

Seed Mussel Survey Report for South Wicklow Head – 20/06/2019-24/06/2019

Vessel: MV T.Burke II (BIM), Skipper John Murphy, Survey Officers Nicolas Chopin, Adam Andrews.

Equipment: 1 meter dredge and 400 kHz side-scan sonar

Area surveyed: South Wicklow Head north of Ardmore Point

Survey summary:

This survey found what may be overwintered seed on ground identified as part of a seed bed in 2018. This resource is ready to be fished. A quantitative survey remains to be carried out. Only weak traces of newly settled seed were found in the surveyed locations.

- South Wicklow Head: A small proportion of the scattered settlement from 2018 appears to have overwintered. A total of 31 tows were made, where 6 contained dense aggregations of seed (25-45 mm) covering an area of approximately 90 hectares. This resource is ready to be fished and is at risk of predation by starfish which were found in abundance towards the edges of the bed. Several tows contained traces of newly settled seed (~4 mm) on large stones, though this is unlikely to amount to a sizeable resource nor does it appear to be on suitable ground for fishing.

Bottom type: Mainly gravel with stones.

Recommendations:

A tonnage estimation of the overwintered seed remains to be carried out. Notwithstanding, the resource is at risk of predation and should be fished as soon as the fishery opens.

BIM Inshore Survey Team
Seafood Technical Services Business Unit

Notes for the map:

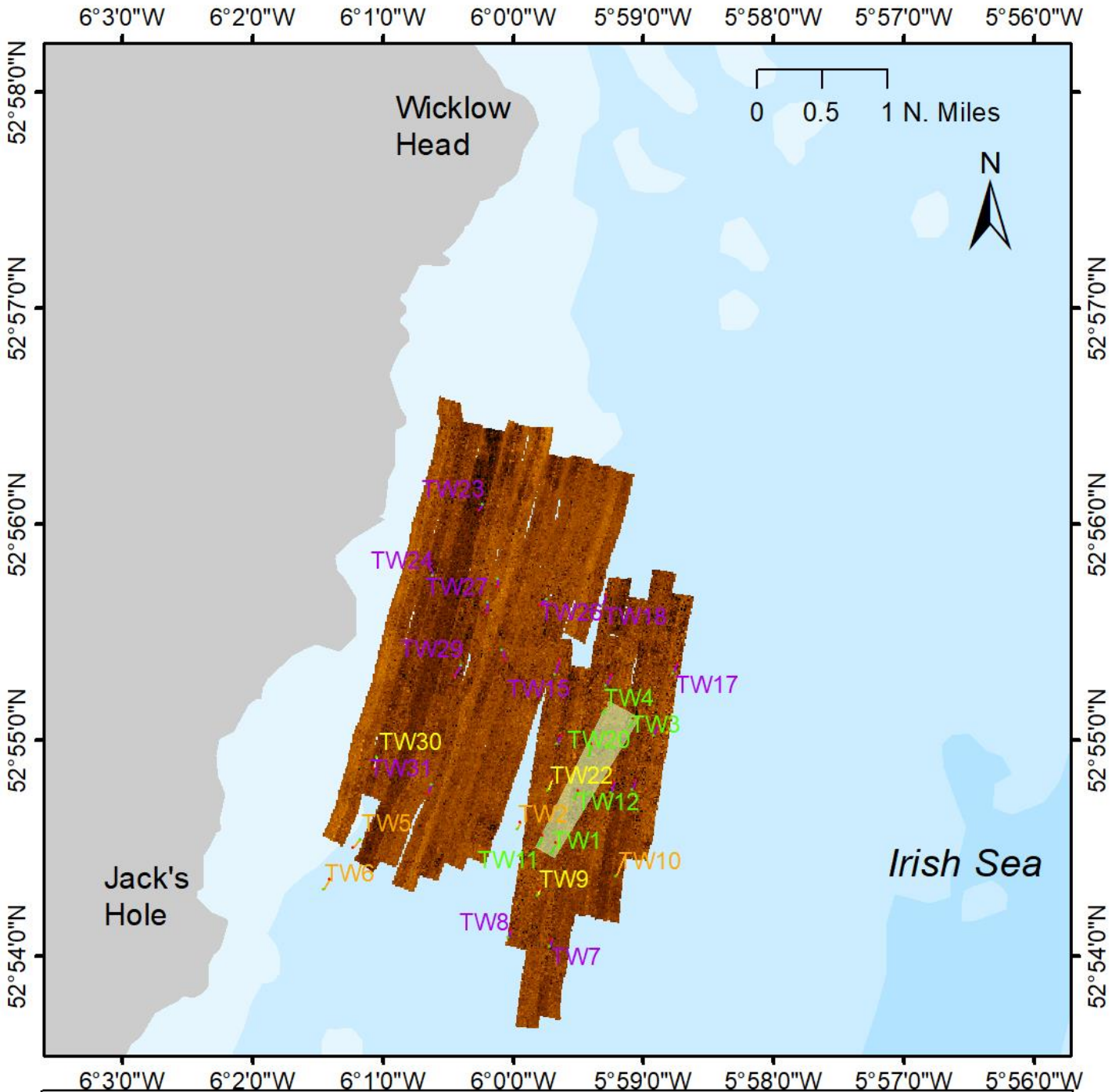
TW stands for Tow Wicklow

Table 1: Area coordinates (in Degrees, decimal minutes WGS84) from North to South:

- The settlement south of Wicklow Head is in a North/South orientation covering approximately 90 hectares

Latitude	Longitude
52 55.182328 N	5 59.267904 W
52 55.104918 N	5 59.034905 W
52 54.511363 N	5 59.829005 W
52 54.456875 N	5 59.686352 W



NOTE: The seed bed displayed on the attached map has been established following the side-scan sonar data verified by ground truthing. These coordinates are for each corner of a simplified polygon of the area of the settlement identified (the green box on the map).

