



**Agreement No. CE 63/2016 (EP)
Environmental Monitoring and Audit
for Disposal Facility to the East of
Sha Chau (2017-2020) – Investigation**

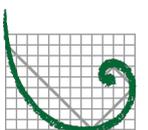
**Monthly EM&A Report for Contaminated
Mud Pits to the East of Sha Chau and the
South of The Brothers – December 2017**

Revision 0

15 January 2018

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ERM

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Client: Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)		Project No: 0400720			
Summary: This document presents the Monthly EM&A Report for <i>Environmental Monitoring and Audit for Disposal Facility to the East of Sha Chau and the South of The Brothers.</i>		Date: 15 January 2018			
		Approved by:  Craig A. Reid Partner			
v0	Monthly EM&A Report for ESC CMPs and SB CMPs	CY	JT	CAR	15/1/18
Revision	Description	By	Checked	Approved	Date
<p>This report has been prepared by Environmental Resources Management the trading name of 'ERM Hong-Kong, Limited', with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the Contract with the client, incorporating our General Terms and Conditions of Business and taking account of the resources devoted to it by agreement with the client.</p> <p>We disclaim any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the scope of the above.</p> <p>This report is confidential to the client and we accept no responsibility of whatsoever nature to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.</p>		<p>Distribution</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Internal</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Confidential</p> <div style="text-align: right;">   </div>			

Dredging, Management and Capping of Contaminated Sediment Disposal Facility at Sha Chau and to the South of The Brothers

Environmental Certification Sheet EP-312/2008/A & EP-427/2011/A

Reference Document/Plan

Document/ Plan -to be Certified/ Verified:	Monthly EM&A Report for Contaminated Mud Pits to the East of Sha Chau and the South of The Brothers - December 2017
Date of Report:	15 January 2018
Date prepared by ET:	15 January 2018
Date received by IA:	15 January 2018

Reference EP Condition

Environmental Permit Condition:

Condition 3.4 of EP-312/2008/A and Condition 4.4 of EP-427/2011/A:
4 hard copies and 1 electronic copy of monthly EM&A Report shall be submitted to the Director within 2 weeks after the end of the reporting month. The EM&A Reports shall include a summary of all non-compliance (exceedances) of the environmental quality performance limits (Action and Limit Levels). The submissions shall be certified by the ET Leader and verified by the Independent Auditor. Additional copies of the submission shall be provided to the Director upon request by the Director.

ET Certification

I hereby certify that the above referenced document/~~plan~~ complies with the above referenced condition of EP-312/2008/A and EP-427/2011/A

Jovy Tam,
Environmental Team Leader:



Date: 15/1/2018

IA Verification

I hereby verify that the above referenced document/~~plan~~ complies with the above referenced condition of EP-312/2008/A and EP-427/2011/A

Dr Wang Wen Xiong,
Independent Auditor:



Date: 15/1/2018

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MONTHLY EM&A REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2017

1.1 BACKGROUND

1.1.1 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 South of The Brothers (SB) and to the East of Sha Chau (ESC) for the disposal of contaminated sediment, and 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. Two Environmental Permits (EPs), EP-312/2008/A and EP-427/2011/A, were issued by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the CEDD, the Permit Holder, on 28 November 2008 and 23 December 2011 for the Dredging, Management and Capping of Contaminated Sediment Disposal Facilities at ESC CMP V and SB CMPs, respectively.

1.1.2 Under the requirements of the two EPs for ESC CMP V and SB CMPs, 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 and SB. 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 as well as capping operations of SB CMPs.

1.1.3 The present EM&A programme under *Agreement No. CE 63/2016 (EP)* covers the dredging, disposal and capping operations of the ESC CMP V as well as the capping operations of the SB CMPs (see *Annex A* for the EM&A programme). Detailed works schedule for ESC CMP V and SB CMPs is shown in *Figure 1.1*. In December 2017, the following work was being undertaken:

- Disposal of contaminated mud 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.

1.5.2 *Water Column Profiling of ESC CMP Vd - December 2017*

1.5.3 *Water Column Profiling* was undertaken at a total of two sampling stations (Upstream and Downstream stations) on 7 December 2017. 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 dry season period (November to March) of 2007 - 2016 from stations in the Northwestern Water Control Zone (WCZ), where the ESC CMPs are located ⁽¹⁾. 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 Annex B* for details).

In-situ Measurements

1.5.4 Analyses of results for December 2017 indicated that levels of DO, Salinity and pH complied with the WQOs at both Downstream and Upstream stations (*Table B2 of Annex B*). In addition, levels of DO and Turbidity at all stations complied with the Action and Limit Levels (*Tables B1 and B2 of Annex B*).

Laboratory Measurements for Suspended Solids (SS)

1.5.5 Analyses of results for December 2017 indicated that the SS levels were higher than the WQO at Downstream station. However, both Upstream and Downstream stations complied with the Action and Limit Levels (*Tables B1 and B2 of Annex B*).

