



MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY
ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE GROUP

GRŴP CADW GOLWG AMGYLCHEDDOL
AR DDYFRFFORDD ABERDAUGLEDDAU

**Review of benthic and intertidal
sediment macrofauna data and
development of a surveillance
programme**

Richard M Warwick 2006

**Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group
Review of benthic and intertidal sediment macrofauna data and
development of a surveillance programme**

Richard M Warwick 2006

Distribution

Members

Chevron Ltd
Countryside Council for Wales
Environment Agency Wales
Dwr Cymru-Welsh Water
Milford Haven Port Authority
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Authority
Pembrokeshire County Council
Dragon SEM Group
Total Oil (UK)

Corresponding & observing members

South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Wildlife Trust West Wales
WAG Environment Division

Libraries

National Assembly for Wales Library
National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
Pembrokeshire County Council Public
Libraries:
Fishguard
Haverfordwest
Milford Haven
Pembroke Dock
Tenby

Educational & research establishments

Pembrokeshire College
Department of Maritime Studies &
International Transport, Cardiff University
School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor
University
Natural Sciences Library, Swansea
University
Department of Zoology, National Museum &
Galleries of Wales, Cardiff
Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Field Studies Council:
Dale Fort Field Centre
Orielton Field Centre

Others

DEFRA Environmental Protection
Directorate (Beth Greenaway, Chair UK
Marine Assessment and Reporting Group;
Paul Leonard)
CEFAS (Stuart Rogers)
JNCC (Jane Hawksworth)
EA Wales (Chris Nikitik; Graham Rutt)
EA National Environmental Monitoring and
Assessment Technical Advisor,
Peterborough (Alison Miles)
MarLIN (Keith Hiscock)
Dave Levell
Dale Rostron
Ed Bent

CONTENTS

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL	8
1 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION	11
2 EVALUATION OF EXISTING DATA	12
2.1 INTRODUCTION	12
2.2 SPATIAL COVERAGE OF SURVEYS	13
2.3 EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL SURVEYS	15
2.3.1 Addy 1976.	15
2.3.2 Addy 1979.	16
2.3.3 Rostron 1983.	16
2.3.4 Rostron 1985.	16
2.3.5 Levell et al. 1994.	17
2.3.6 Levell et al. 1997.	17
2.3.7 Hobbs & Smith 1998.	18
2.3.8 Nikitik & Robinson 2003.	18
2.3.9 Rostron 1995 (intertidal).	19
2.3.10 Rostron 1998 (intertidal).	19
2.3.11 Hebog Environmental survey 2002-4.	19
2.3.12 Neyland survey 2004-5.	20
2.3.13 NMMP monitoring, Cosheston Point 1999-2003.	20
2.3.14 Gann Flats survey, 1988.	20
3 NEW ANALYSES: METHODOLOGY USING EXAMPLE DATA	21
3.1 INTRODUCTION	21
3.2 MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS	22
3.3 UNIVARIATE ANALYSIS	30
3.4 USE OF BIOMASS DATA	38
4 ANALYSIS OF OTHER SUBTIDAL DATASETS	53
4.1 ADDY 1976 (MAY 1974 SURVEY).	53
4.2 ADDY 1979 (MAY 1975 SURVEY).	55
4.3 ROSTRON 1983 (APRIL 1982 SURVEY).	58
4.4 ROSTRON 1985 (APRIL 1984 SURVEY).	52
4.5 LEVELL ET AL. 1994 (OCTOBER 1993 SURVEY).	67
4.6 HOBBS AND SMITH 1998 (MARCH 1996, OCTOBER 1996 AND APRIL 1997 SURVEYS).	71
4.7 HEBOG ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY 2002-4.	77
4.8 NMMP MONITORING, COSHESTON POINT 1999-2003.	81
4.9 LONG-TERM CHANGES IN SUBTIDAL MACROBENTHOS.	86

5 ANALYSIS OF INTERTIDAL DATA	92
5.1 ROSTRON 1995 (OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1994 SURVEY).	92
5.2 ROSTRON 1998 (TIME SERIES FROM FEBRUARY 1996 TO AUGUST 1997).	95
5.3 EDWARDS ET AL. 1992 (1988 GANN FLATS SURVEY).	97
6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME	99
6.1 REQUIREMENTS	99
6.2 OTHER SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMMES IN THE UK	99
6.2.1 Monitoring of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the EU Habitats Directive	99
6.2.2 National Marine Monitoring Programme (NMMP)	99
6.3 SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR MILFORD HAVEN	100
6.3.1 Sampling stations	100
6.3.2 Sample collection and processing	101
6.3.3 Data analyses and environmental indicators	102
7 REFERENCES	103

