

ATTACHMENT 9
SITE CONDITION REPORT

Prepared by:
Eco Analyst
P.O. Box 224
Bath, ME 04530
207-837-2442

Environmental Assessment

1.0 Introduction

ECO-ANALYSTS, INC. (EA) has been conducting work at the formally Yachting Solutions Marina in Rockland, Maine (now Safe Harbor Rockland, LLC) since 2017. EA has used that experience plus a June 17, 2021 site visit to re-familiarize and supplement earlier observations to provide an Environmental Assessment of existing conditions as well as well as predicting post construction conditions at the site. Work to be conducted includes dredging with already permitted upland disposal, modifications to the existing structures, and the addition of more ramps and floats. Those activities are described in detail in other exhibits in the Application.

2.0 Methodologies

Following the receipt of a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EA collected core samples to dredge depth throughout the Marina Basin. We also used a view tube to inventory the habitats throughout the site which initially included areas outside of the proposed dredging and expansion areas. EA has been conducting marine evaluations for approximately 30 years and has a sight image of all plant and animal species (including macro-invertebrates) typically encountered in Intertidal and Sub-tidal habitats. We also observe activities such as lobster trap buoys and other harvesting activities to determine whether or not species not readily observed may be in the project area. Particular attention is paid to Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*).

3.0 Observations

3.1 Substrates

Considerable amounts of boulders and cobbles were found to the south and east of the existing granite crib pier. Probing in that area did not reveal any bedrock. The areas between the exposed rocks included fine sediments which overlaid glacial till. The final design is outside

of that area. The remainder of the substrates throughout the proposed project area are fines over till. There are widely scattered cobbles out to the ten foot contour line on the south and east side of the existing granite crib pier. Some woody debris is also present.

The outer areas towards the Federal Channel has previously been dredged and generally has a layer of fines over till. No rocks or debris were noted. The inner area to the west which will be dredged to 6 feet has a couple of abandoned granite mooring blocks with chain still attached plus some woody debris over fines and till.

3.2 Vegetation

No Eelgrass was observed. The scattered boulders and cobbles have Sugar Kelp (*Saccharina latissima*), Horsetail Kelp (*Laminaria digitata*) and Bladder Wrack (*Fucus vesiculosus*) growing on them. Both species of kelp were observed on the abandoned mooring chains. Bladderwrack is growing on the abandoned mooring blocks and the woody debris. These species all are abundant on the granite pier.

3.3 Animals

A few Blue Mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) were observed attached to the scattered boulders and cobbles. They, Rock Barnacles (*Semibalanus balanoides*), and Periwinkles (*Littorina littorea*) are abundant on the granite pier. Sandworms (*Nereis virens*) were found in sediment sample cores collected for Bulk Chemistry analyses, indicating that they are common throughout.

4.0 Post Dredging Habitat

Experience at numerous dredge projects has shown that seaweeds and kelps colonize pilings post dredging which in this project will provide more habitat than will be removed on boulders and cobbles. The same will be true for Blue Mussels. Sandworms are mobile and are pelagic spawners and will quickly recolonize the dredged area. No adverse impacts to habitats and communities is expected.