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

⁽¹⁾ <http://epic.epd.gov.hk/EPICRIVER/marine/?lang=en>

- 1.5.7 ***Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry of ESC CMP Vd - December 2017***
- 1.5.8 Monitoring locations for *Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry for ESC CMP Vd* are shown in *Figure 1.2*. A total of six (6) monitoring stations were sampled in December 2017.
- 1.5.9 The concentrations of all inorganic contaminants were lower than the Lower Chemical Exceedance Level (LCEL) at all stations in December 2017 (*Figures 1 and 2 of Annex C*).
- 1.5.10 For organic contaminants, the concentrations of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) were generally similar in December 2017 with higher concentration of TOC detected at Active-Pit station ESC-NPAA (*Figure 3 of Annex C*). The concentrations of Tributyltin (TBT) were higher at Near-Pit station ESC-NNAA in December 2017 (*Figure 4 of Annex C*). Low and High Molecular Weight Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), Total Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Total dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) and 4,4'-dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE) concentrations were below the limit of reporting at all stations in December 2017.
- 1.5.11 Overall, there is no evidence indicating any unacceptable environmental impacts to sediment quality as a result of the contaminated mud disposal operations at ESC CMP Vd in December 2017. Statistical analysis will be undertaken and presented in the corresponding quarterly report to investigate whether there are any unacceptable impacts in the area caused by the contaminated mud disposal.
- 1.5.12 ***Cumulative Impact Sediment Chemistry of ESC CMP V - December 2017***
- 1.5.13 Monitoring locations for *Cumulative Impact Sediment Chemistry for ESC CMP V* are shown in *Figure 1.3*. A total of nine (9) monitoring stations were sampled in December 2017.
- 1.5.14 Analyses of results for the *Cumulative Impact Sediment Chemistry Monitoring* indicated that the concentrations of most inorganic contaminants were below the LCEL at all stations in December 2017, except Arsenic exceeded the LCEL at Mid Field stations ESC-RMA and ESC-RMB as well as Far Field station ESC-RFB (*Figures 5 and 6 of Annex C*).
- 1.5.15 Whilst the average concentration of Arsenic in the Earth's crust is generally ~2mg/kg, significantly higher Arsenic concentrations (median = 14 mg/kg) have been recorded in Hong Kong's onshore sediments (1). It is presumed that the natural concentrations of Arsenic are similar in onshore and offshore sediments (2), and relatively high Arsenic levels may thus occur throughout Hong Kong. Therefore, the LCEL exceedances of Arsenic are unlikely to be caused by the disposal operations at ESC CMP Vd but rather as a result of naturally occurring deposits.

