

## **Preliminary Seed Mussel Survey Report for Rosslare, the north Long Bank (West and East) and Blackwater – 23/04/14 to 2/05/14**

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

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

**Area surveyed:** in the channel between the Calmines buoy and the West Holds buoy and west of the Holds bed; between the Lucifer Bank and the Long Bank (North) and north of the West Long buoy; between the coast and the Blackwater bank.

### **Survey summary:**

The four areas have been checked to assess the damage/ seabed changes following the winter's storms as well as for potential overwintered seed.

In the first area (Rosslare) only limited amount of seed was found last year. Despite the storms, some very small amount has survived, but as per often in Rosslare, the starfish have moved in. The sand cover has only reduced in the southwest (from the side scan sonar imagery). No signs of new settlement were observed yet.

The second area between the Lucifer Bank and the Long bank (North side) was where good quantities of seed were found in the early days last year. The bed was destroyed by the starfish during the summer and only small amount of small seed were spotted in mid-August last year. The ground has been scrapped by the winter's storm and nothing from last year remains. The ground is quite rough with mainly stones and old oyster shells. No signs of new settlement were observed yet.

The third area is situated on the western side of the Long Bank where seed was found in 2007 and 2011. Very little features were selected from the side scan sonar imagery and only stones and old oyster shells were found in the dredges. No signs of new settlement were observed yet.

Finally the fourth area is situated where most of the fishing took place last year. The ground has been scrapped from sand and only stones and old oyster shells remains. The seabed has become hard and rough and there was no signs of last year settlement. No signs of new settlement were observed yet.

### **Recommendations:**

So far nothing has been found, the settlement from last year is gone and the new spat has probably not settle yet; the mussels from Wexford Harbour seemed to have only spawned in the last 3 to 4

weeks. The survey season has only started since in early April due to bad weather conditions, areas around Cahore, Arklow and Wicklow still need to be looked at.

Nicolas Chopin  
BIM Inshore Survey Officer  
Aquaculture Technical Section

Notes for the map:

