

Inverness Harbour Trust Development: Sediment Survey



Client: Inverness Harbour Trust
Project duration: 3 months

Project description:

Inverness Harbour Trust proposed an extension of the foreshore at Longman Bay in order to provide additional storage space and marine facilities. In view of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, and in order to assess the potential impact of the development upon the mudflats at this site, an assessment of the sediments' invertebrate biodiversity and biomass was carried out.

The baseline survey consisted of five transects. A total of 6 replicate cores were taken at each station. Five

replicate faunal samples were collected using a corer, and one core sample was used for sediment particle size determination. At four stations, five 0.5m x 0.5m quadrat samples were taken to assess the abundance and percentage cover of macroalgae.

Key elements:

The benthic macrofauna of the samples obtained from the areas within the proposed development site were on the whole typical of a tidally swept estuarine littoral zone.



Digital image of *Ascophyllum nodosum* and attached epiphyte *Polysiphonia lanosa*.