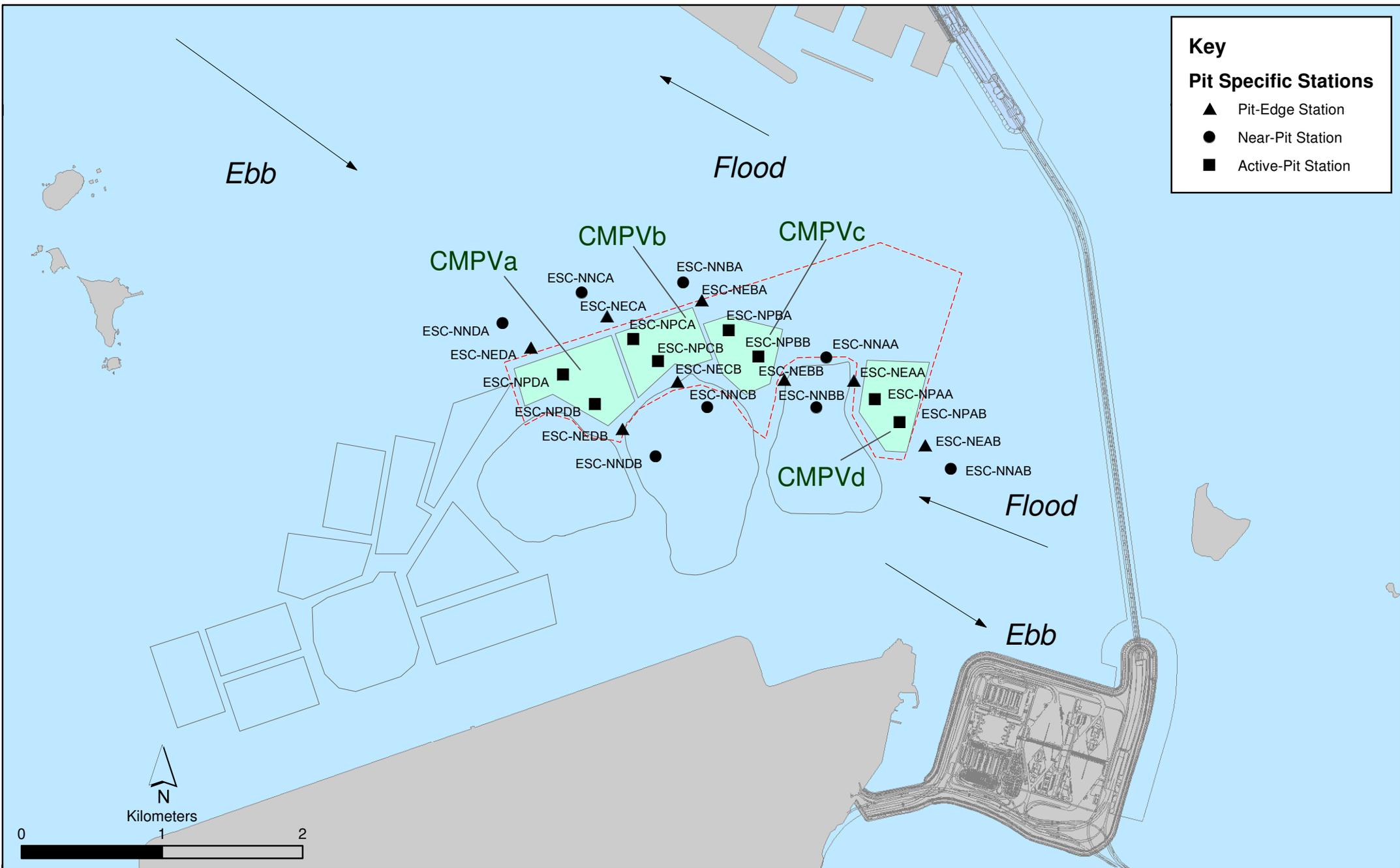


Figure 1.2

Pit Specific Sediment Quality Monitoring Stations for CMPV

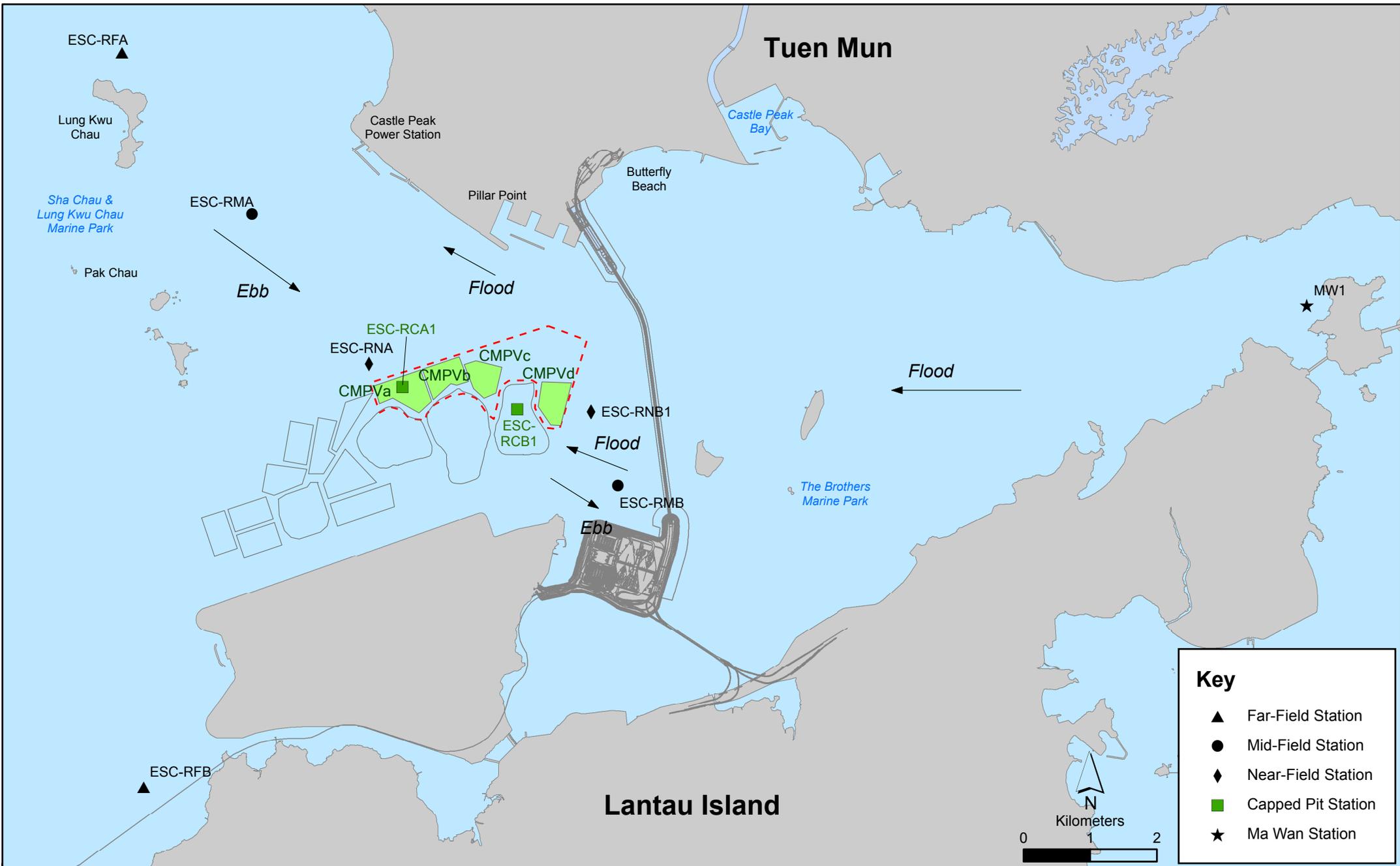


Figure 1.3

Cumulative Impacts Sediment Quality Monitoring Stations for ESC CMPs

1.5.16 For organic contaminants, the concentrations of TOC were generally similar in December 2017 with lower concentrations recorded at Capped Pit stations ESC-RCA and ESC-RCB (*Figure 7 of Annex C*). The concentrations of TBT were recorded to be higher at Ma Wan station (*Figure 8 of Annex C*). High Molecular Weight PAHs was detected at Capped Pit station ESC-RCA (*Figure 9 of Annex C*). Low Molecular Weight PAHs, PCBs, DDT and DDE concentrations were recorded below the limit of reporting at all stations.

1.5.17 Overall, there is no evidence indicating any unacceptable environmental impacts to sediment quality as a result of the contaminated mud disposal operations at ESC CMP Vd in December 2017. Statistical analysis will be undertaken and presented in the corresponding quarterly report to investigate whether there are any unacceptable impacts in the area caused by the contaminated mud disposal.

1.6 *ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT MONTH*

1.6.1 The following monitoring activities will be conducted in the next monthly period of January 2018 for ESC CMP V (see *Annex A* for the sampling schedule):

- *Water Column Profiling of ESC CMP Vd;*
- *Routine Water Quality Monitoring of ESC CMP V;*
- *Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry of ESC CMP Vd; and*
- *Demersal Trawling for ESC CMP V*

1.6.2 No monitoring activities are scheduled to be undertaken for SB CMPs in January 2018.

1.7 *STUDY PROGRAMME*

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

Annex A

Sampling Schedule

Annex A2 - Environmental Monitoring and Audit Sampling Schedule for South of The Brothers (April 2017 - December 2018)