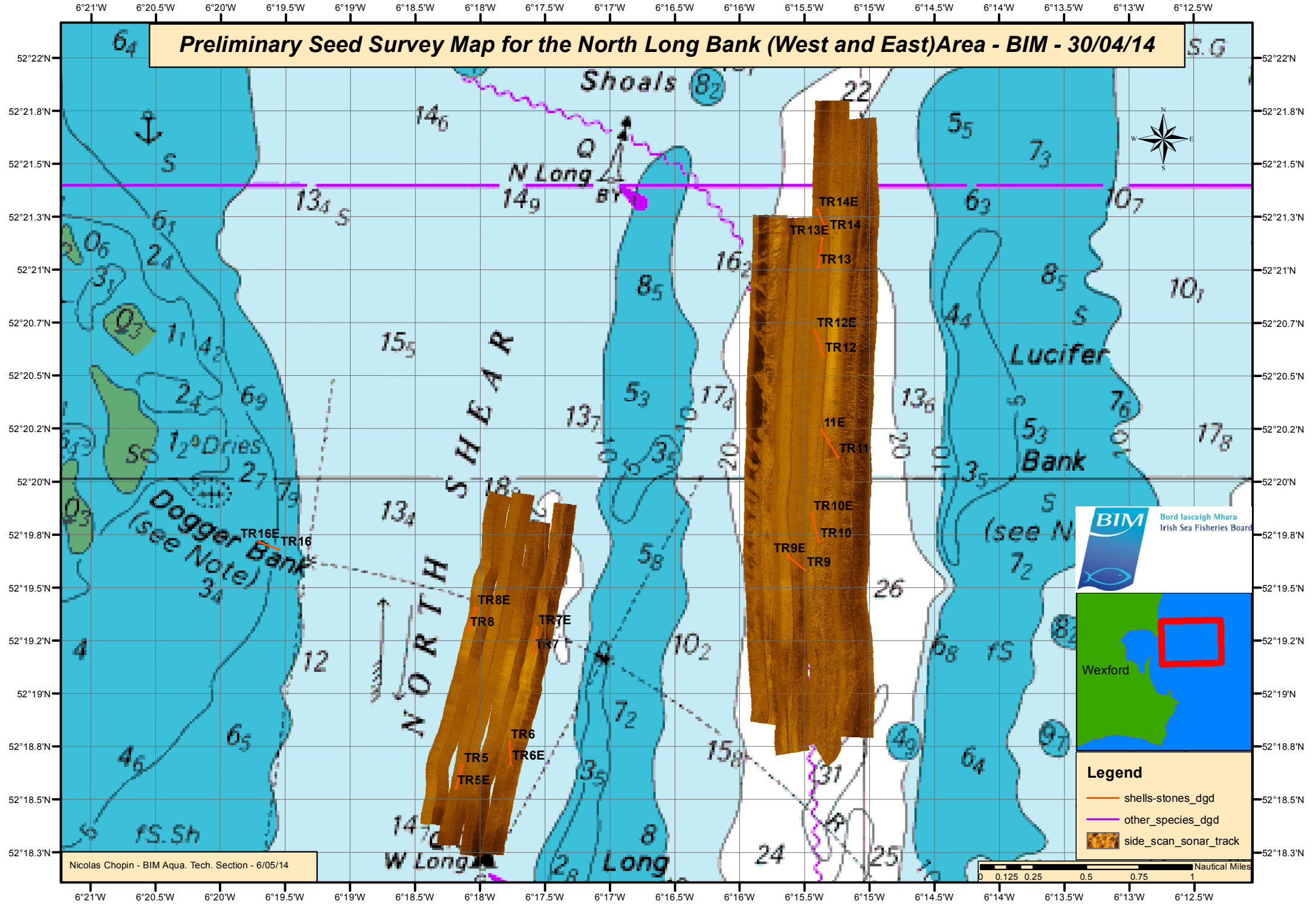
TR stands for Tow Rosslare

TB stand for Tow Blackwater

In the legend Dgd stands for Dredge

# Preliminary Seed Survey Map for the North Long Bank (West and East) Area - BIM - 30/04/14

S.G



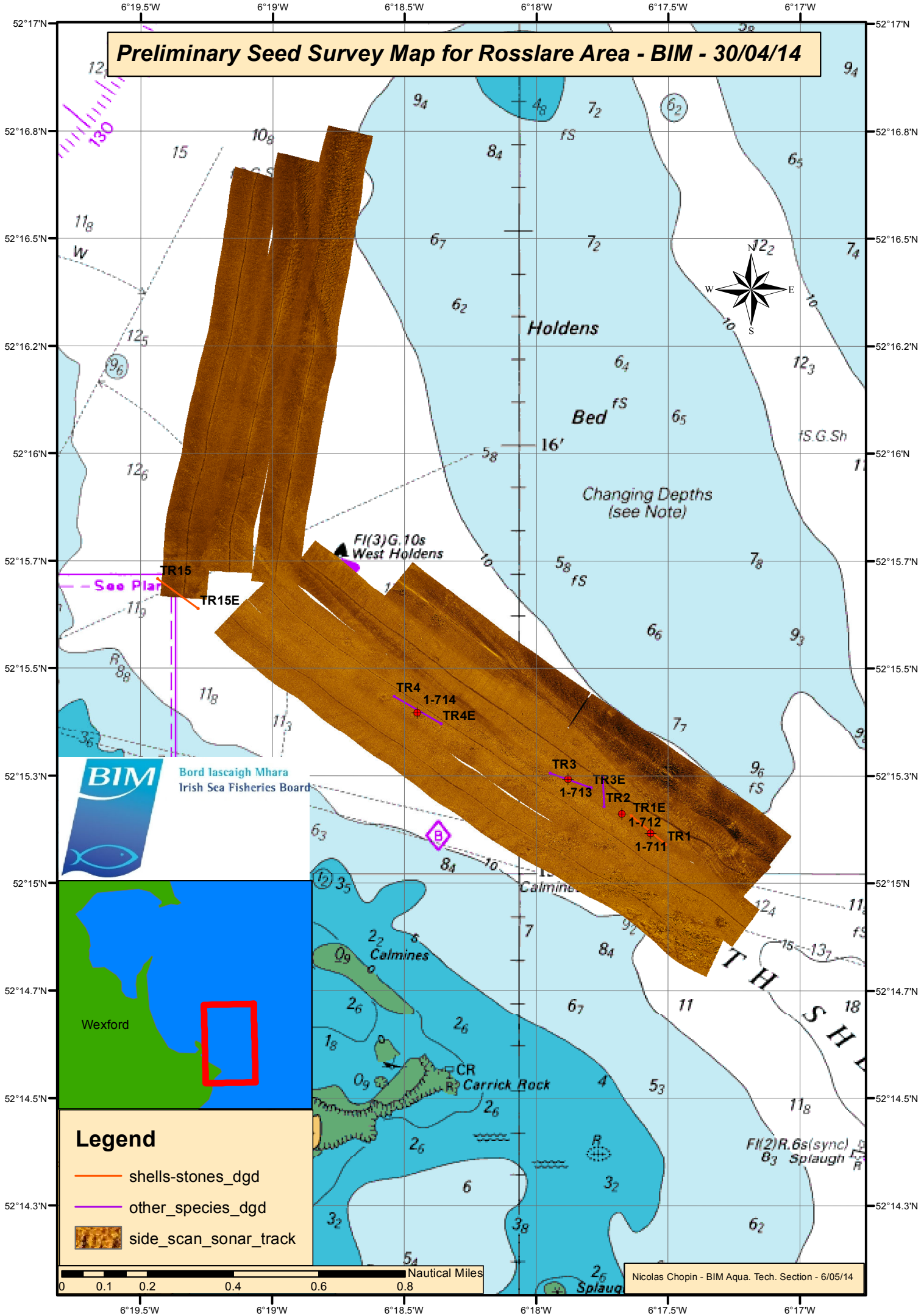
**Legend**

- shells-stones\_dgd
- other\_species\_dgd
- side\_scan\_sonar\_track

Nicolas Chopin - BIM Aqua. Tech. Section - 6/05/14

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Nautical Miles

# Preliminary Seed Survey Map for Rosslare Area - BIM - 30/04/14



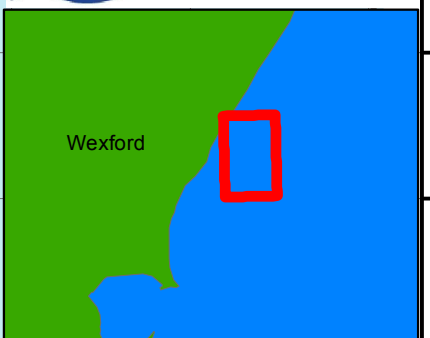
