



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Virtual Regional Workshop on bivalve molluscs sanitation

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Growing Area Risk Profile and Assessments

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Cefas

Growing Area Risk Profile

INTENT TO HARVEST

PROCEED?

no

NO HARVEST ALLOWED

yes

GROWING AREA ASSESSMENT

PRIMARY MONITORING

CLASSIFICATION

Category IV

NO HARVEST ALLOWED

Category I,II or III

ONGOING MONITORING

GROWING AREA MANAGEMENT

REVIEW

- **First stage of process**
- **Initial assessment**
- **Results in Go/No Go Decision**

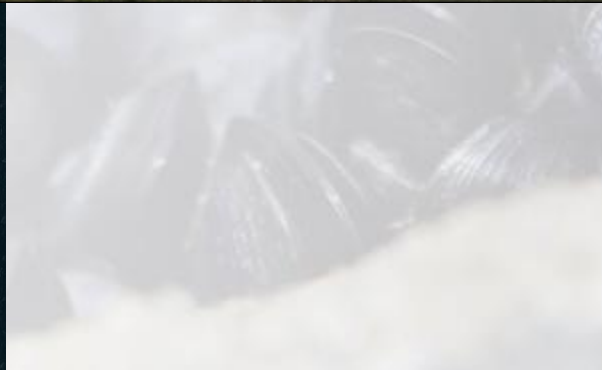
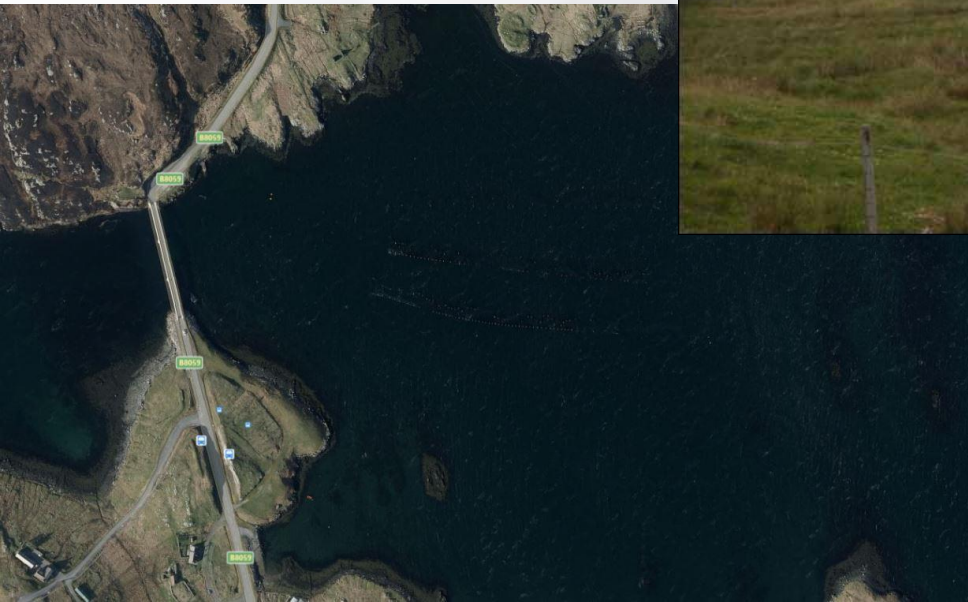
Key Parts of a Growing Area Risk Profile

1. Area overview
2. Scope
3. Existing legal framework
4. Current Industry
5. Extent of area
6. Epidemiological and public health data
7. Intended use and consumers
8. Other relevant information
9. Hazards to be considered
10. Programme capabilities
11. Cost benefit analysis
12. Conclusions and Recommendation
13. Documentation