			2017												2018											
			A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D			
Capping Water Quality Monitoring																										
<i>Ebb Tide</i>																										
Impact Stations Downcurrent	SB-IPE1	4 times per year																								
	SB-IPE2	4 times per year																								
	SB-IPE3	4 times per year																								
	SB-IPE4	4 times per year																								
	SB-IPE5	4 times per year																								
Intermediate Stations Downcurrent	SB-INE1	4 times per year																								
	SB-INE2	4 times per year																								
	SB-INE3	4 times per year																								
	SB-INE4	4 times per year																								
	SB-INE5	4 times per year																								
Reference Stations Upcurrent	SB-RFE1	4 times per year																								
	SB-RFE2	4 times per year																								
	SB-RFE3	4 times per year																								
	SB-RFE4	4 times per year																								
	SB-RFE5	4 times per year																								
Sensitive Receiver Stations	MW1	4 times per year																								
	THB1	4 times per year																								
	THB2	4 times per year																								
	WSR45C	4 times per year																								
	WSR46	4 times per year																								
<i>Flood Tide</i>																										
Impact Stations Downcurrent	SB-IPF1	4 times per year																								
	SB-IPF2	4 times per year																								
	SB-IPF3	4 times per year																								
Intermediate Stations Downcurrent	SB-INF1	4 times per year																								
	SB-INF2	4 times per year																								
	SB-INF3	4 times per year																								
Reference Stations Upcurrent	SB-RFF1	4 times per year																								
	SB-RFF2	4 times per year																								
	SB-RFF3	4 times per year																								
Sensitive Receiver Stations	MW1	4 times per year																								
	THB1	4 times per year																								
	THB2	4 times per year																								
	WSR45C	4 times per year																								
	WSR46	4 times per year																								
Benthic Recolonisation Studies																										
Capped Contaminated Mud Pits	SB-CPA	2 times per year																								
	SB-CPB	2 times per year																								
Reference Stations	RBA	2 times per year																								
	RBB	2 times per year																								
	RBC	2 times per year																								

Notes:

The number shown in each cell represents the numbers of replicates per monitoring station
Capping works are planned to be conducted between May and December 2017.

Annex B

Water Quality Monitoring Results

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

Parameter	Action Level	Limit Level
Dissolved Oxygen (DO) ⁽¹⁾	<u>Surface and Mid-depth</u> ⁽²⁾ 5%-ile of baseline data for surface and middle layer = 3.76 mg L⁻¹	<u>Surface and Mid-depth</u> ⁽²⁾ 1%-ile of baseline data for surface and middle layer = 3.11 mg L⁻¹ ⁽³⁾
	and	and
	Significantly less than the reference stations mean DO (at the same tide of the same day)	Significantly less than the reference stations mean DO (at the same tide of the same day)
	<u>Bottom</u> 5%-ile of baseline data for bottom layers = 2.96 mg L⁻¹	<u>Bottom</u> The average of the impact station readings are <2 mg/L⁻¹
	and	and
	Significantly less than the reference stations mean DO (at the same tide of the same day)	Significantly less than the reference stations mean DO (at the same tide of the same day)
Depth-averaged Suspended Solids (SS) ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	95%-ile of baseline data for depth average = 37.88 mg L⁻¹	99%-ile of baseline data for depth average = 61.92 mg L⁻¹
	and	and
	120% of control station's SS at the same tide of the same day	130% of control station's SS at the same tide of the same day
Depth-averaged Turbidity (Tby) ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	95%-ile of baseline data = 28.14 NTU	99%-ile of baseline data = 38.32 NTU
	and	and
	120% of control station's Tby at the same tide of the same day	130% of control station's Tby 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) The Action and Limit Levels for DO for Surface & 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 & 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 Vd in December 2017*

Stations	Temp (°C)	Salinity (ppt)	Turbidity (NTU)	Dissolved Oxygen (%)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg L ⁻¹)	pH	Suspended Solids (mg L ⁻¹)
WCP 1 (Downstream)	21.58	32.46	14.71	92.39	6.74	8.02	13.78
WCP 2 (Upstream)	21.63	32.46	8.80	92.28	6.73	8.04	8.18
WQO (Dry season)	N/A	29.31 – 35.82 [#]	N/A	N/A	>4	6.5-8.5	12.8

Note:

[#]Not exceeding 10% of natural ambient level which is the result obtained from the Reference Station.

Cell shaded yellow / red indicate value exceeding the Action/Limit levels.

Cell shaded grey indicate value exceeding the WQO.

Annex C

Graphical Presentations

**Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry for Metal and Metalloid Contaminants at ESC CMP Vd
December 2017**

