

Seed Mussel Survey report for Castlemaine Harbour/ Cromane

30/05/2017 and 2/06/2017

Vessel: MV T.Burke, Skipper John Murphy, Survey Officer Nicolas Chopin.

Equipment: 400 kHz side scan sonar, 1 m dredge, 0.1 m² Day grab

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

Survey summary:

There was no seed mussel fished in Cromane/ Castlemaine in 2017, the small amount of spat identified early in the season did not produce seed bed. There was no report from the industry of any further settlements and the results from the larval sampling programme only showed small amount in the Rosbehy Channel during Week 2 (19/04/2017).

The side scan sonar was deployed from the sand bar at the entry of Castlemaine to the sand bank just before Cromane Point. Despite no clear evidence of seed mussel from the sonar data, 31 targets were marked and investigated. Comparing imagery from 2013, 2014 and 2015, there is only little changes in the seabed, the features on the south side of the channel are unchanged; the sand bank on the north side is still slowly moving south in the channel.

A total of 30 tows and 11 grabs were made within the surveyed area, but no viable seed was found. Nevertheless, 11 tows and 5 grabs showed good amount and coverage of recent spat fall; ranging from a few weeks old to a month and a half after settling. The spat has settled on stones, old shells and various hydroids within the channel (see ISPP Settlement Study Report for details) and the spat is spread over 4 km intermittent bed . Some small starfish were found in the area.

Recommendation:

Considering the current size of the spat, it is too soon to estimate extent or biomass. The timing of the settlement is positive with a settlement at this time of year generally yielding better results than

a late year spat fall such as happened in 2013 which proved unsuccessful due mainly to the type of primary substrate (seaweed) and adverse weather conditions later in the year.

A survey will be carried out later on in the season to estimate extent and biomass.

Survey conducted by:

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Aquaculture Technical Section

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Note for the map:

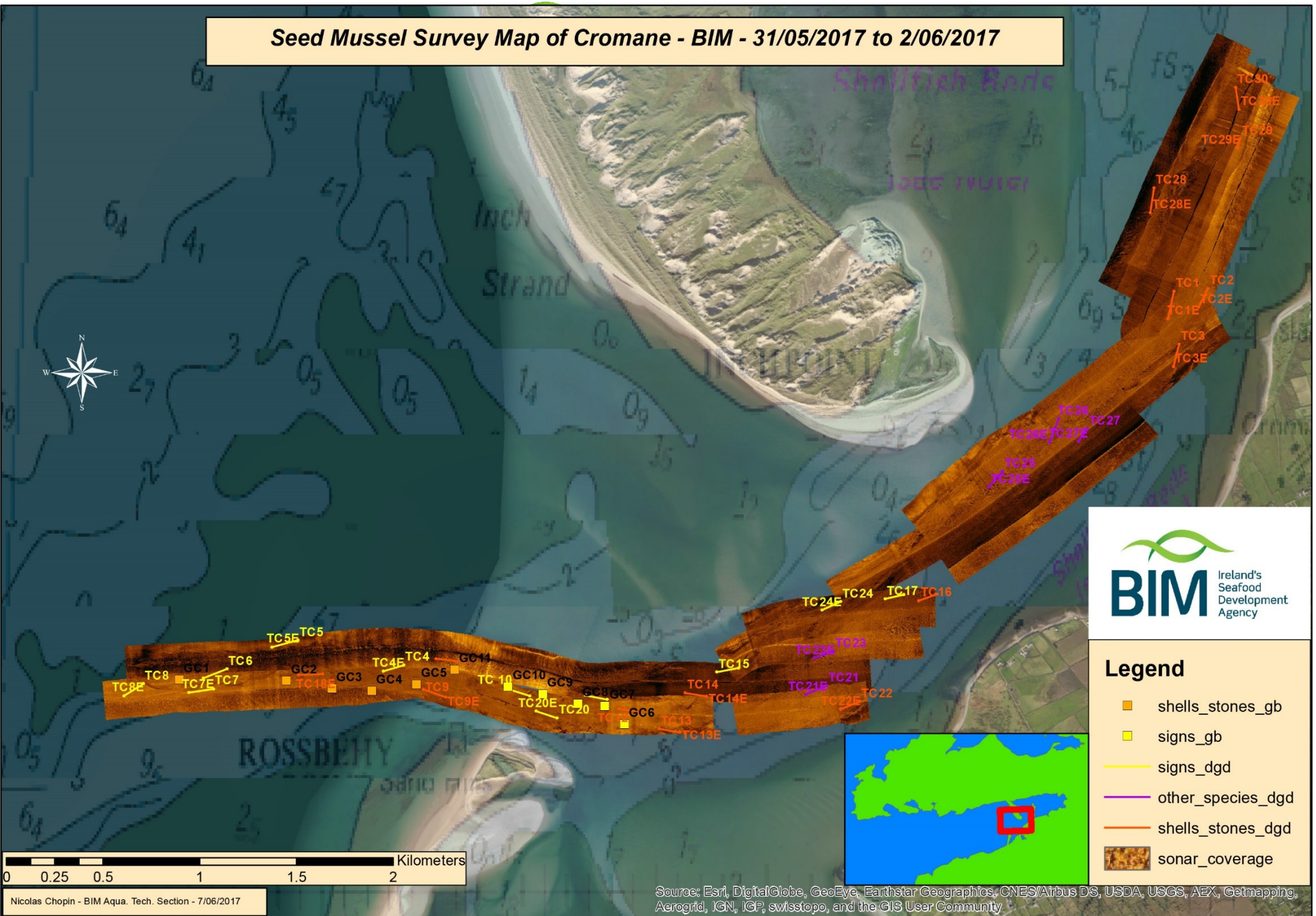
TC stands for Tow Cromane

GC stands for Grab Cromane

In the legend dgd stands for dredge

In the legend gb stands for grab

Seed Mussel Survey Map of Cromane - BIM - 31/05/2017 to 2/06/2017



Legend

- shells_stones_gb
- signs_gb
- signs_dgd
- other_species_dgd
- shells_stones_dgd
- sonar_coverage

