



*Surveying benthic communities using sampling grab*

## Environmental Scoping

### Project

Royal Portbury and Avonmouth Docks

### Client

The Bristol Port Company

### Background

The Royal Portbury and Avonmouth Docks lie on the Severn Estuary, a site of international wildlife importance protected by an extensive framework of domestic and international legislation. This framework could potentially constrain the commercial expansion of Port operations. To test these constraints, The Bristol Port Company engaged Landmark to prepare a scoping study, focussing on the likely effects of a hypothetical Port expansion scheme on marine flora and fauna.

### Description

The scoping needed to provide a clear statement of the likely impacts on the ecology of the immediate environs, and the wider ecosystem of the Severn Estuary, of developing new Port facilities at Bristol. Various development 'options' were tested and strategies for minimising adverse ecological impacts generated by construction and operation of an extended Port were formulated.

The study included a review of the legislative framework and the baseline conditions and trends of the study area. Sedimentary dynamics, benthic fauna, terrestrial ecology and avifauna were investigated against exacting standards. The scoping generated recommendations for further research, which would be necessary for refinement of detailed plans and to substantiate any development consent.

### Client benefits

Rigorous scientific investigation was employed to point to future development options, enabling informed consideration of strategies capable of accommodating both commercial priorities and stringent environmental legislation.