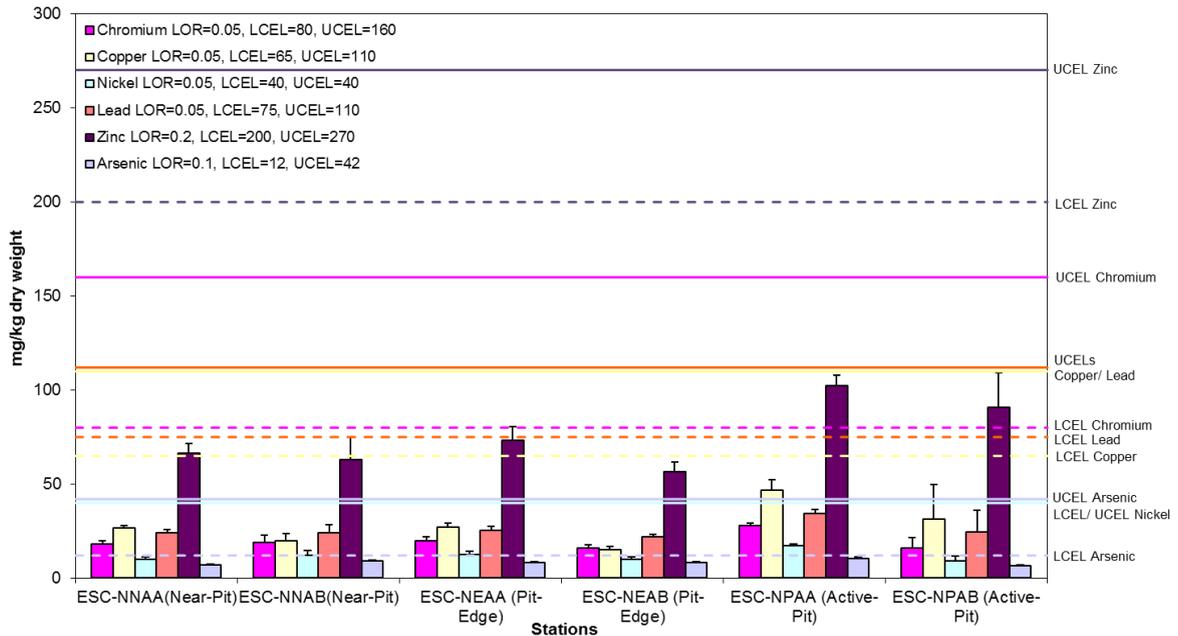


Figure 1: Concentration of Metals and Metalloid (Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, Zn, As; mg/kg dry weight; mean +SD) in sediment samples collected from Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMP Vd in December 2017.

**Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry for Metal Contaminants at ESC CMP Vd
December 2017**

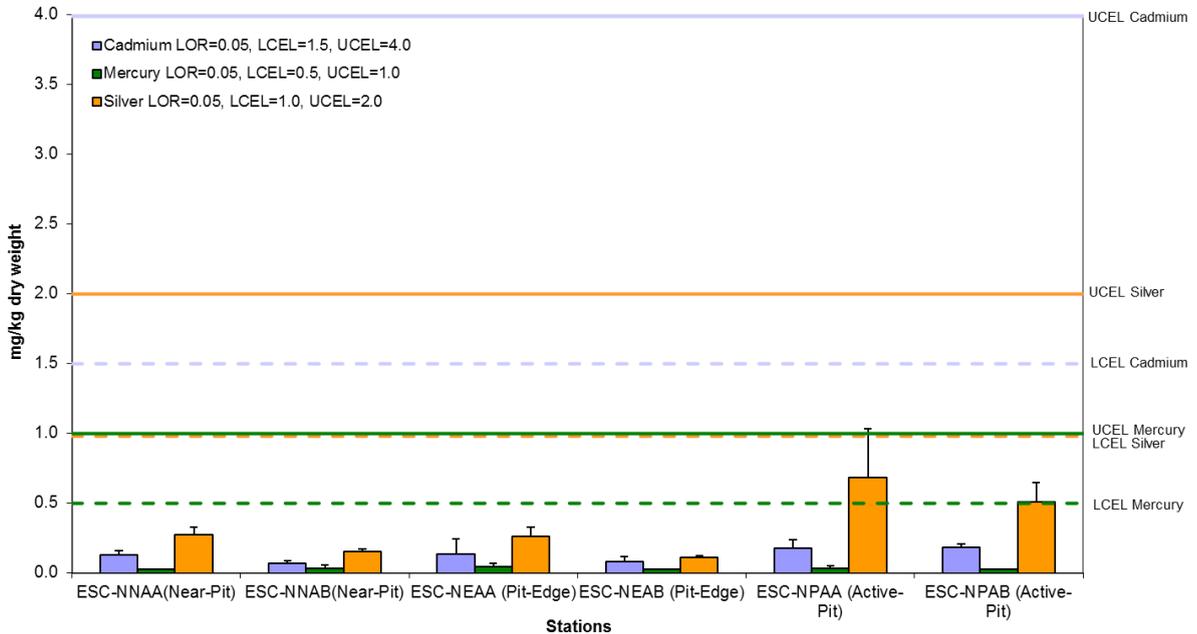


Figure 2: Concentration of Metals (Cd, Hg, Ag; mg/kg dry weight; mean +SD) in sediment samples collected from Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMP Vd in December 2017.

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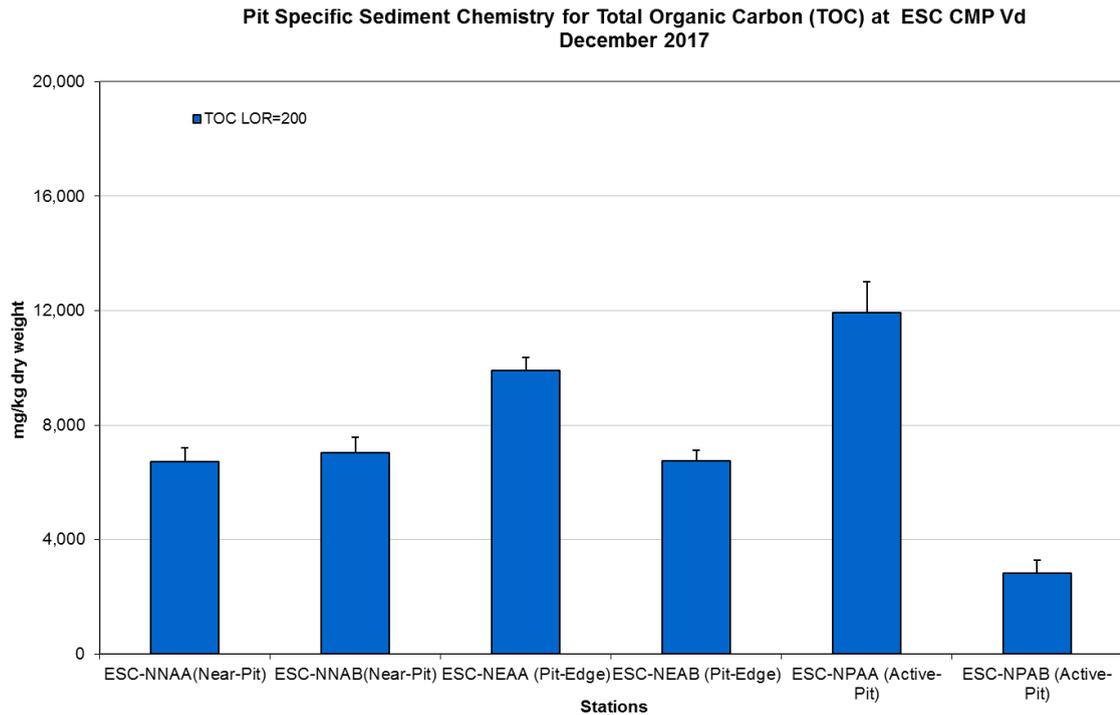


Figure 3: Concentration of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (mg/kg dry weight; mean +SD) in sediment samples collected from Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMP Vd in December 2017.

