹ The mean and standard deviation (SD) for in-situ data are the mean and SD for water columns within the area.

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for ESC CMP V October 2024

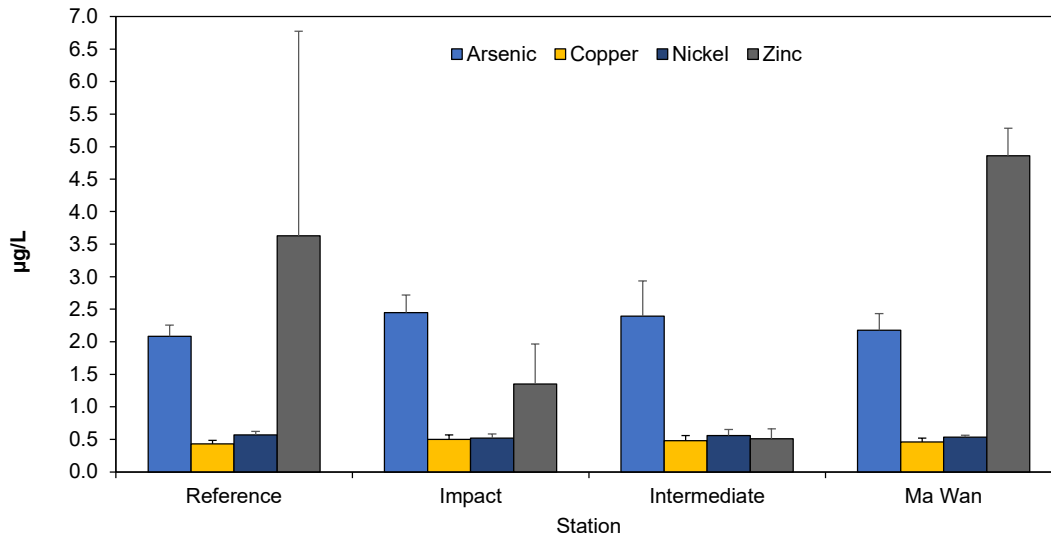


Figure 7: Concentration of Arsenic, Copper, Nickel, and Zinc (µg/L; mean + SD) in water samples collected from Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for ESC CMP V October 2024

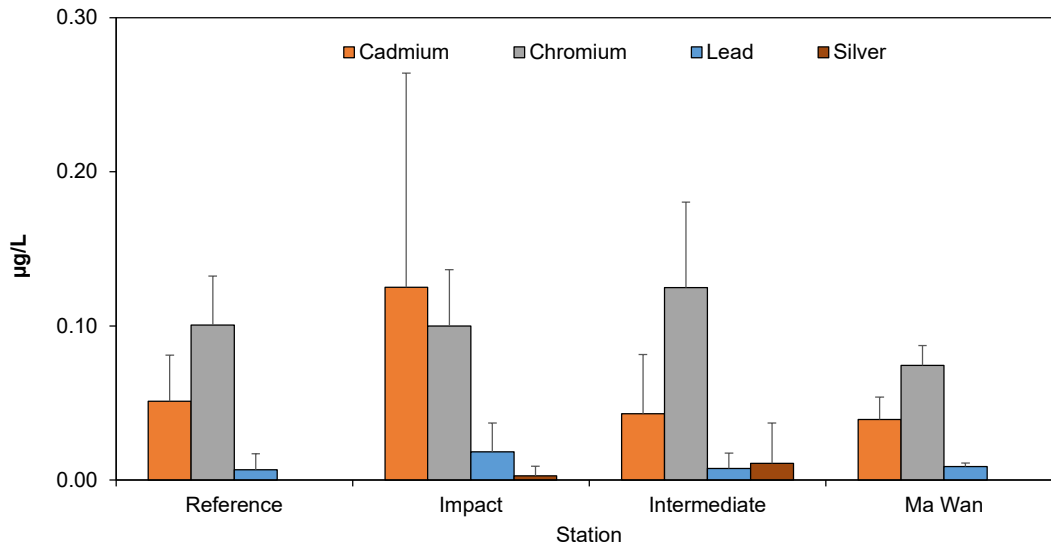


Figure 8: Concentration of Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, and Silver, (µg/L; mean + SD) in water samples collected from Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for Nutrients - October 2024

