



Seed Mussel Survey Report for Howth, Lambay Sound, Rush and Killiney Bay – 22/06/2015 to 8/07/2015

Vessel: MV T'Burke (BIM), Skipper John Murphy, Survey Officer Nicolas Chopin

Equipment: 400 kHz side scan sonar, 1 meter dredge and underwater camera.

Area surveyed: Doldrum Bay, Nose of Howth and Ireland's Eye Sound; Lambay Sound, Rush; from Sorrento Point to Killiney.

Survey summary (see associated maps):

- Howth: Seed settlements are found around Howth nearly every year, and a survey usually take place after the first load from the bed has been fished; this year it was decided to carry out the survey earlier. Three areas known for previous settlement were checked with the side scan sonar and few marks were taken. The investigation of those showed no traces of seed or visible spat fall, only a small amount of bryozoans, starfish and old bivalve shells. Static fishing gear made some areas impossible to check.
- Lambay Sound/ Rush: As for Howth seed settlement appears every so often in the Lambay Sound and around Rush Point. A lot of static fishing gear in the area impeded a larger scale survey, but the two areas checked, both with side scan sonar and dredge, showed no signs of seed mussel or visible spat. The seabed is mainly composed of bryozoans, old bivalve shells and stones which could be suitable for seed settlement.
- Killiney: Throughout the years, scattered settlement appeared in Killiney and following local divers reports, seed mussel settled on the south side of Dalkey Island. The camera was dropped closed to the island to check the rocks and the seabed but no seed was found, although the tidal rocks looked covered with mussel. The side scan was then deployed at Sorrento Point and then further south in the bay. A few marks were taken and investigated but no traces of seed or visible spat was found. A lot of brittle stars were observed at Sorrento point and mainly shells and bryozoans were found further south.

Recommendations:

No seed was found in the in any of the above locations. Howth could be worth a check later in the season for possible late settlements.

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Notes for the maps:

TH stands for Tow Howth

TL stands for Tow Lambay

TY stands for Tow Killiney

In the legend dgd stands for Dredge