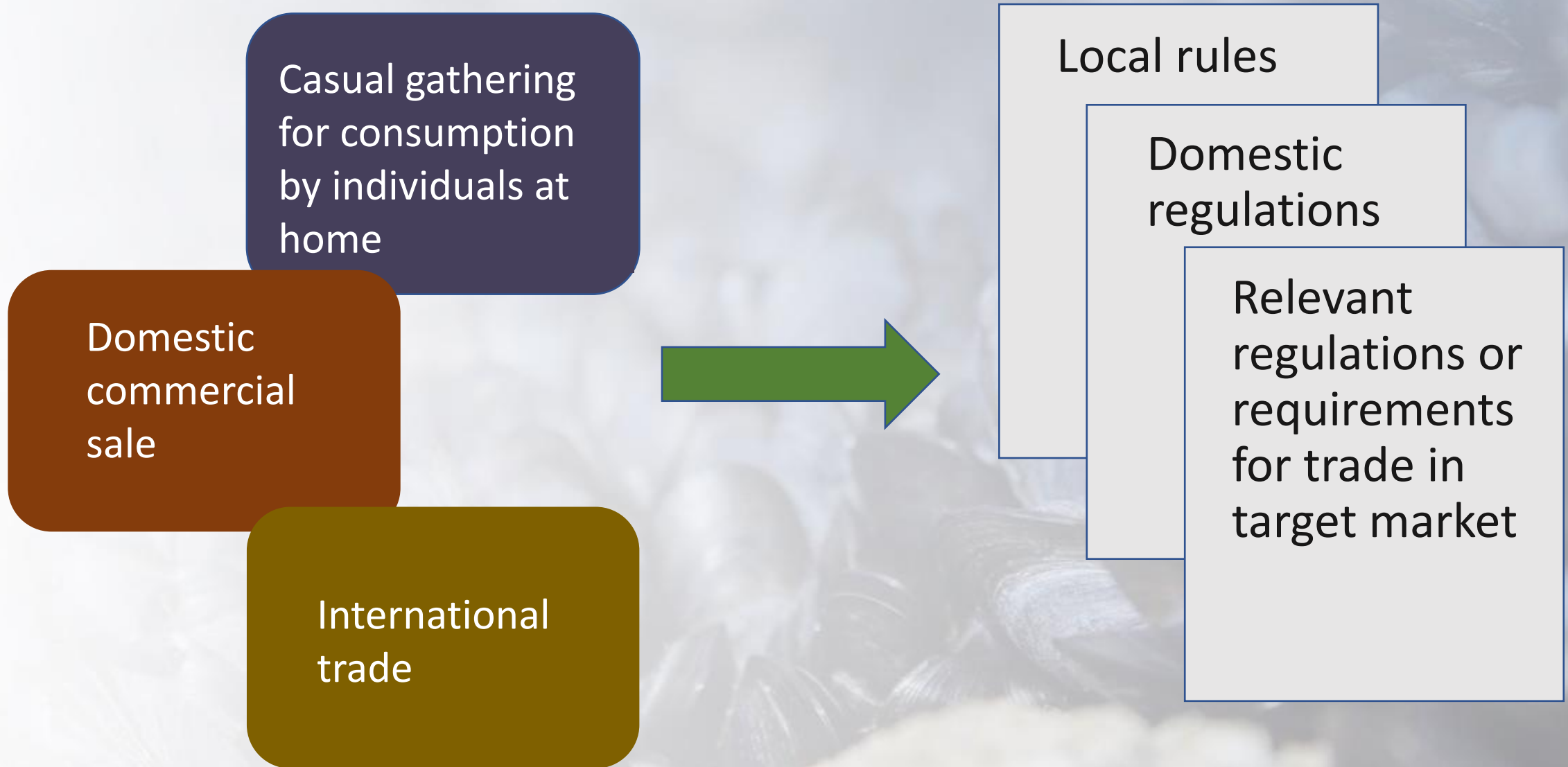


1. Area Overview

Describes the geographic location and sets context

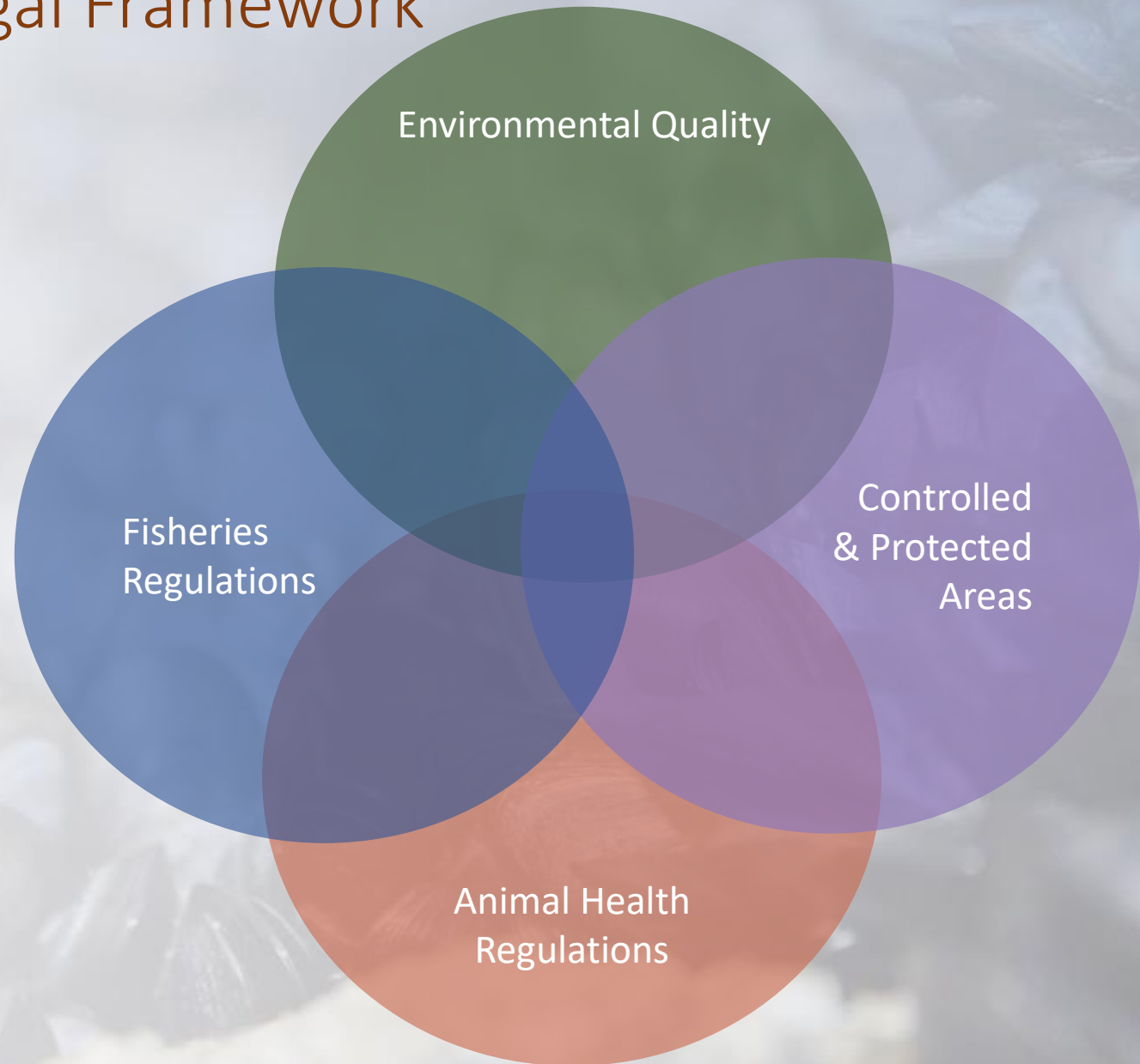


2. Scope of Risk Profile

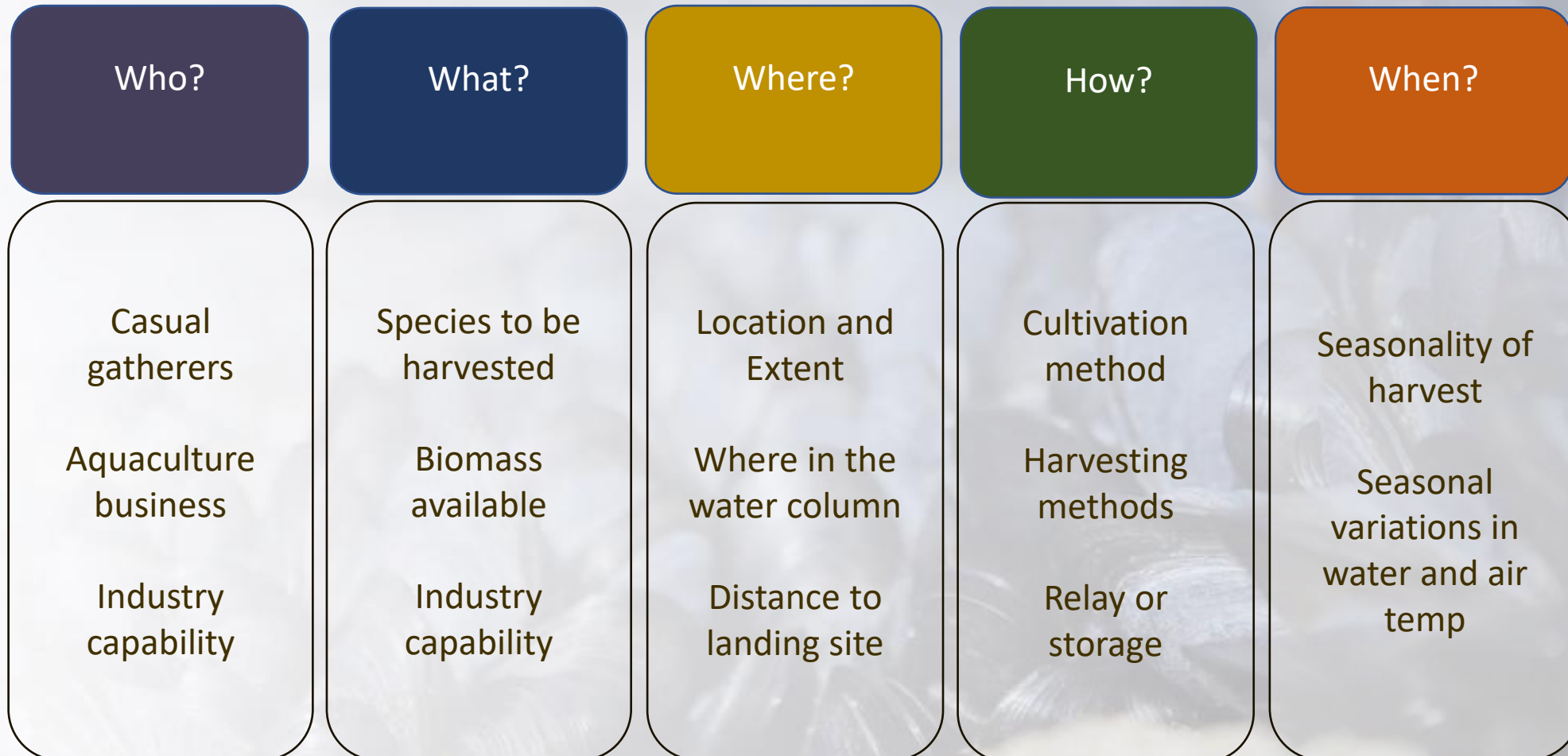


3. Existing Legal Framework

- Current relevant food safety regulations, standards and other requirements
- Jurisdictions and responsible authorities
- Other official bodies with responsibilities relating to growing areas
- Interactions between Food Safety authorities and other responsible bodies

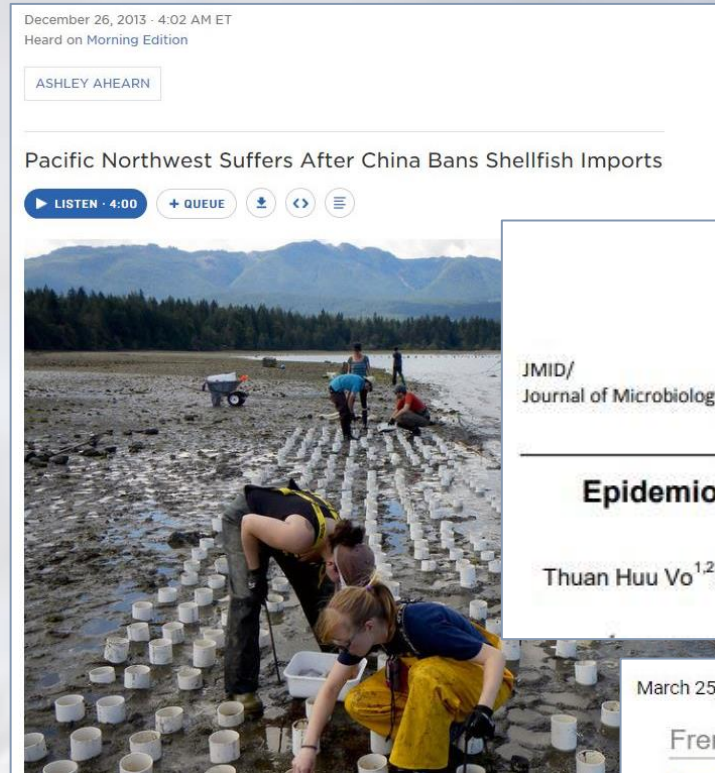


4. Current Industry and Resources



6. Epidemiological and Public Health Data

- Useful to identify and rank hazards
- International data
 - [Global Health Observatory \(who.int\)](http://www.who.int)
- Occurrence of illnesses in population
- Growing area specific data
- Evidence of previous outbreaks
 - Root cause investigations



7. Intended Use and Consumers

- Societal consumption patterns, considering likely consuming population
 - FAO provide guidance on consumption studies
- Presentation, processing and/or preparation
- Identify high risk consumers