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY: REVIEW OF BENTHIC AND INTERTIDAL SEDIMENT MACROFAUNA DATA AND DEVELOPMENT OF A SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

Richard M Warwick

1. The Milford Haven Waterway is arguably the most intensively studied coastal region of the UK with respect to the soft sediment macrobenthos. These studies have largely been motivated by concern for the environmental effects of the oil industry, since the diversity and composition of the macrobenthos have become one of the mainstays of marine biological effects monitoring.
2. The Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group (MHWESG) commissioned this report, recognising the high quality of the benthic macrofauna data but considering that further analysis and interpretation of the data, and its placement in the context of other studies in the UK, were desirable.
3. The objectives of this study were:
 - To evaluate the existing macrobenthic and environmental data.
 - To undertake new statistical analyses of the data and to interpret the findings of these analyses.
 - To make recommendations for a meaningful and cost effective monitoring programme that might best be employed for regular wide-scale evaluation of biological quality in relation to a range of anthropogenic impacts.
4. Existing data have been evaluated in terms of:
 - Survey design and sampling methodology.
 - Matching of environmental and macrobenthic data in terms of locations and sampling times.
 - Taxonomic quality.
 - Presentation and storage of data.
 - Data analysis and interpretation.
5. This evaluation supports the view that the data are of exceptionally high quality and value. The survey designs, sampling methodologies, level of detail of taxonomic identifications and presentation of data are all perfectly adequate. Some updating and correcting of taxonomic nomenclature has been needed, and the edited data are provided as Excel spreadsheets on a CD accompanying this report. Data analysis and interpretation would have benefited from more attention, particularly in the earlier studies. More recent studies have used state-of-the-art methods of multivariate and univariate data analysis, but there was little time for interpretation of these analyses in view of the inordinate amount of time necessarily spent on the sample identification work. The absence of biomass data from all of the broad scale studies of the waterway is lamentable, since it precludes the application of certain valuable benthic quality indicators.

6. A wide range of appropriate univariate, distributional and multivariate techniques of data analysis is illustrated with reference to two example studies, the spatial study of October 1996 (Levell et al., 1997) and the Neyland dredging survey of 2004-5 since, although limited in spatial coverage, it has the best matching species abundance and biomass data.
7. Multivariate analysis of seven spatial datasets shows in general a gradual pattern of community change from the inner to the outer regions of the Haven, and these patterns are very similar when 0.5 and 1mm sieved samples are compared, and also at the family compared to the species level.
8. Assemblage composition correlates with salinity parameters in surveys that extend well up-estuary, and with sediment granulometry in the middle and outer Haven where salinity is virtually fully marine. Correlations with PAH, TOC and metal concentrations were generally not evident, the community composition depending largely on natural environmental variables.
9. In the October 1996 example covering the full geographical range, no univariate descriptors of the assemblages correlated with granulometry or hydrocarbon concentrations. Species richness (d), evenness (J') Shannon diversity (H') and Simpson diversity ($1-\text{Lambda}'$) all increased with increasing salinity, while variation in taxonomic distinctness (Lambda^+) decreased. The remaining indices AMBI, N, Delta* and Delta⁺ show no increasing or decreasing trend with salinity. Taxonomic distinctness falls within the expected range for most stations. A few have significantly reduced AvTD and/or elevated VarTD indicative of disturbance, but there is no obvious cause. Most of the stations are of Good or Moderate ecological status as determined by AMBI scores.
10. Neither the sensitive multivariate methods nor the univariate measures of diversity indicate any long term changes over the study period in eight spatial subtidal studies. Changes in abundance of certain Families occurred following the Sea Empress oil spill in 1996.
11. All the Milford Haven subtidal studies have higher than average values of average taxonomic distinctness compared with the UK sites in the NMMP study, suggesting that the biodiversity is not degraded in comparison with other coastal areas.
12. Abundance Biomass Comparison (ABC) and phylum-level meta-analysis, both requiring biomass as well as abundance data, indicate the detrimental effects of the outfall from the marina at Neyland.
13. NMMP monitoring at Cosheston Point shows an unexpected change in community composition and a reduction in diversity after 1999 which may be associated with increased oyster dredging activity. ABC plots are also indicative of disturbance.
14. Intertidal studies show a gradual community change from the inner to outer reaches of the Haven, accompanied by an increase in diversity. These changes correlate with the increase in salinity and sediment grain size. After the Sea Empress

oil spill, community change was detectable at Angle Bay, but not at Sandy Haven or Pembroke River.