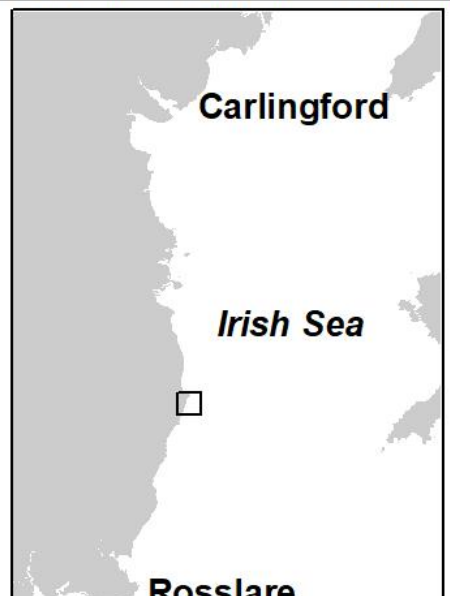


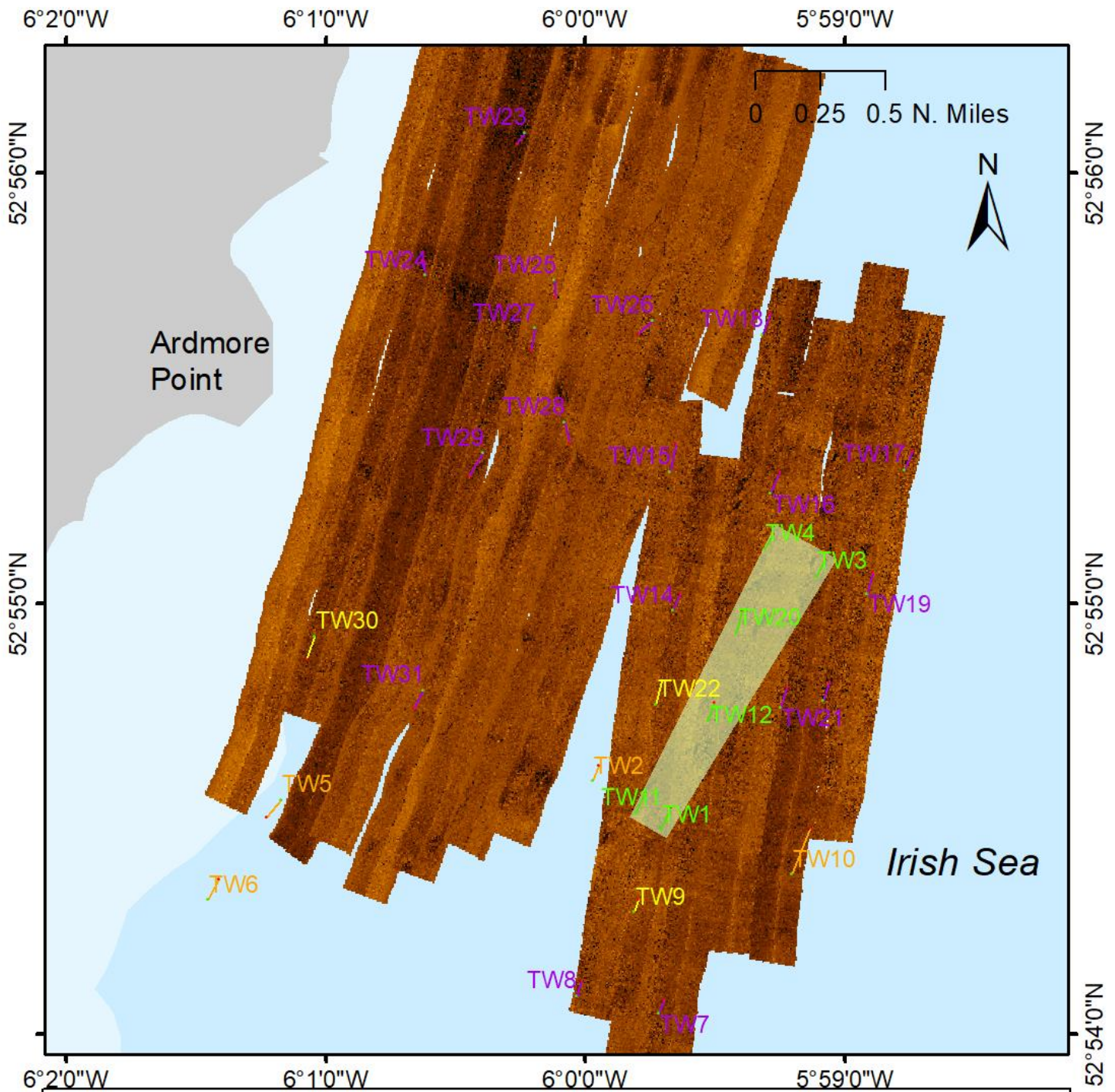
Seed Mussel Survey South Wicklow Head - June 2019

-  Side Scan Survey Extent
-  Tow Start
-  Tow End
-  Seed mussel
-  Signs of seed mussel
-  Other species only
-  Stones/shell only
-  Possible Seed Bed

Depth (m)

-  -1
-  > -10
-  -10 to -20
-  <math>< -20</math>





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NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION
Map © Bord Isaigh Mhara (BIM) 2019.
Created by Adam J. Andrews.
Projection: WGS 1984.

