



Seed Mussel Survey Report for the Wicklow Area-8/04/2015 to 22/04/2015

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

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

Area surveyed: from Five Miles Point (North) to Ballynacarrig/ Jack's Hole (South) on the coast within 5 nautical miles of the shore.

Survey summary:

Following the discovery of a small settlement at the back of the Horseshoe Reef in late September 2014, it was decided to leave it over the winter for a potential spring seed fishery.

Few tows were taken in the settlement, but only large starfish with small clumps of dead seed were picked up. Only few mussels are still alive in the area.

The survey was then extended to a wider area where seed was found in 2008, 2009 and 2010 south of Wicklow Head. Large area were covered with the side scan sonar (see Map 1), and 24 tows were made but no mussel was found.

Two areas were checked north of Wicklow but no seed was found (see Map 2).

Bottom type: Little improvement from previous years, stones and gravel with few sandy areas south of the head, gravel and stone on the north side.

Recommendations:

No over winter seed was found so far around Wicklow. The area will be resurveyed later in the season, once possible new spat has settled.

Nicolas Chopin
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Aquaculture Technical Section

Notes for the map:

TW stands for Tow Wicklow

In the legend dgd stands for Dredge