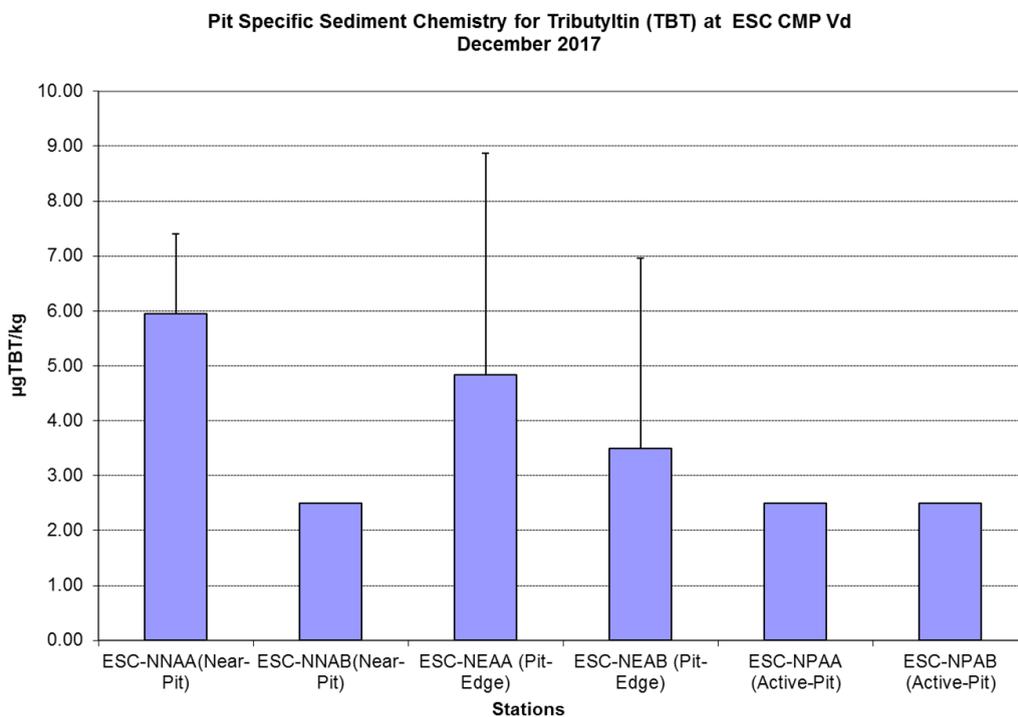


Figure 4: Concentration of Tributyltin (TBT) (µg TBT/kg; mean +SD) in sediment samples collected from Pit Specific Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMP Vd in December 2017.

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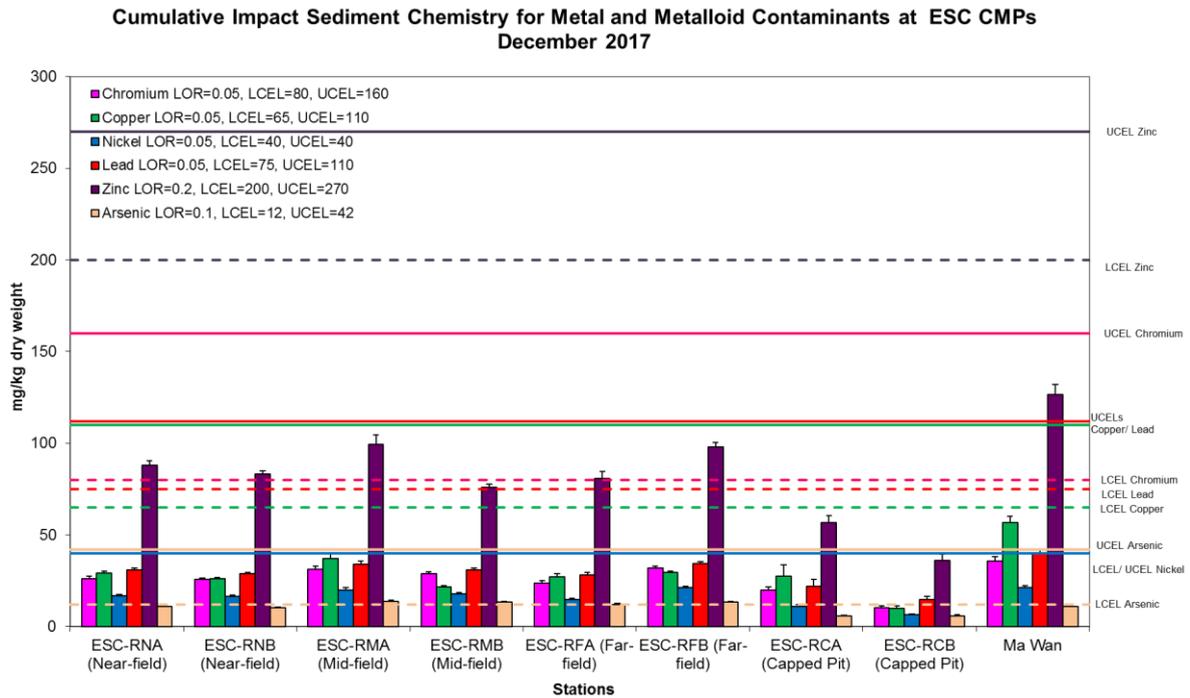


Figure 5: Concentration of Metals and Metalloid (Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, Zn, As; mean +SD) in sediment samples collected from Cumulative Impact Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMPs in December 2017.