8. Other Relevant Information

- Aspects related to contamination sources

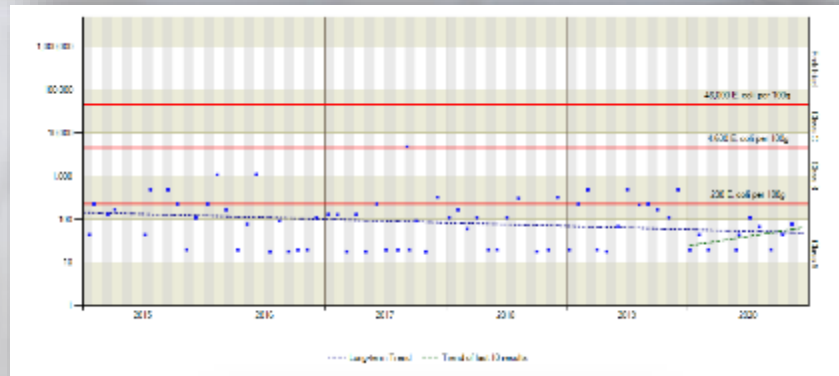
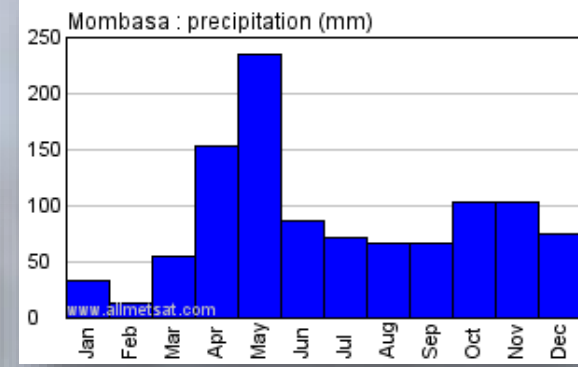
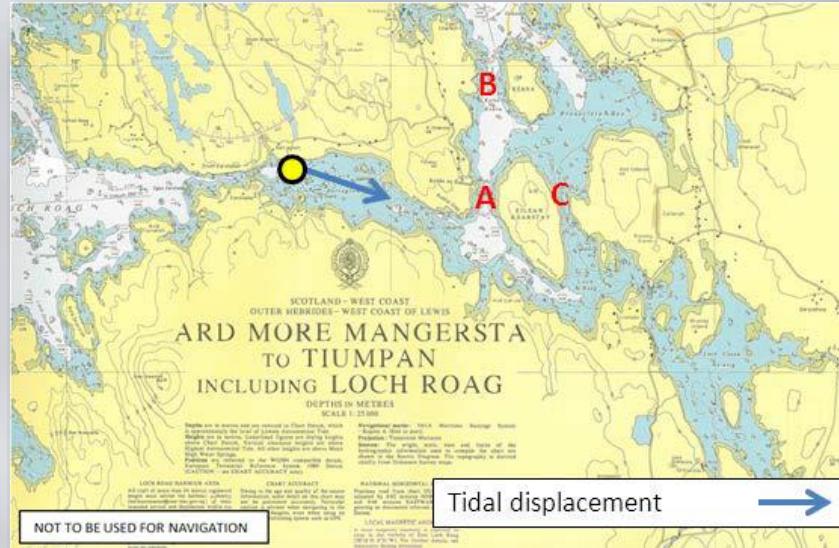
- Human activity
 - Land-based
 - Water-based
- Sewage disposal
- Areas with many farm animals
- Areas with large wildlife populations
- Watercourses
- Geology – naturally occurring contaminants



9. Hazards to be Considered

- Which hazards to consider?
 - Microbial, chemical, biotoxin, radiological
- Guided by:
- Regulatory requirements and risks
 - end use of product
 - resources available (prioritise?)

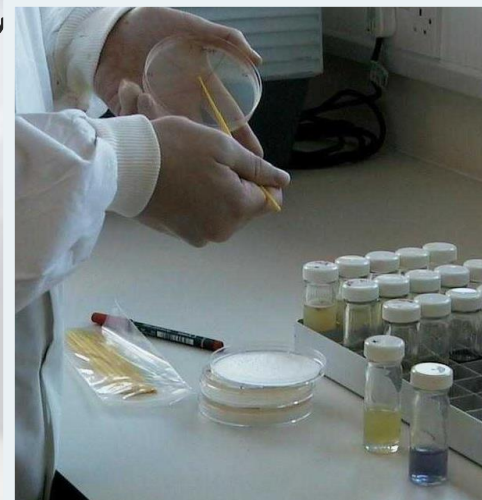
- Aspects affecting hazard impact
 - Topography
 - Water depth and movement
 - Rainfall and river flow
 - Seawater temperature and salinity
 - Existing monitoring data
 - Vibrio spp. – whether these could multiply in harvested product



10. Programme Capability and Capacity

Key needs:

- Relevant authority
- Appropriate budgetary resources
- Suitably qualified staff
- Ability to provide appropriate training
- Relevant and sufficient equipment, computers, software
- One or more laboratories with relevant expertise, capacity and location



11. Cost Benefit Analysis

- Estimate of overall medium-term cost for the programme for a growing area should be determined
 - Growing area assessment
 - Primary monitoring
 - Initial review
 - First 3 years ongoing monitoring



- Estimate of overall benefits over the same period of time should be determined
 - Value at first sale
 - Value to local community
 - Access to markets (if applicable)
 - Public health protection



12. Conclusions and Recommendations

Outcome of Growing Area Risk Profile:

- Summary of key features
- Knowledge gaps identified
- What is needed to fill gaps?
- Decision to proceed? Yes/No



No?:

- Gaps in knowledge too great
- Level of faecal pollution likely to be unacceptable
- Post harvest treatment will not reduce risks to acceptable levels
- If biotoxins, chemical contaminants, or radionuclides likely to be above acceptable limits most, or all, of time