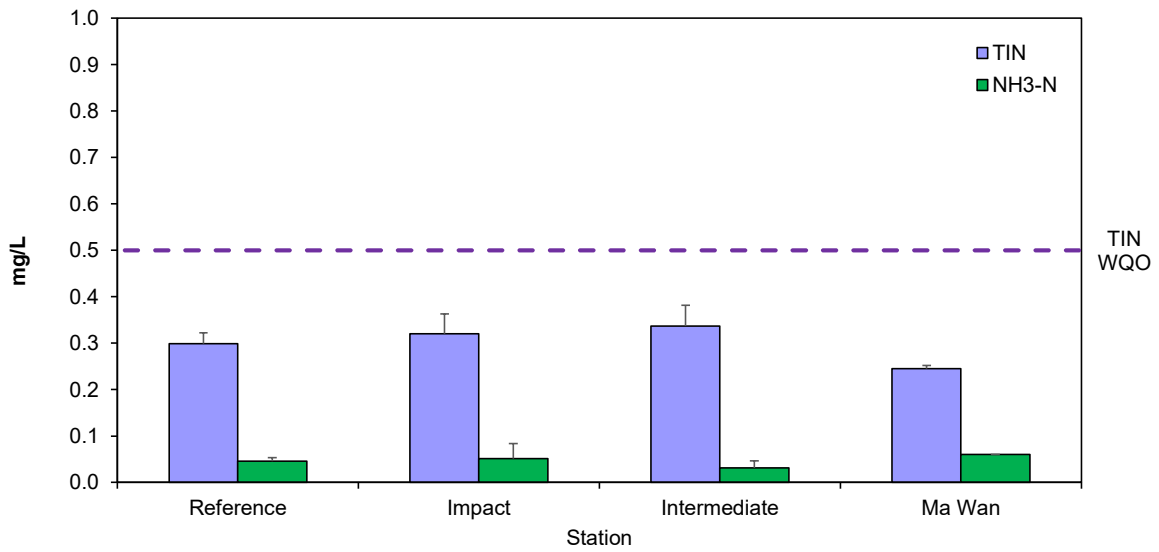


Figure 9: Concentration of Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN) and Ammonia Nitrogen (NH3-N) (mg/L; mean + SD) in water samples collected from Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) - October 2024

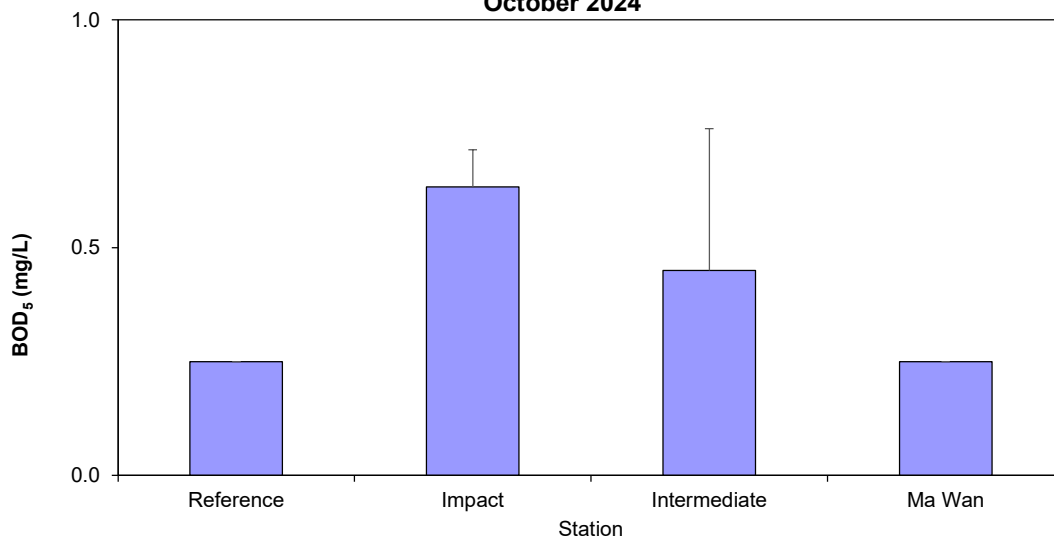


Figure 10: Level of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) (mg/L; mean + SD) in water samples collected from Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

