FAO Reference Centre for Bivalve Sanitation workshop on the development of bivalve production in Africa

8th – 10th July 2025, Nairobi, Kenya

Combining and Assessing desk based and field survey data

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Indicator/Hazard Survey

Additional data on presence of indicators and/or hazards, in water or bivalves

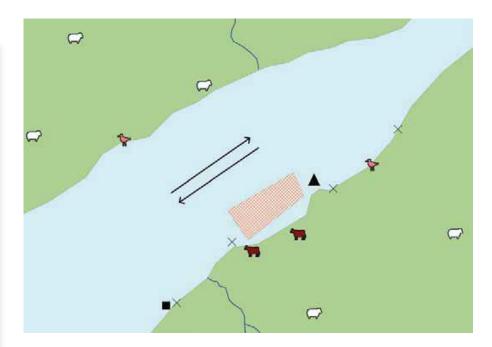
- Locations based on desk phase information
- Timing and frequency dependent on target
 - Seasonality
 - Conditional dependence
- For general microbiological indicators
 - At least 3 occasions
 - At least 2 weeks between
 - At least 1 sample during shoreline survey

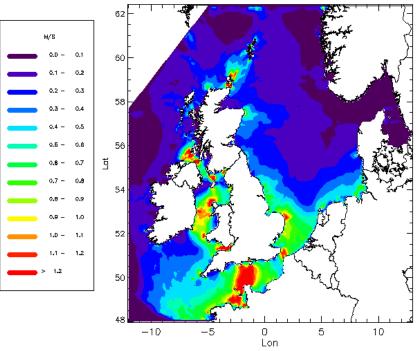




Data Analysis and Assessment

- 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
- Quantitative
 - Source estimation
 - Transport estimation



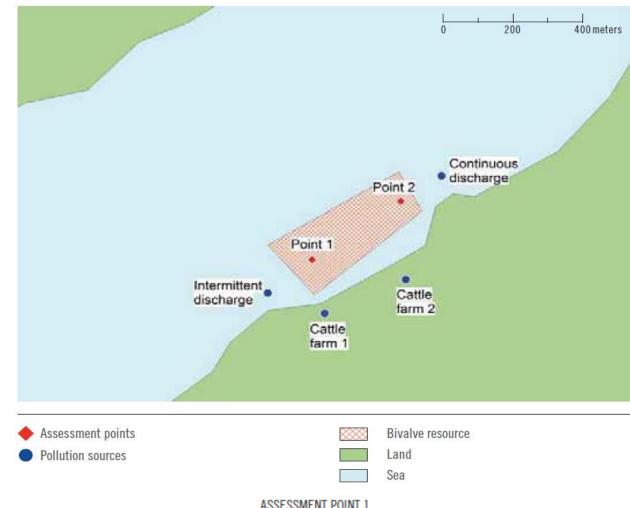


Semi-quantitative assessment

Uses a ranking method for estimating impacts based on:

- Loading (greatest potential contribution)
- Occurrence frequency
- Proximity to shellfish resource

Estimated impact = (Occurrence x Proximity) x Relative loading



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

- Estimated loadings (e.g. bacteria/day)
- Variability likely range
- Uncertainty estimation

Quantitative transport estimation

- Dilution calculations
- Tidal streams (transport distance)
- Tracer studies
- Hydrodynamic modelling

Quantitative impact estimation

 Average concentration, variability at assessment point(s) under range of conditions

Validation of data and outputs

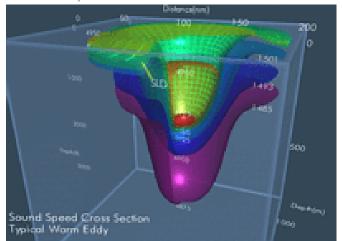
- Sensibility check
- Data used separate from that used to support assessment itself
- Model validation requires field measurement

Indicator organism	Base-flow conditions				High-flow conditions			
Treatment levels and specific types: Faecal coliforms	n°	Geometric mean	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	n°	Geometric mean	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Untreated	252	1.7 x 10 ⁷ *(+)	1.4 x 10 ⁷	2.0 x 10 ⁷	28 2	2.8 x 10 ⁶ *(-)	2.3 x 10 ⁶	3.2 x 10 ⁶
Crude sewage discharges	252	1.7 x 10 ⁷ *(+)	1.4 x 10 ⁷	2.0 x 10 ⁷	79	3.5 x 10 ⁶ *(-)	2.6 x 10 ⁶	4.7 x 10 ⁶
Storm sewage overflows					20 3	2.5 x 10 ⁶	2.0 x 10 ⁶	2.9 x 10 ⁶
Primary	127	1.0 x 10 ⁷ (+)	8.4 x 10 ⁶	1.3 x 10 ⁷	14	4.6 x 10 ⁶ (-)	2.1 x 10 ⁶	1.0 x 10 ⁷
Primary settled sewage	60	1.8 x 10 ⁷	1.4 x 10 ⁷	2.1 x 10 ⁷	8	5.7 x 10 ⁶		
Stored settled sewage	25	5.6 x 10 ⁶	3.2 x 10 ⁶	9.7 x 10 ⁶	1	8.0 x 10 ⁵		
Settled septic tank	42	7.2 x 10 ⁶	4.4 x 10 ⁶	1.1 x 10 ⁷	5	4.8 x 10 ⁶		
Secondary	864	3.3 x 10 ⁵ *(-)	2.9 x 10 ⁵	3.7 x 10 ⁵	18 4	5.0 x 10 ⁵ *(+)	3.7 x 10 ⁵	6.8 x 10 ⁵
Trickling filter	477	4.3 x 10 ⁵	3.6 x 10 ⁵	5.0 x 10 ⁵	76	5.5 x 10 ⁵	3.8 x 10 ⁵	8.0 x 10 ⁵
Activated sludge	261	2.8 x 10 ⁵ (-)	2.2 x 10 ⁵	3.5 x 10 ⁵	93	5.1 x 10 ⁵ *(+)	3.1 x 10 ⁵	8.5 x 10 ⁵
Oxidation ditch	35	2.0 x 10 ⁵	1.1 x 10 ⁵	3.7 x 10 ⁵	5	5.6 x 10 ⁵		The same of the sa
Trickling/sand filter	11	2.1 x 10 ⁵	9.0 x 10 ⁴	6.0 x 10 ⁵	8	1.3 x 10 ⁵	7 6	
Rotating biological contactor	80	1.6 x 10 ⁵	1.1 x 10 ⁵	2.3 x 10 ⁵	2	6.7 x 10 ⁵	B	B

Source: Kay, D. et al (2008) Faecal indicator organism concentrations in sewage an effluents. Water Research 42, 442-454.

 2.8×10^{2}

Reedbed/grass plot



5.4 x 10³ 3.4 x 10⁴









Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science



Exercise: Interpret data and rank impacts

Using the data provided for the Pacific oyster growing area at Tobermory Bay and a semi-quantitative approach:

- Identify the principal sources of contamination
- Rank the sources based on relative loading, occurrence, and proximity
- Calculate the impact