



Sabellaria Sonar Camera Trials 2017

***Sabellaria* sonar camera trials ‘Notice to Mariners’ information**

Introduction

NRW, NE, IFCA and EA are carrying out sonar camera survey trials in the Severn Estuary to determine whether this method would be suitable to survey the underwater reef found within the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The intention is to create a catalogue of images from the high frequency sonar camera of known habitats. This catalogue can be used to determine future images from the sonar camera where groundtruthing is problematic, e.g. in areas of high turbidity like the Severn Estuary.

Location

Goldcliff, near Uskmouth, Welsh side of the Severn Estuary.

The plan is to carry out 3 transects of approximately 100m in length in the intertidal, which would then be visited by a vessel at high tide and sonar images collected. This would produce a selection of images that would enable interpretation of future images.

The exact location of the transects will be determined during the survey. Figure 1 shows the areas within which each transect will be found. There will be only one transect per box. The bounding coordinates of each box can be found in Annex 1.

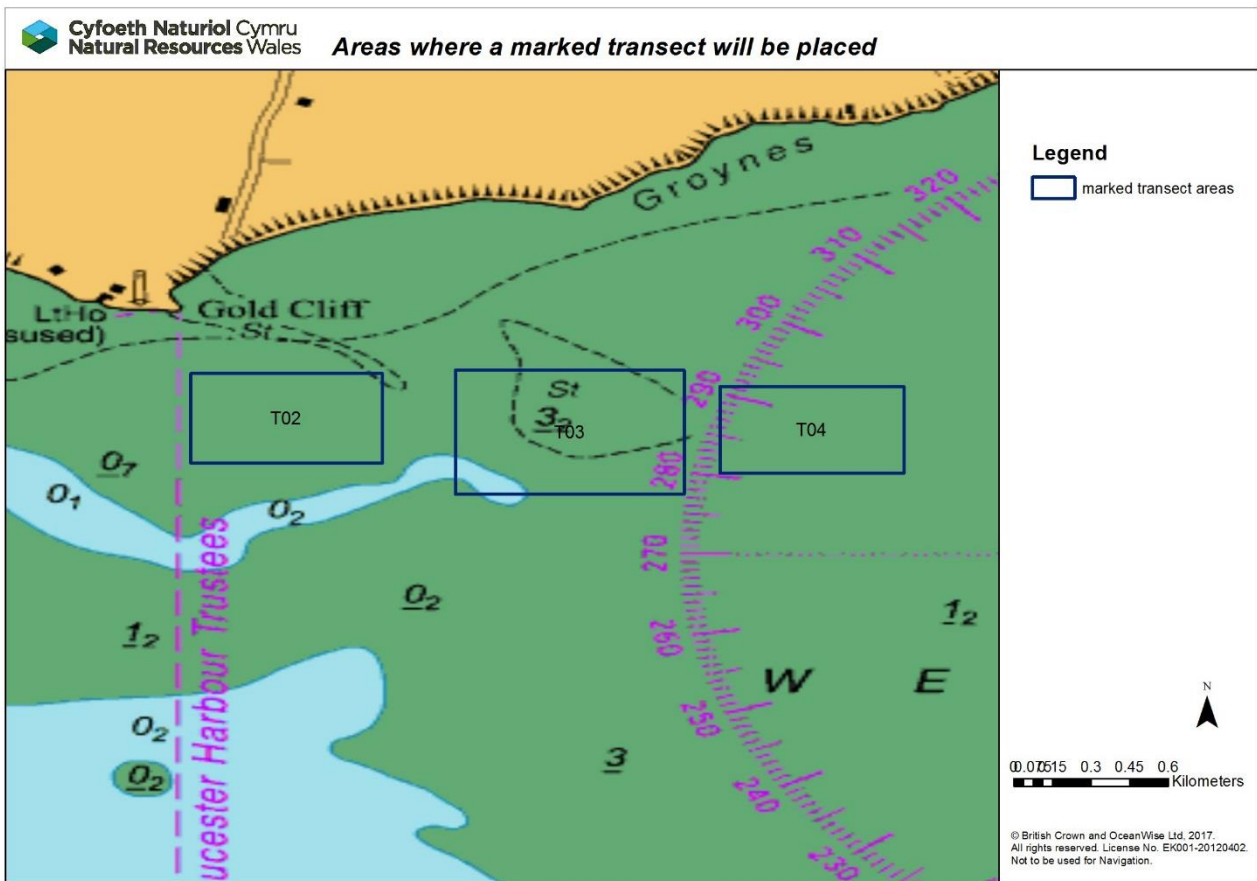


Figure 1. Areas within which a marked transect will be placed

Transect markers

In order to ensure that we are looking at exactly the same location from the boat, the transects will be marked with chain and float set up as shown in Figure 2. The markers will be retrieved after the boat survey. It is hoped that this will occur a few days after initial deployment. However, this may not be possible due to low tide and weather conditions. If this is the case they will be retrieved at the following spring tide window.