Routine Water Quality Monitoring for Suspended Solids - October 2024

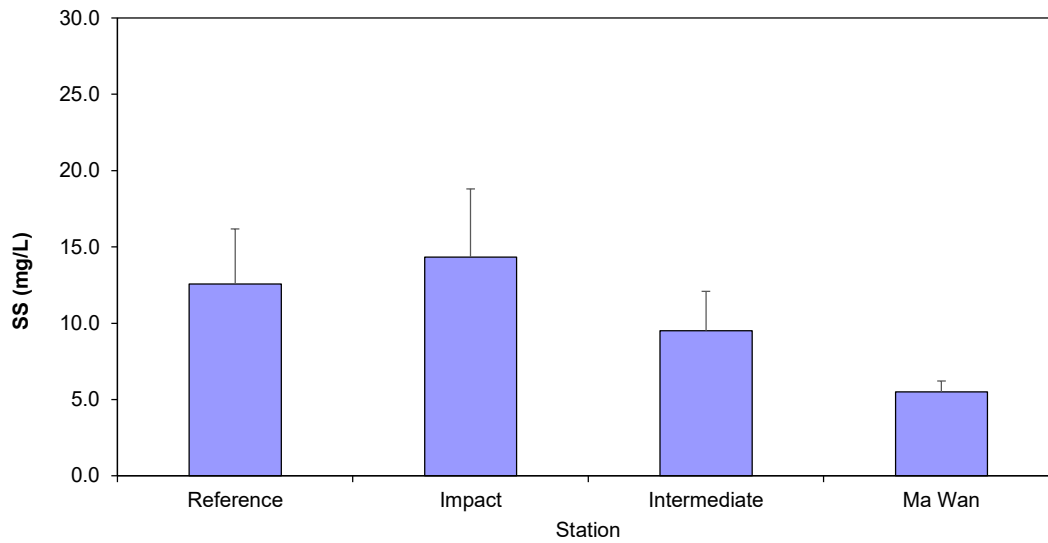


Figure 11 Concentration of Suspended Solids (SS) (mg/L; mean + SD) in water samples collected from Routine Water Quality Monitoring for disposal operations at ESC CMP V in October 2024

Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry for Metal and Metalloid Contaminants at ESC CMP Vb - October 2024