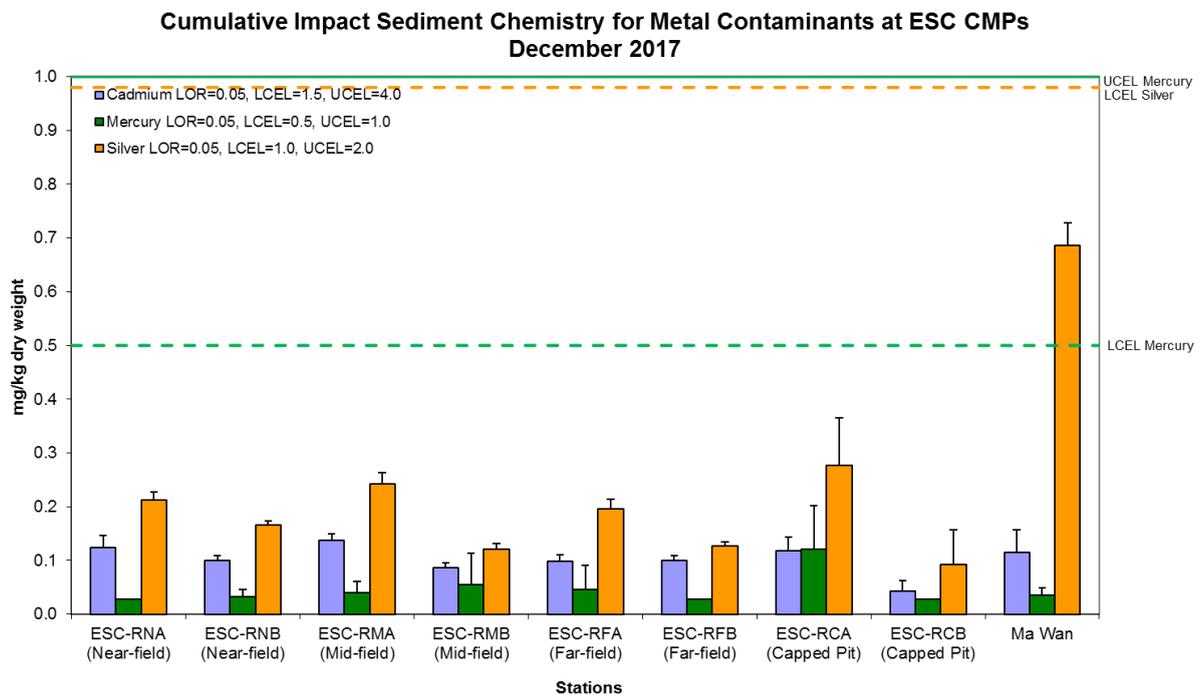


Figure 6: Concentration of Metals (Cd, Hg, Ag; mean +SD) in sediment samples collected from Cumulative Impact Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMPs in December 2017.

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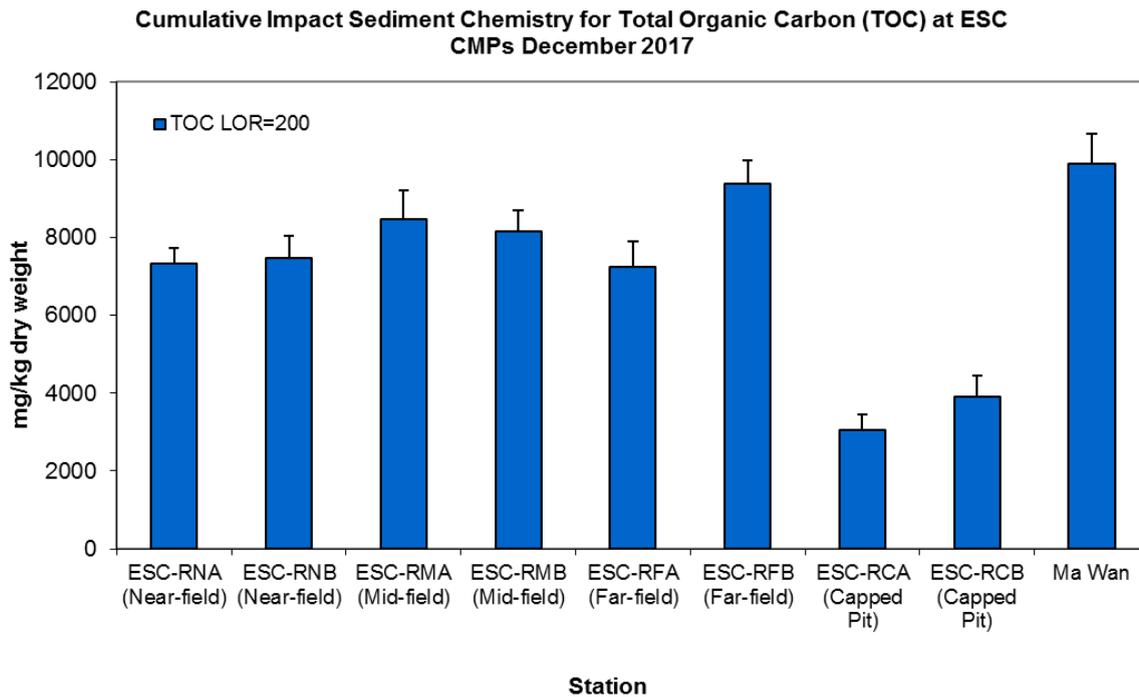


Figure 7: Concentration of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) (mg/kg dry weight; mean +SD) in sediment samples collected from Cumulative Impact Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMPs in December 2017.