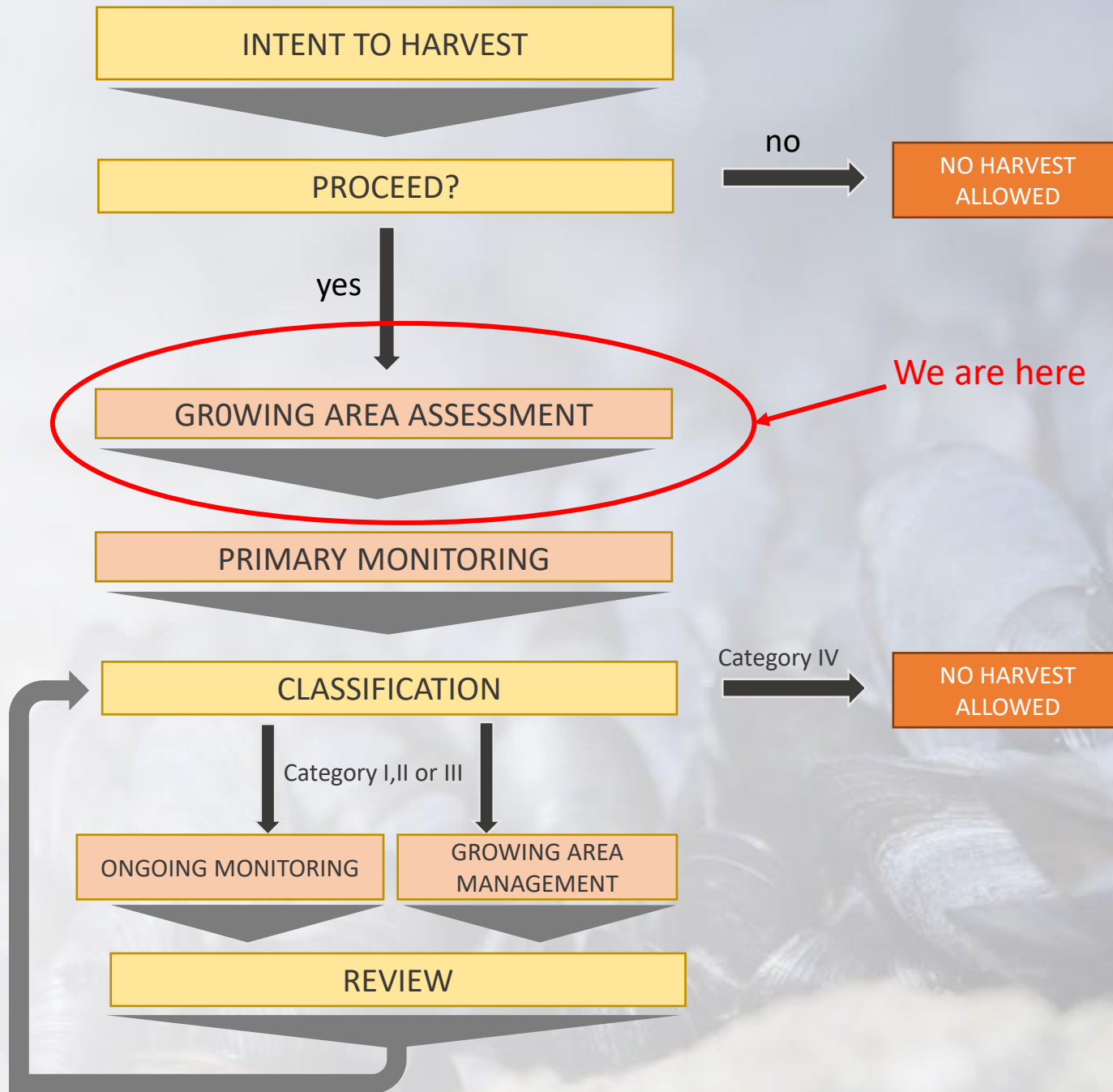
13. Documenting GARP

- Conclusions and recommendations **documented** with clear link to supporting information (i.e. traceability)
- Documentation should be available to responsible authority and stakeholders
- Provides basis for subsequent reviews and Growing Area Assessment if application proceeds...



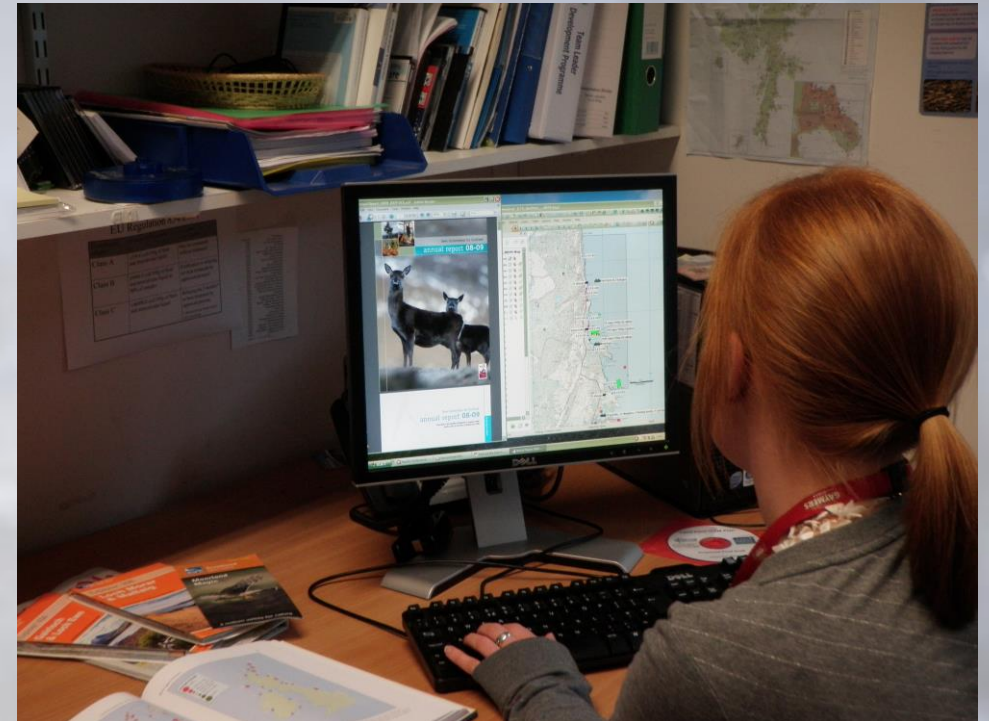
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Should assessment and monitoring be progressed (go/no go)?> If yes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Hazards to be considered> Boundaries of assessment area> Capability/capacity requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The inclusion of relevant maps will assist the verification and assessment of the information and data.	





Components of a Growing Area Assessment

- Additional data gathering
- Shoreline survey
- Indicator/hazard survey
- Data analysis and assessment
- Outcomes
 - Extent of classified growing area
 - Recommendations for primary monitoring
 - Risk management plan
 - Documentation