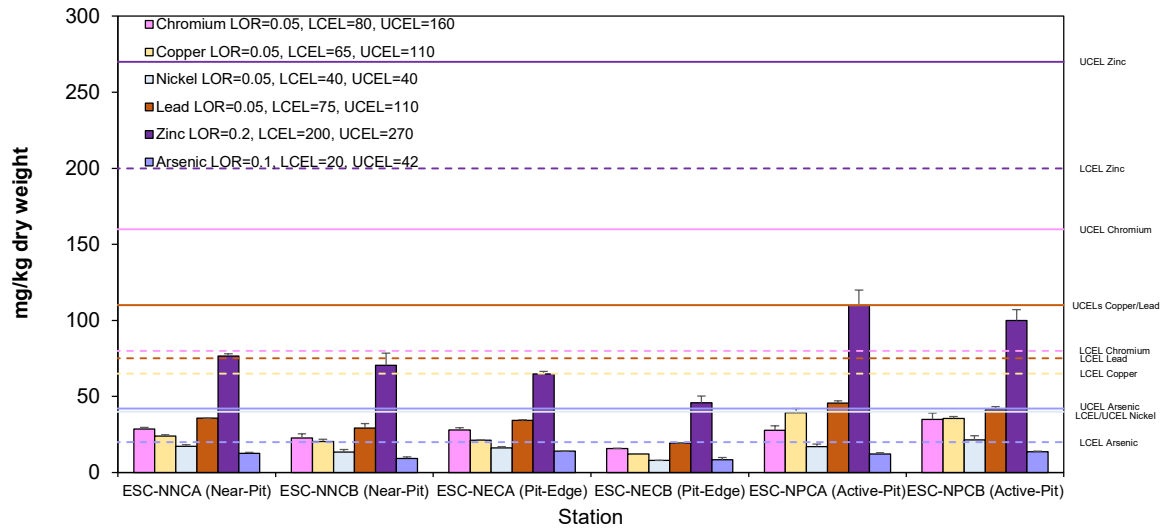


Figure 12: Concentration of Metals and Metalloid²(Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, Zn, As; mg/kg dry weight; mean + SD) in sediment samples collected from Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMP Vb in October 2024

² The LCEL and UCEL of Cadmium, Mercury and Arsenic have been updated according to the standard promulgated starting from 19 January 2024. https://www.cedd.gov.hk/filemanager/eng/content_80/PAH 2022 Chapter 4 Rev 06_240321_Clean.pdf

Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry for Metal Contaminants at ESC CMP Vb - October 2024

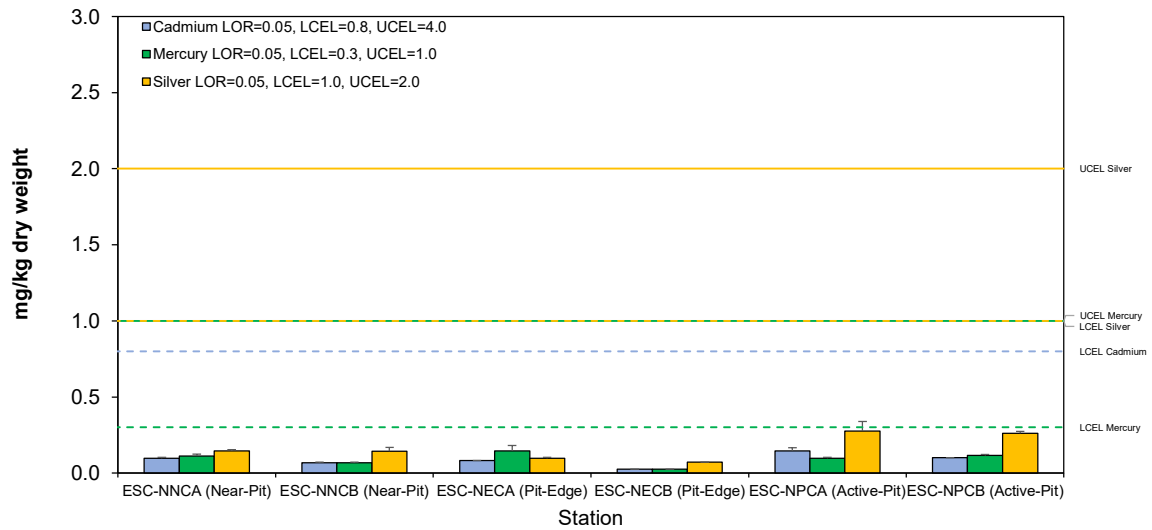


Figure 13: Concentration of Metals (Cd, Hg, Ag; mg/kg dry weight; mean + SD) in sediment samples collected from Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMP Vb in October 2024

Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) at ESC CMP Vb - October 2024