Transect marker set up

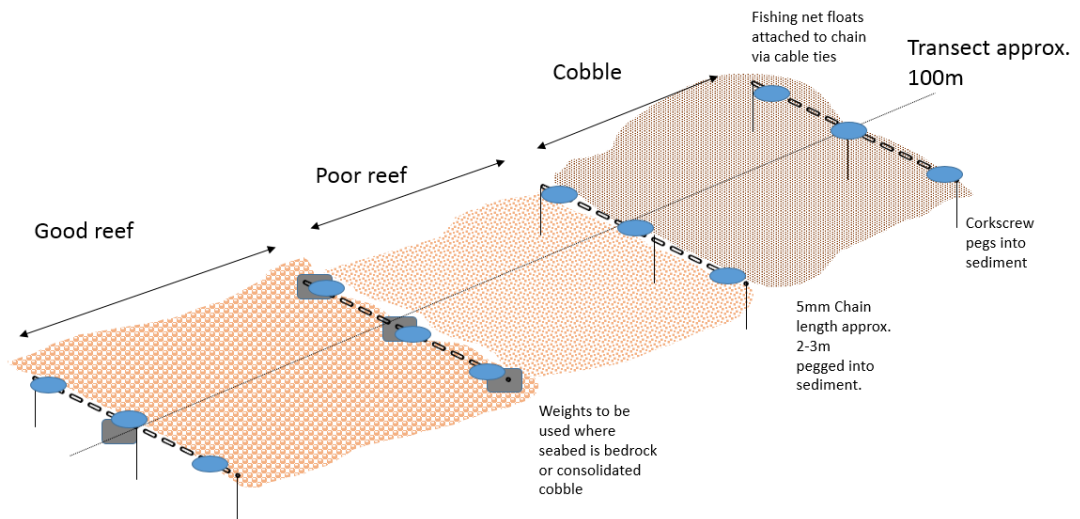


Figure 2. transect marker set up

Survey dates

The survey is planned for:
7-11th September, 2017

With a bad weather contingency pencilled in for:
6-11th October, 2017

For more information regarding this survey contact

Natasha Lough

Ecolegydd Morol (Tim Is-lanw) / Marine Ecologist (subtidal team)

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

Ffôn / Telephone: 0300 065 4853

Natasha.lough@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Katie Clark

Marine Adviser

Natural England

landline no. 02080 266764 mobile no. 07557 938851

Katie.Clark@naturalengland.org.uk

Maria Alvarez

Senior Specialist - Marine Industries,

Strategy and Implementation,

07584 444 287,

02080 266 793

Maria.Alvarez@naturalengland.org.uk

Annex 1. Transect area bounding co-ordinates

Transect area	Substrate type	Long WGS84	Lat WGS84
T03	consolidated cobble	-2.887384028	51.52607876
T03	consolidated cobble	-2.895379017	51.52607876
T03	consolidated cobble	-2.895379017	51.53039748
T03	consolidated cobble	-2.887384028	51.53039748
T04	mixed sediment	-2.879710266	51.5267926
T04	mixed sediment	-2.886134811	51.5267926
T04	mixed sediment	-2.886134811	51.52982641
T04	mixed sediment	-2.879710266	51.52982641
T02	Bedrock	-2.897948835	51.52714952
T02	Bedrock	-2.904623223	51.52714952
T02	Bedrock	-2.904623223	51.5302904
T02	Bedrock	-2.897948835	51.5302904