



## **Seed Mussel Survey report for Castlemaine Harbour/ Cromane – 23/08/2016 and 24/08/2016**

**Vessel:** Local vessel, Skipper John Murphy, Survey Officer Nicolas Chopin.

**Equipment:** 400 kHz side scan sonar, 2 m dredge

**Area surveyed:** In the Channel between Rosbehy Point and Inch Point from the Bar to Jack's Pub.

### **Survey summary:**

There was no report from the industry of large settlement in Castlemaine Harbour/ Cromane this year and according to the larvae monitoring program, only few larvae were observed during the 16 weeks of the survey. Nevertheless, a survey was required prior to a potential opening.

The usual area in the channel between Rosbehy and Inch was surveyed with the side scan sonar but no evidence of seed settlement was observed. Few features were marked for further investigation. Important changes in the sand banks were observed as well, the width of the channel has been greatly reduced due to those shifts.

A total of 11 tows were made both on previously marked features and outside of those, but no viable seed was found. Few traces of recently settled spat were observed but in very small quantities and only a small area with slightly older seed (few millimetres in length) were found but a lot of damage from predation from starfish and crabs made the area unfishable.

### **Recommendation:**

No seed was found in Castlemaine this year. From the data collected during the larvae monitoring and local knowledge, it seems that an early settlement took place but did not produce any viable seed. A late spawning was observed as well, which would correspond to the sighting of newly settled spat. This phenomenon occurred in 2013 as well, when two spat fall were observed but none produced any viable seed.

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Aquaculture Technical Section

### **Note for the map:**

TD stands for Tow Dingle  
In the legend dgd stands for dredge

Seed Mussel Survey Map of Castlemaine Harbour/ Cromane - BIM - 23 and 24/08/2016