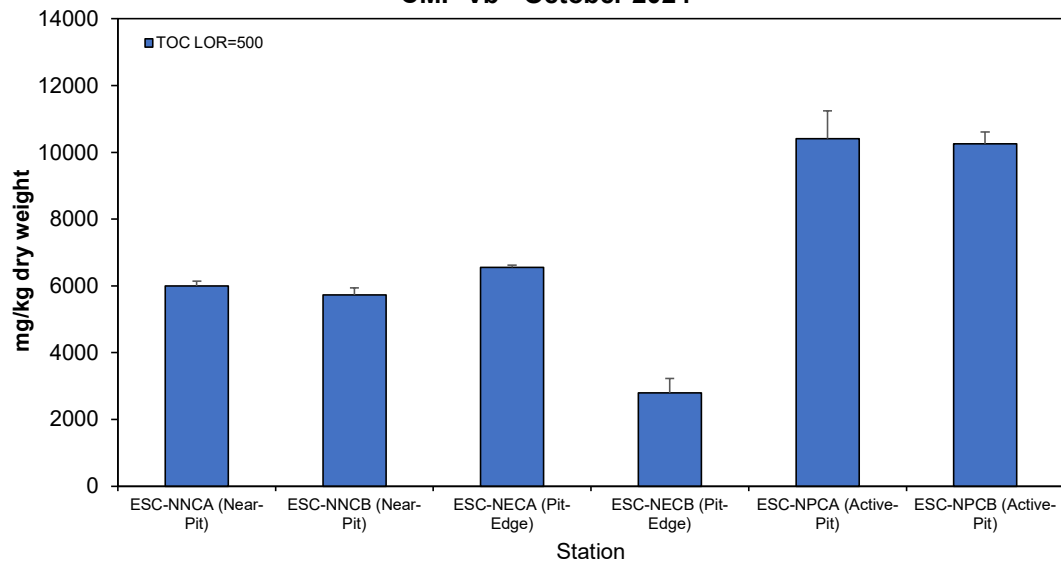


Figure 14: Concentration of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (mg/kg dry weight; mean + SD) in sediment samples collected from Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMP Vb in October 2024

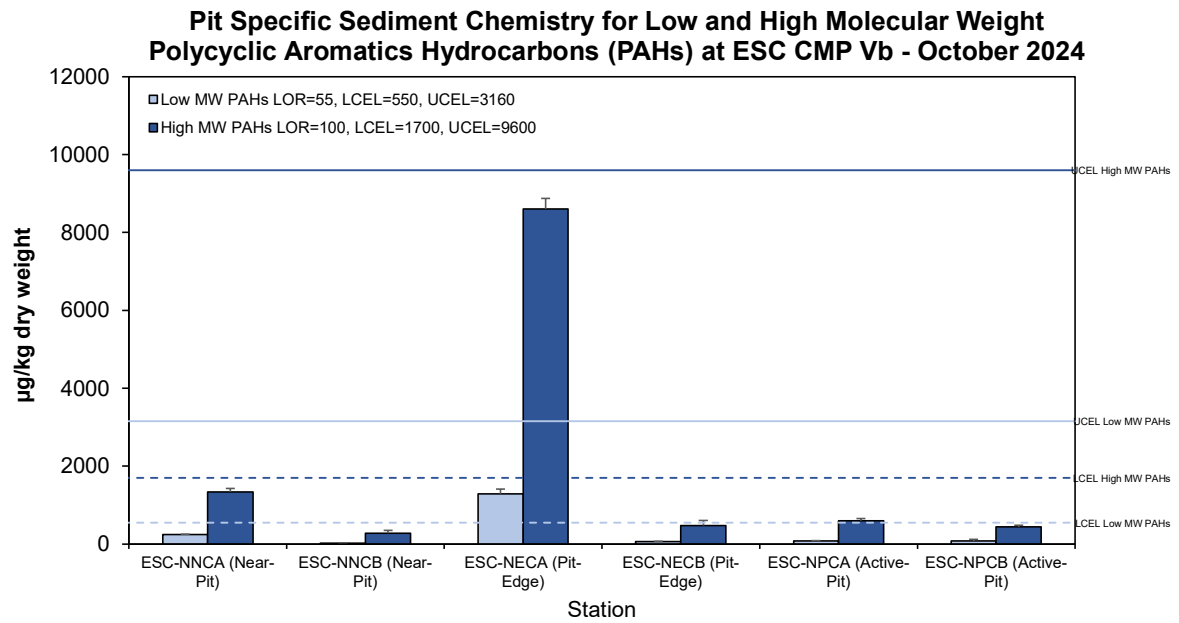


Figure 15: Concentration of Low and High Molecular Weight Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (µg/kg dry weight; mean + SD) in sediment samples collected from Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMP Vb in October 2024

Appendix D. Study Programme