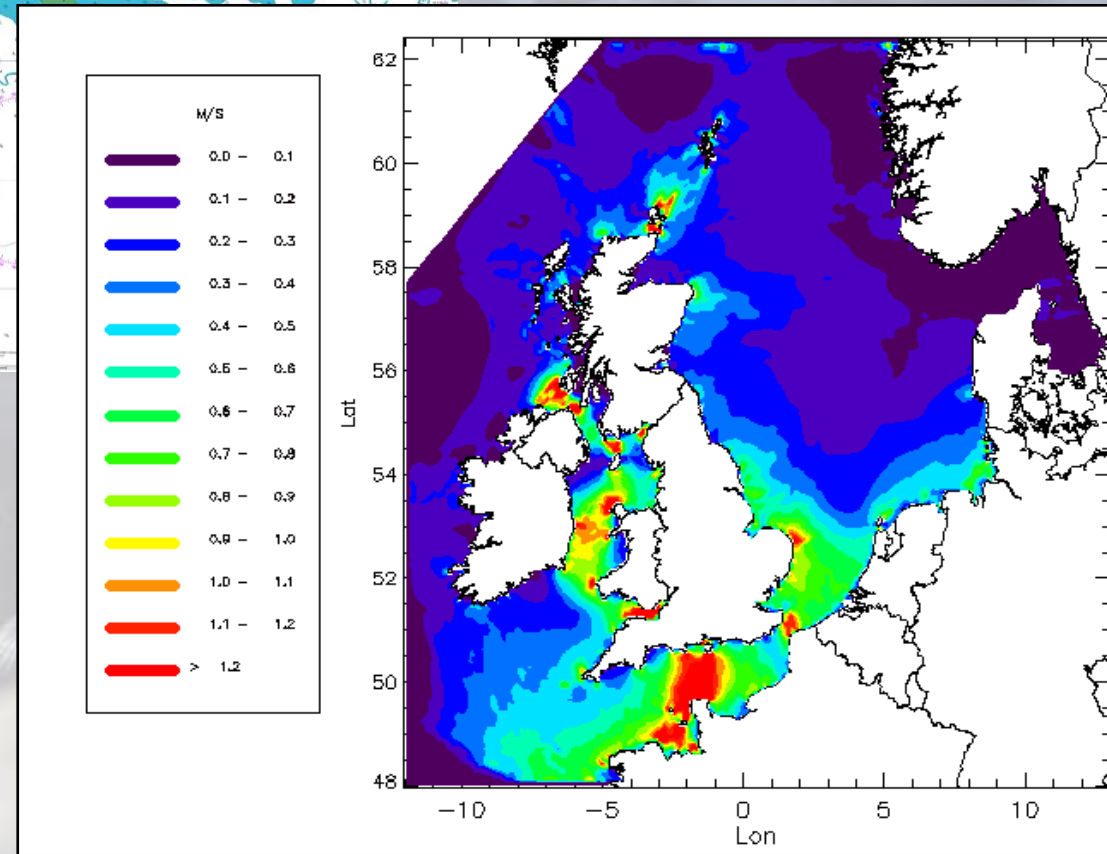
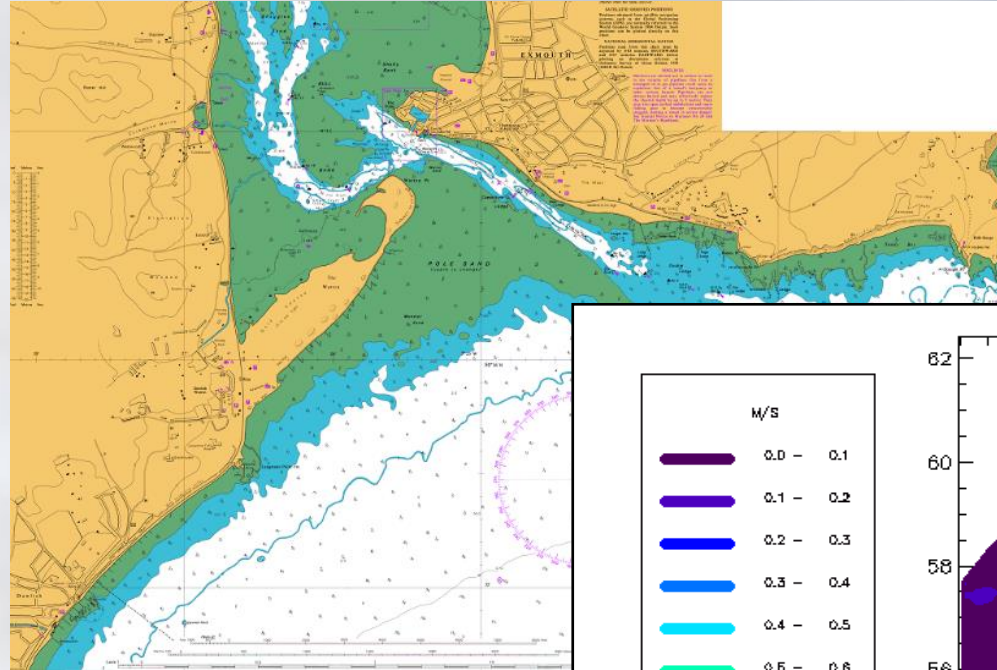
Data Gathering 1– Human Impacts

- Sources of contamination
 - Human sewage
 - Treatment works
 - Sewerage systems
 - Sludge handling
 - Direct defaecation
 - Shipping/boating
 - Land use
 - Mining and waste disposal
 - Livestock farming
 - Grazing
 - Animal slaughter facilities and wastes
 - Animal slurry spreading
 - Fertilizer application
 - External medical treatments
 - Other human activities
 - Industrial waste
 - Refuse sites



Data Gathering 2 - Environment

- Wild animals/birds
- Watercourses
- Geology
- Topography
- Hydrography
 - Depth areas
 - Tides
 - Water movement
- Meteorology
 - Rainfall
 - Wind
 - Severe storms
 - Solar radiation
- Seawater salinity and temperature



Shoreline Survey

PLAN

- Health and Safety
- Access
- Tides
- Daylight
- Weather
- Seasonality

CONDUCT

- Seek and record information
- Locate relevant features
- Confirm data gathering
- Fill in data gaps
- Note differences
- Photograph
- Measure



Indicator/Hazard Survey

General microbiological hazards

- Sample on at least 3 occasions
- At least 2 weeks apart
- Target sampling
- Where possible, at least one sample should coincide with shoreline survey