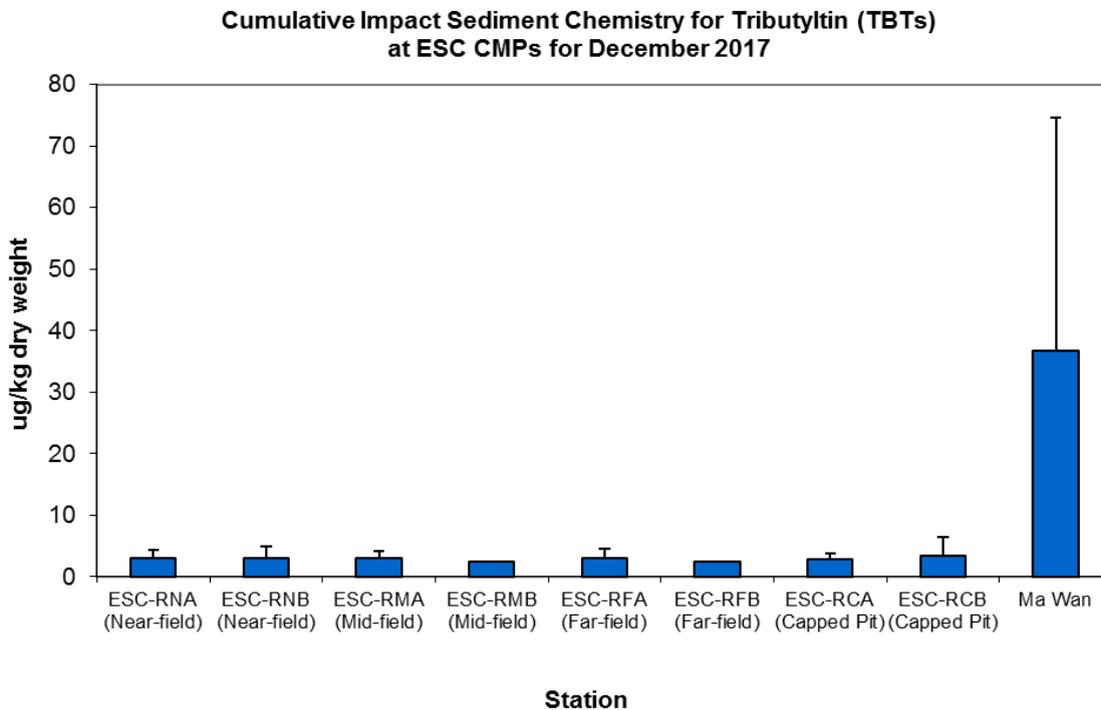


Figure 8: Concentration of Tributyltin ($\mu\text{g TBT/kg}$; mean +SD) in sediment samples collected from Cumulative Impact Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMPs in December 2017.

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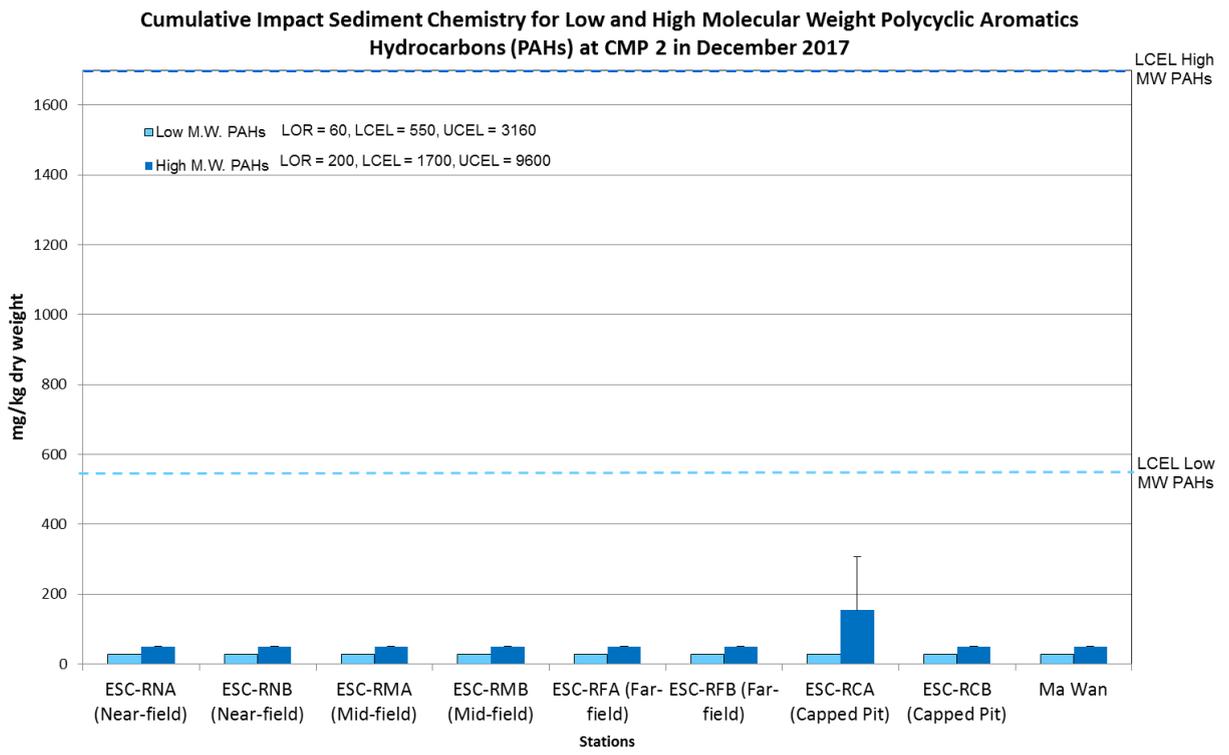


Figure 9: Concentration of Low and High Molecular Weight Polycyclic Aromatics (mg/kg dry weight; mean +SD) in sediment samples collected from Cumulative Impact Sediment Chemistry Monitoring for ESC CMPs in December 2017.

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Annex D

Study Programme