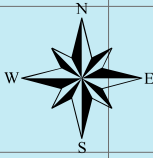
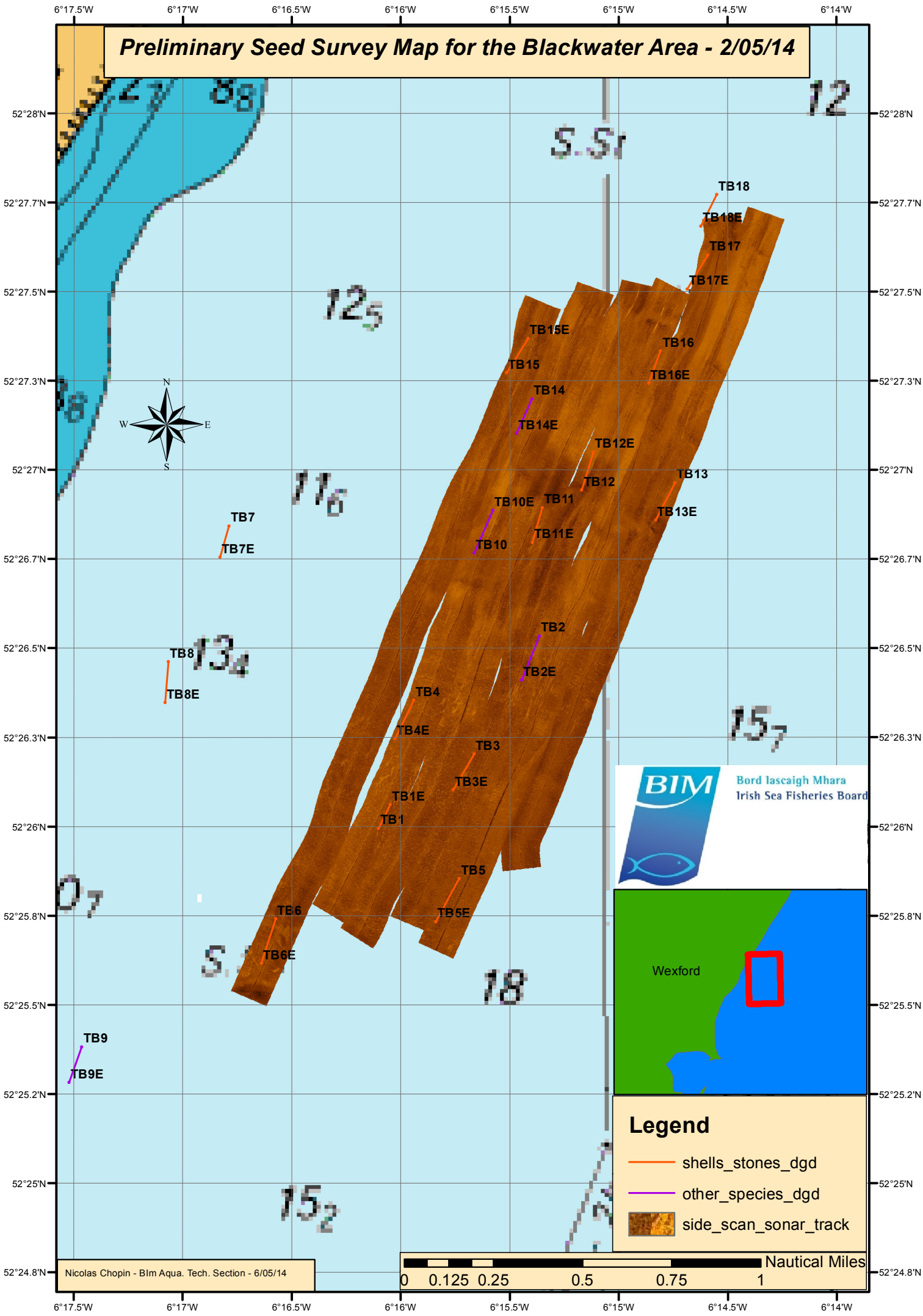
## Legend

- shells-stones\_dgd
- other\_species\_dgd
- side\_scan\_sonar\_track

Nautical Miles

Nicolas Chopin - BIM Aqua. Tech. Section - 6/05/14

# Preliminary Seed Survey Map for the Blackwater Area - 2/05/14



**Legend**

- shells\_stones\_dgd
- other\_species\_dgd
- side\_scan\_sonar\_track

Nicolas Chopin - Blm Aqua. Tech. Section - 6/05/14

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Nautical Miles