15. A surveillance programme is proposed involving sampling annually at nine subtidal stations with five replicates at each, sieving at 0.5 mm, analyzing the samples initially to family level, determining family biomass as blotted wet weight and archiving the samples for possible further analysis if required. With these data a full range of benthic environmental indicators can be determined.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

DYFRFFORDD ABERDAUGLEDDAU: ADOLYGIAD O'R DATA AR FACROFFAWNA'R GWADDOD DYFNFOROL A RHYNGLANWOL, A DATBLYGU RHAGLEN O WYLIADWRIAETH

Richard M Warwick

1. Gellir honni nad oes rhanbarth arfordirol arall yn y DU lle'r astudiwyd macrobenthos y gwaddod meddal yn fwy trylwyr nag yn Nyfrffordd Aberdaugleddau. Ysgogwyd yr astudiaethau hyn i raddau helaeth gan y pryder ynghylch effeithiau amgylcheddol y diwydiant olew, gan fod amrywioldeb a chyfansoddiad y macrobenthos bellach yn un o gonglfeini'r gwaith o fonitro effeithiau biolegol yn y môr.
2. Comisiynwyd yr adroddiad hwn gan Grŵp Goruchwylio Amgylcheddol Dyfrffordd Aberdaugleddau (GGADA), a oedd yn cydnabod ansawdd uchel y data ar y macroffawna dyfnforol, ond yn tybio y byddai'n fuddiol dadansoddi a dehongli'r data ymhellach, a'u gosod yng nghyd-destun astudiaethau eraill yn y DU.
3. Amcanion yr astudiaeth hon oedd:
 - Gwerthuso'r data macrobenthig ac amgylcheddol presennol.
 - Gwneud dadansoddiadau ystadegol newydd o'r data a dehongli canlyniadau'r dadansoddiadau hynny.
 - Gwneud argymhellion ar gyfer rhaglen monitro ystyrlon a chost effeithiol, a fyddai'r orau i'w defnyddio ar gyfer gwerthuso'r ansawdd biolegol yn rheolaidd ar raddfa eang, mewn perthynas ag amrediad o effeithiau anthropogenig.
4. Gwerthuswyd y data presennol o ran:
 - Cynllun yr arolwg a'r fethodoleg samplu.
 - Cyfatebiaeth y data amgylcheddol a macrobenthig o ran lleoliadau ac adegau samplu.
 - Ansawdd tacsonomig.
 - Cyflwyno a storio'r data.
 - Dadansoddi a dehongli'r data.
5. Mae'r gwerthusiad a wnaed yn cefnogi'r farn bod gwerth ac ansawdd y data presennol yn eithriadol o uchel. Mae'r modd y cynlluniwyd yr arolygon, y methodolegau samplu, manylder y disgrifiadau tacsonomig a'r modd y cyflwynwyd y data i gyd yn gwbl ddigonol. Yr oedd angen rhywfaint o ddiweddarau a chywiros rhai gwallau tacsonomig, a chynhwyswyd y data golygedig mewn taenlenni Excel ar CD a atodir i'r adroddiad hwn. Byddai wedi bod yn fuddiol rhoi rhagor o sylw i'r dadansoddi a'r dehongli gwreiddiol, yn enwedig yn yr astudiaethau cynharaf. Ar gyfer yr astudiaethau diweddaraf defnyddiwyd y dulliau dadansoddi data un-newidyn ac aml-amrywedd mwyaf blaengar, ond ychydig o amser a gafwyd i ddehongli'r dadansoddiadau hynny oherwydd yr amser maith a dreuliwyd ar y gwaith anhepgorol o adnabod y

