

Preliminary Seed Mussel Survey Report for Cahore Point and the Rusk Channel – 15/05/14 to 26/05/14

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

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

Area surveyed: From the Rusk Buoys N. 1 and 2 to the North Blackwater cardinal buoy; between the Rusk Bank and the shore and around Cahore point.

Survey summary:

As in previous years, the areas around Cahore point and the Rusk Channel were checked for seed mussel spat fall.

The side scan sonar for deployed in the Rusk Channel, despite there being large numbers of obstructing whelk pots, no major settlement was found but a few interesting features were noted from the sonar scan and subsequently assessed.

Some spat were found in two tows east of the Rusk N. 4 buoy. As for the spat found in Wexford, it is very small (1 to 3 mm) and set on gravel/small stones. No meaningful density estimate could be established at this time due to the very small size of the spat. The distance between the tows covers a bit more than 500 metres.

Coordinates for the general spat fall area (in Degrees, decimal minutes WGS84):

Latitude	Longitude
52° 31.228' N	6° 10.503' W
52° 30.879' N	6° 10.705' W
52° 30.919' N	6° 10.796' W
52° 31.242' N	6° 10.647' W

Several tows were made on the shore side and around Cahore Point, but no large spat fall area was found. A few small spat were observed in one tow on the west side of the Rusk Bank (TC24 on the Preliminary survey map).

Bottom type: gravel/ coarse sand and small stones. Average depth: 16 metres.

Recommendations:

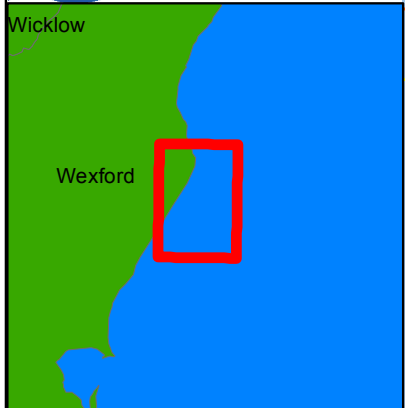
As with the settlement found on the Long Bank, it is too soon to make any meaningful recommendation for this area. More surveys will be carried out close to the shore later in the season. The located settlement will be resurveyed in few week's time and more data will be gathered.

Nicolas Chopin
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Aquaculture Technical Section

Notes for the map:

TC stands for Tow Cahore
In the legend Dgd stands for Dredge

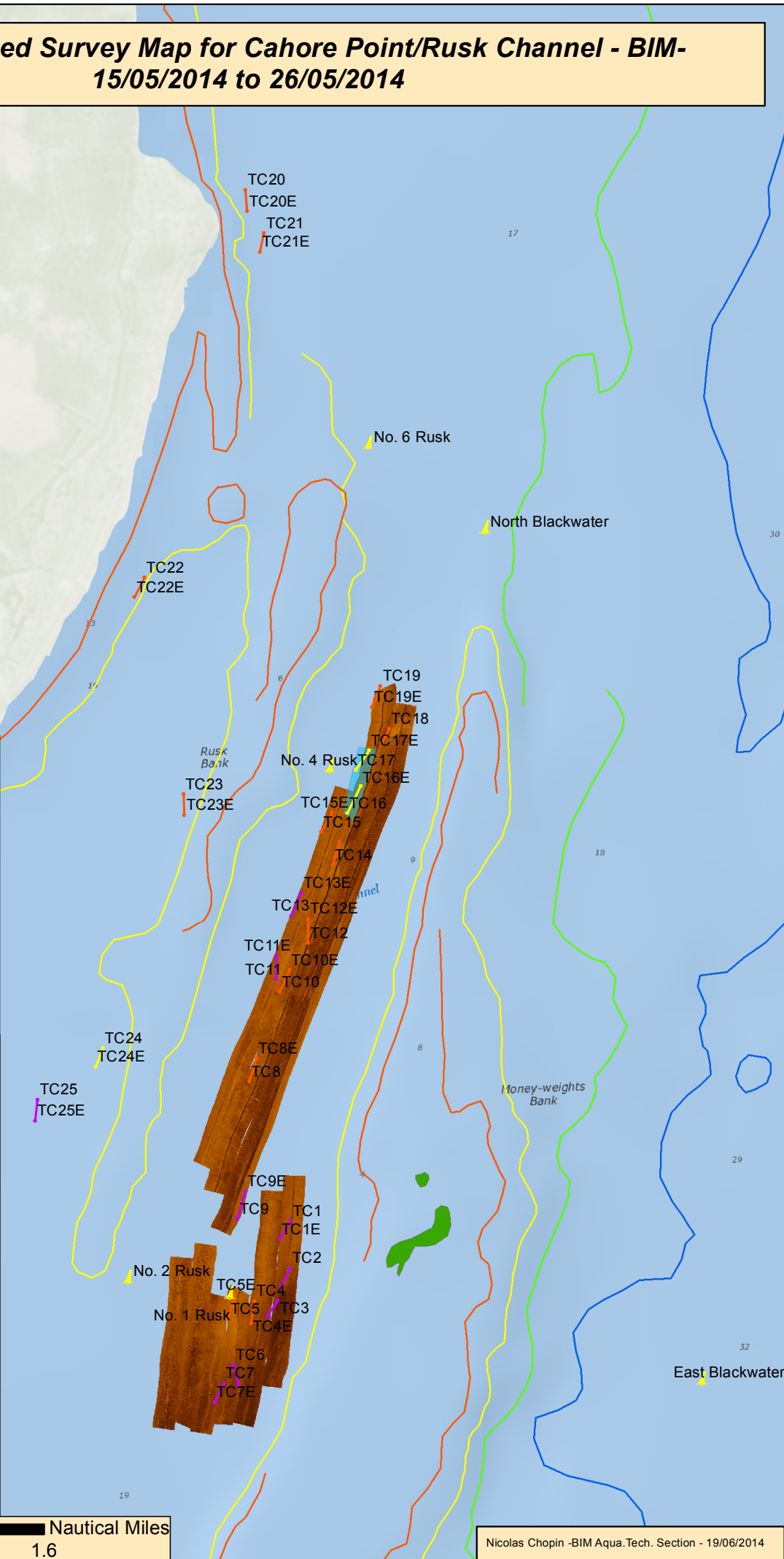
Preliminary Seed Survey Map for Cahore Point/Rusk Channel - BIM- 15/05/2014 to 26/05/2014



Legend

- signs_dgd
- other_species_dgd
- shells_stones_dgd
- sonar_coverage
- spatfall_area_rusk
- low_tide_mark
- 05_meters
- 10_meters
- 20_meters
- 30_meters

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Nautical Miles



Spatfall Area Detail Map for the Rusk Channel - BIM- 15/05/2014 to 26/05/2014