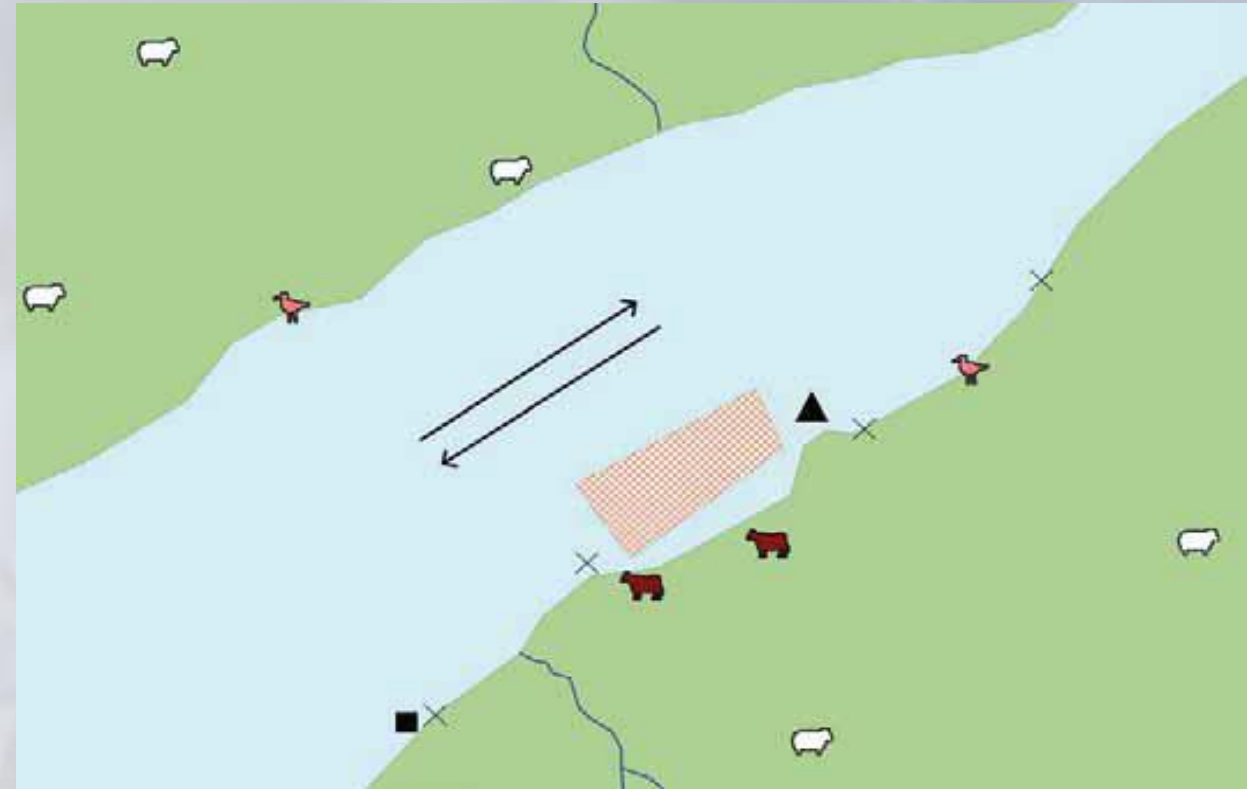
Assessing treatment efficiency of sewage works

- Paired samples
- Influent and effluent
- Average estimation



Data Analysis and Assessment

- Analytical approaches
 - Descriptive/Qualitative
 - Simplest means of assessment
 - Uses descriptive information
 - Relies on expert judgement
 - May be dictated by lack of data
 - Semi-quantitative
 - Uses ranking with loading score
 - Based on level of risk

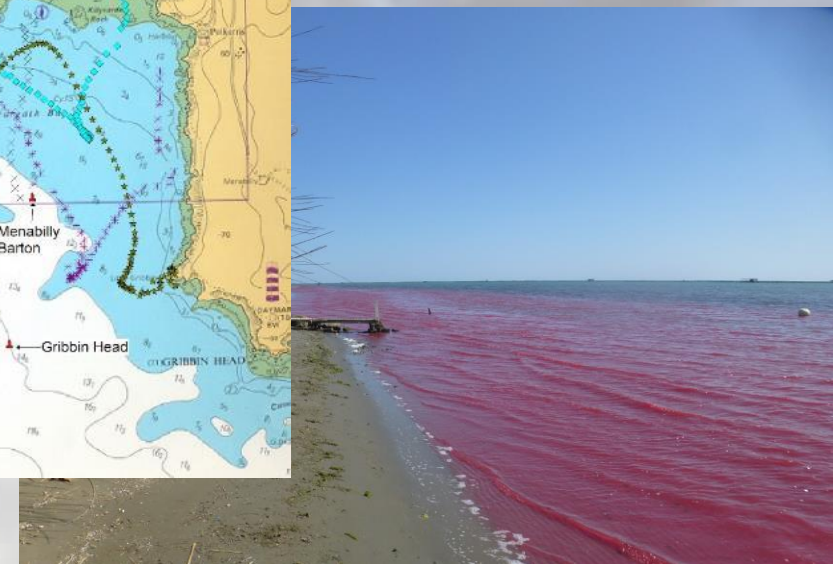
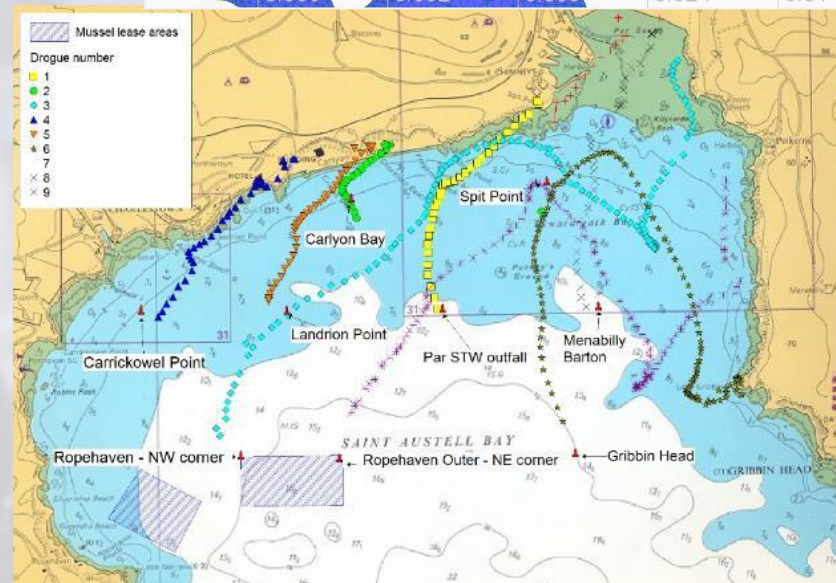
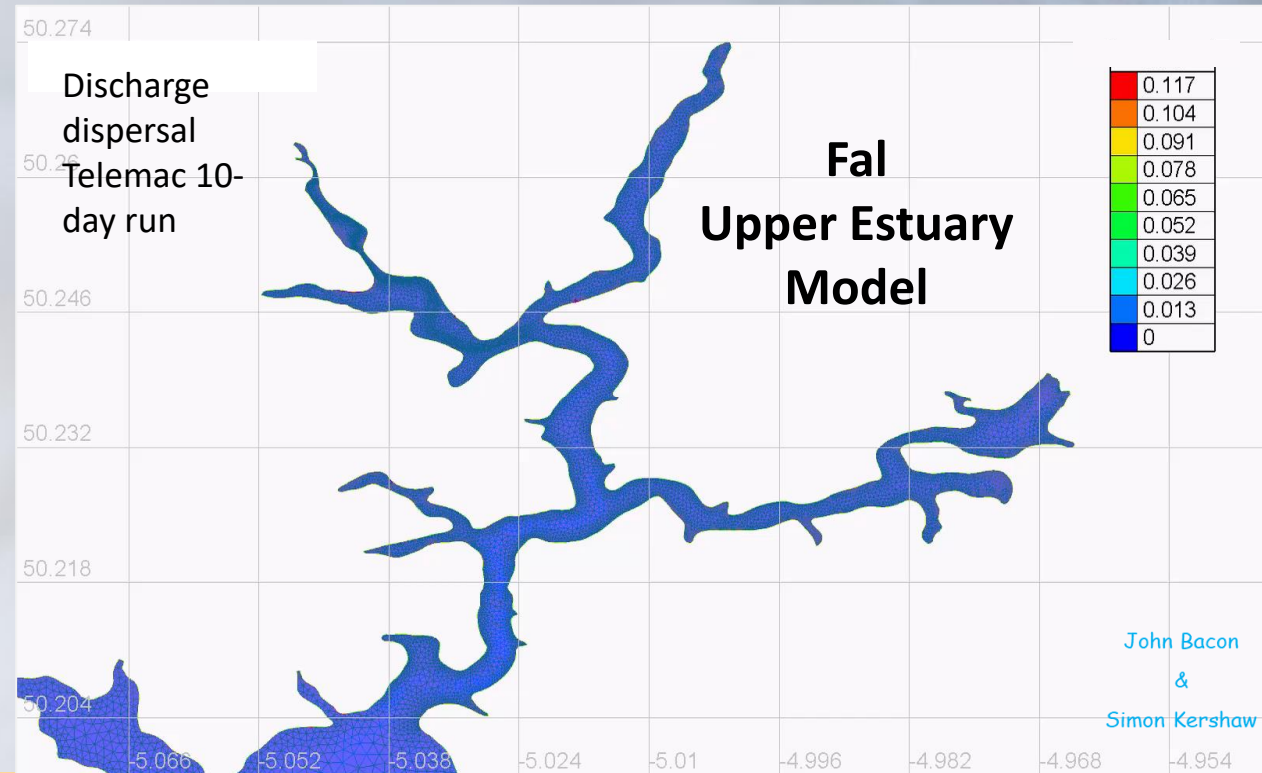