- samplau. Yr oedd absenoldeb data biomas o'r holl astudiaethau graddfa eang a gynhaliwyd yn y ddyfrffordd yn drueni, gan fod hynny'n gwahardd defnyddio rhai dangosyddion ansawdd dyfnforol gwerthfawr.
6. Darlunnir ystod eang o'r technegau dadansoddi data un-newidyn, dosraniadol ac aml-amrywedd, gan gyfeirio at ddwy astudiaeth enghreifftiol, sef yr astudiaeth ofodol yn Hydref 1996 (Levell et al., 1997) ac astudiaeth treillio Neyland yn 2004-5, gan mai yn honno, er gwaethaf ei chwmpas gofodol cyfyngedig, y ceir y data cyfatebol gorau am gyflenwad rhywogaethau a biomas.
 7. Mae dadansoddiad aml-amrywedd o saith set ddata ofodol yn dangos patrwm cyffredinol o newid graddol yn y cymunedau, o'r rhannau mewnol o'r Hafan i'r rhannau allanol; ac y mae'r patrymau hyn yn dra thebyg pan gymherir samplau hidledig 0.5 ac 1 mm, a hefyd pan gymherir lefelau teulu a rhywogaeth.
 8. Mae cyfansoddiad y cyfosodiadau yn dangos cydberthyniad â'r paramedrau helïedd yn yr arolygon sy'n ymestyn ymhell i fyny'r aber; ac â gronynometreg y gwaddod yn rhannau canol ac allanol yr Hafan, lle mae'r helïedd yn gyfan gwbl forol i bob pwrpas. Nid oedd unrhyw gydberthyniad amlwg â hydrocarbonau aromatig (PAH), cyfanswm carbon organig (TOC) na chrynodiadau metelau, ac yr oedd cyfansoddiad y cymunedau'n dibynnu i raddau helaeth ar newidynnau amgylcheddol naturiol.
 9. Yn yr astudiaeth enghreifftiol a gynhaliwyd yn Hydref 1996, a oedd yn cwmpasu'r parth daearyddol llawn, nid oedd unrhyw ddisgrifiydd un-newidyn o'r cyfosodiadau yn dangos cydberthyniad â gronynometreg na chrynodiadau hydrocarbon. Yr oedd y cyfoeth rhywogaethau (d), gwastadrwydd (J'), amrywioldeb Shannon (H') ac amrywioldeb Simpson (1-Lambda') i gyd yn cynyddu wrth i'r helïedd gynyddu, tra oedd yr amrywiad yr arwahanrwydd tacsonomig (Lambda⁺) yn lleihau. Nid oedd y mynegeion sy'n weddill, sef AMBI, N, Delta* a Delta⁺ yn dangos unrhyw duedd i gynyddu na lleihau ochr yn ochr â helïedd. Mae'r arwahanrwydd tacsonomig o fewn yr amrediad a ddisgwyllir ar gyfer y rhan fwyaf o'r gorsafoedd. Yr oedd y pellter tacsonomig cyfartalog AvTD yn arwyddocaol isel yn ambell un, a/neu'r amrywiad arwahanrwydd tacsonomig VarTD yn uwch, sy'n dynodi ymyrraeth, ond ni chanfuwyd unrhyw reswm amlwg. Mae statws ecolegol y rhan fwyaf o'r gorsafoedd naill ai'n Dda neu'n Gymedrol yn ôl eu sgoriau AMBI.
 10. Nid yw'r dulliau aml-amrywedd sensitif na'r mesurau amrywioldeb un-newidyn yn dynodi unrhyw newidiadau hirdymor dros gyfnod yr astudiaeth mewn wyth o astudiaethau gofodol islanwol. Digwyddodd newidiadau yn y cyflenwad o rai Teuluoedd penodol ar ôl gorlifiad olew y Sea Empress ym 1996.
 11. Ym mhob un o astudiaethau islanwol Aberdaugleddau, mae gwerthoedd yr arwahanrwydd tacsonomig cyfartalog yn uwch na chyfartaledd y safleoedd yn y DU a gynhwyswyd yn yr astudiaeth gan y Rhaglen Monitro Morol Genedlaethol (RhMMG), sy'n awgrymu nad yw'r fioamrywiaeth wedi ei diraddio o gymharu ag ardaloedd morol eraill.

12. Mae Cymhariaeth Cyflenwad/Biomass(CCB) a metaddadansoddiad ar lefel ffylwm, sydd ill dau'n galw am ddata biomass yn ogystal â data cyflenwad, yn canfod effeithiau andwyol yr arllwysiad o'r marina yn Neyland.
13. Datgelodd y monitro gan RhMMG ger Cosheton Point newid annisgwyl yng nghyfansoddiad y cymunedau a lleihad yn yr amrywioldeb ar ôl 1999; hwyrach y gellir cysylltu hyn â chynnydd mewn treillio am wystrys. Mae'r plotiau CCB hefyd yn awgrymu ymyrraeth.
14. Mae'r astudiaethau rhynglanwol yn datgelu newid graddol yn y cymunedau, o rannau mewnol yr Hafan i'r rhannau allanol, ochr yn ochr â chynnydd yn yr amrywioldeb. Gwelir bod cydberthyniad rhwng y newidiadau hyn â'r cynnydd mewn heliedd ac â maint gronynnau'r gwaddod. Ar ôl y gorlifiad olew o'r Sea Empress sylwid ar newid mewn cymunedau yn Angle Bay, ond nid yn Sandy Haven nac yn Afon Penfro.
15. Argymhellir rhaglen o wyliadwriaeth a fydd yn cynnwys samplu yn flynyddol mewn naw o orsafoedd islanwol, gan gymryd pum enghraifft ym mhob un, hidlo ar 0.5 mm, dadansoddi'r samplau yn gyntaf oll hyd at lefel teulu, mesur y biomass teulu fel y pwysau gwlyb blotiedig, ac archifo'r samplau ar gyfer dadansoddi pellach os bydd angen. Gyda'r data hyn gellir pennu amrediad llawn o ddangosyddion amgylcheddol benthig.