ASSESSMENT POINT 1

SOURCE	RELATIVE LOADING	OCCURRENCE	PROXIMITY	IMPACT
Continuous discharge	2	3	3	18
Intermittent discharge	3	1	5	15
Cattle farm 1	1	1	5	5
Cattle farm 2	1	2	4	8
Total				41

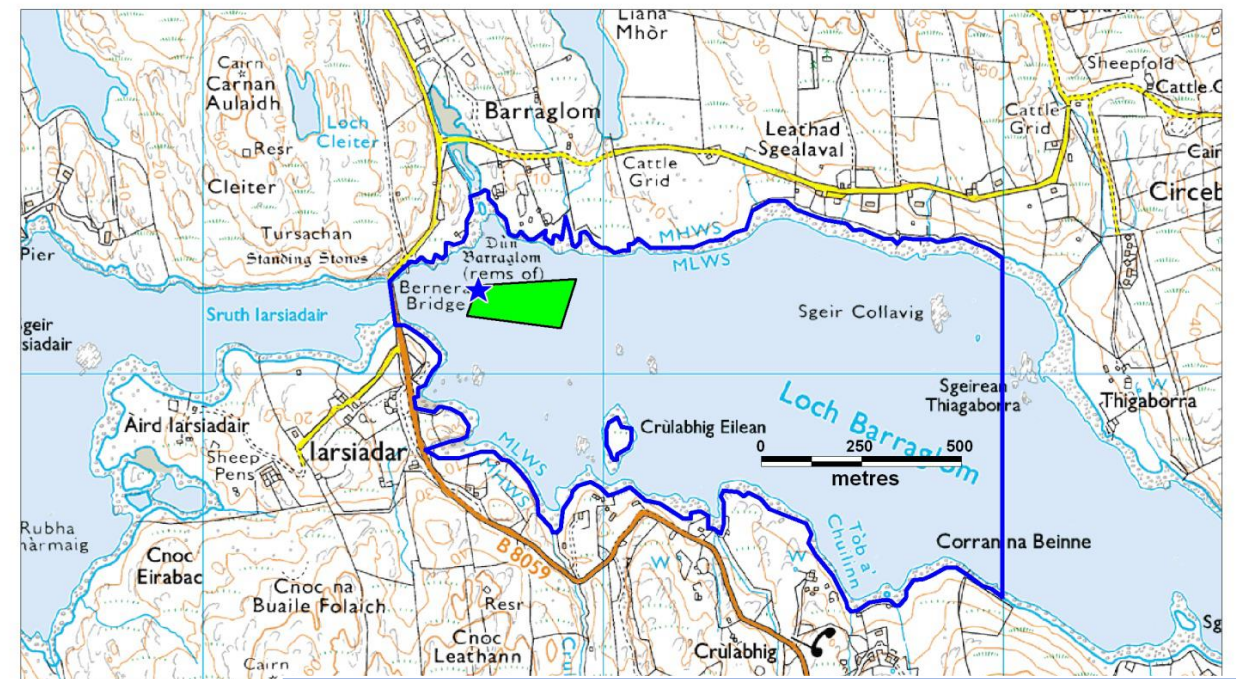
Quantitative Assessment

- Quantitative source estimation
 - Use common metric
 - Variability in hazard content, rate of input
 - Estimate uncertainties
- Quantitative transport estimation
 - Dilution calculations based on simple volume
 - Calculations of dilution based on salinity reduction
 - Tidal stream estimations
 - Tracer studies
 - Hydrodynamic modelling



Outcomes

- Extent of classified growing area
- Recommendations for primary monitoring
- Risk management planning
 - If conditional criteria apply
- Documentation



Recommendations

- ★ RMP
- ▭ Production area

Fishery

- ▭ Mussel lines

Example Sampling Plan	
Growing Area	Broad Bay
Site Name	Smith Oyster Farm 1
Species	Pacific oyster (<i>C. gigas</i>)
Type of fishery	Aquaculture – intertidal racks
Method of sampling	Hand
Monitoring point	Sample Point A
Latitude	55.25819
Longitude	-4.86718
Tolerance	20 m
Depth	Not applicable
Frequency	Monthly
Authorised samplers	J. James, A. Norton
Growing area boundaries	Area bounded by a line drawn from 56.11290, -4.88736 to 54.99450, -4.85814 and extending to MHWS within the bay.