FISHERIES NATURA RISK MITIGATION PLAN

FISHERIES

DREDGE FISHING FOR SCALLOP, BOTTOM TRAWLING AND BEAM TRAWLING FOR DEMERSAL FISH

SACS

HOOK HEAD (SITE 000764), SALTEE IS (SITE 000707)

Final, March 31st 2016

(*This mitigation plan was developed by the Marine Institute in consultation with ISEFPO, SEAST RIFF, BIM and Owners / Skippers of scallop vessels during 2015 and 2016. Details of these consultations are provided in Annex II*)

Contents

Introduction

This document describes a Fisheries Natura[1] Risk Mitigation Plan to reduce the risk of damage to habitats within Saltee Is and Hook Hd Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) from scallop fishing and from other bottom towed mobile fishing gears. The proposals described are in response to a risk assessment of fisheries in SACs completed in 2014 by the Marine Institute following publication of conservation objectives for these habitats by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The proposals were developed in consultation with representatives of the scallop fleet, bottom trawl and beam trawl fleet and the inshore potting sector in the south Wexford area.

Scallop fishing on habitats in the Saltee Is and Hook Hd SACs

Dredging for scallop is the most prevalent mobile gear fishing activity in the area of the Hook Head and Saltees Is SACs.

Profile of activity (2006-2015)

- Fishing for scallops occurs potentially throughout the year in the Celtic Sea (Figure 1, Figure 2).
- Closer to the coast scallop fishing in the Hook Hd and Saltees SACs occurs mainly on gravel beds, especially south of Saltees, and in gravel channels between rock outcrops south of Hook Hd (Figure 2, Figure 3). Previous studies, using classified multibeam backscatter data and scallop survey data in the north east Celtic Sea showed that scallop catch rate (abundance) is significantly higher in gravel patches or gravel beds compared to surrounding or sand patches.
- Scallop fishing effort (kw days) is limited by the western waters regulation in ICES Area VII but this has no particular limiting effect on fishing within the Hook Hd and Saltee Is SACs
- Fishing activity by vessels over 10m is limited in the sense that there is a limited pool of vessel capacity with scallop track record and such capacity must be attached to a vessel over 10m in order for the vessel to have an authorization to fish for scallops. This followed from a decommissioning scheme in 2006 which removed larger older vessels from the fleet
- Fishing activity by vessels under 10m is unrestricted; these vessels do not come under the western waters regulation and neither are they required to have an authorization to fish for scallop
- The minimum landing size for scallop in this area is 100mm shell height
- Vessels under10m are not required to report landings or effort.
- All vessels over 10m report landings in the EU logbook. Vessels over 12m, and from 2015 some vessels under 12m, report GPS position through Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS).
- The fishery in the area is subject to temporary closures if biotoxin levels, particularly ASP, breach food safety limits.
- Fishing effort (in terms of the number of dredges carried) is related to vessel length.
    - Vessels over 15m in length: Maximum number of dredges is currently 24
    - Vessels 10-15m in length: 12 dredges

[1] Natura refers to the Natura 2000 network European sites of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas established under the Habitats and Birds Directives.

- Vessels under 10m: up to 10 dredges

– Irish registered vessels over 15m fish off south Wexford, in the north east Celtic Sea generally, in the south and north Irish Sea and the English Channel. The activity of these vessels off the south Wexford coast is seasonal and typically occurs in winter during periods of poor weather when fishing in more distant waters is more difficult.
– Vessels under 15m generally fish inshore waters off south Wexford and also fish other species such as razor clams.

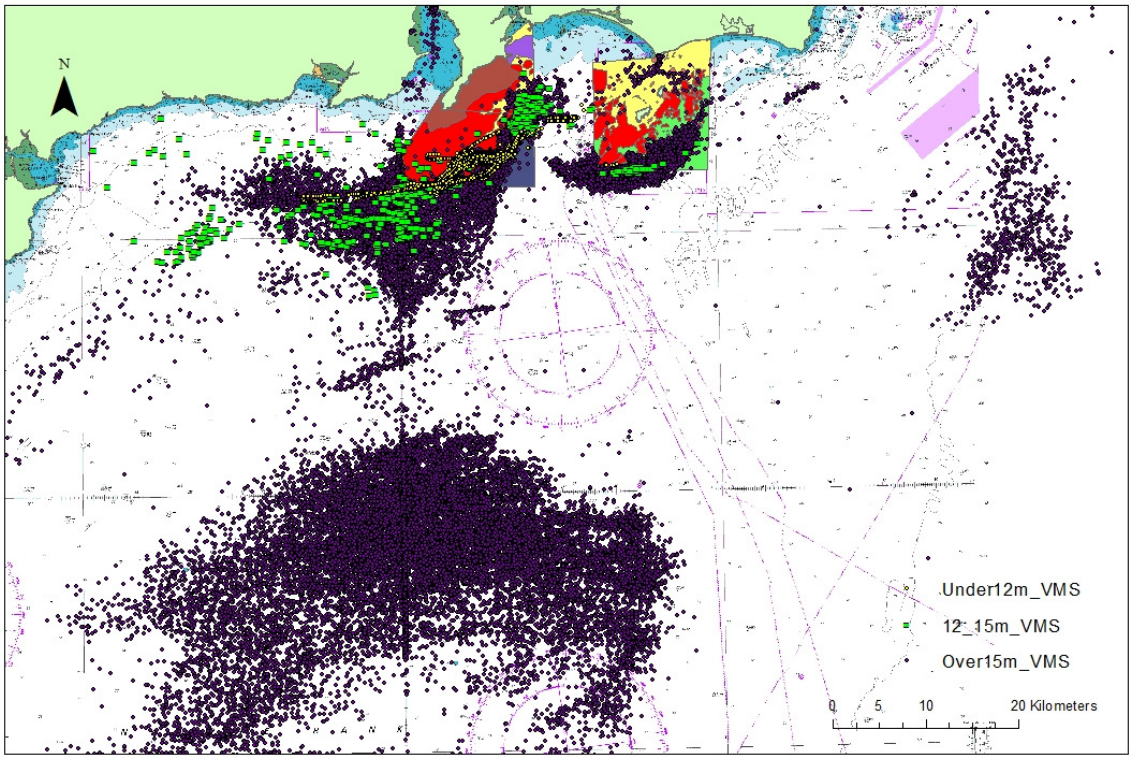

Figure 1. VMS data for scallop fishing vessels over 15m (2006-2012), 12-15m (2014) and partial VMS data for vessels under 12m (2015) in the north east Celtic Sea.

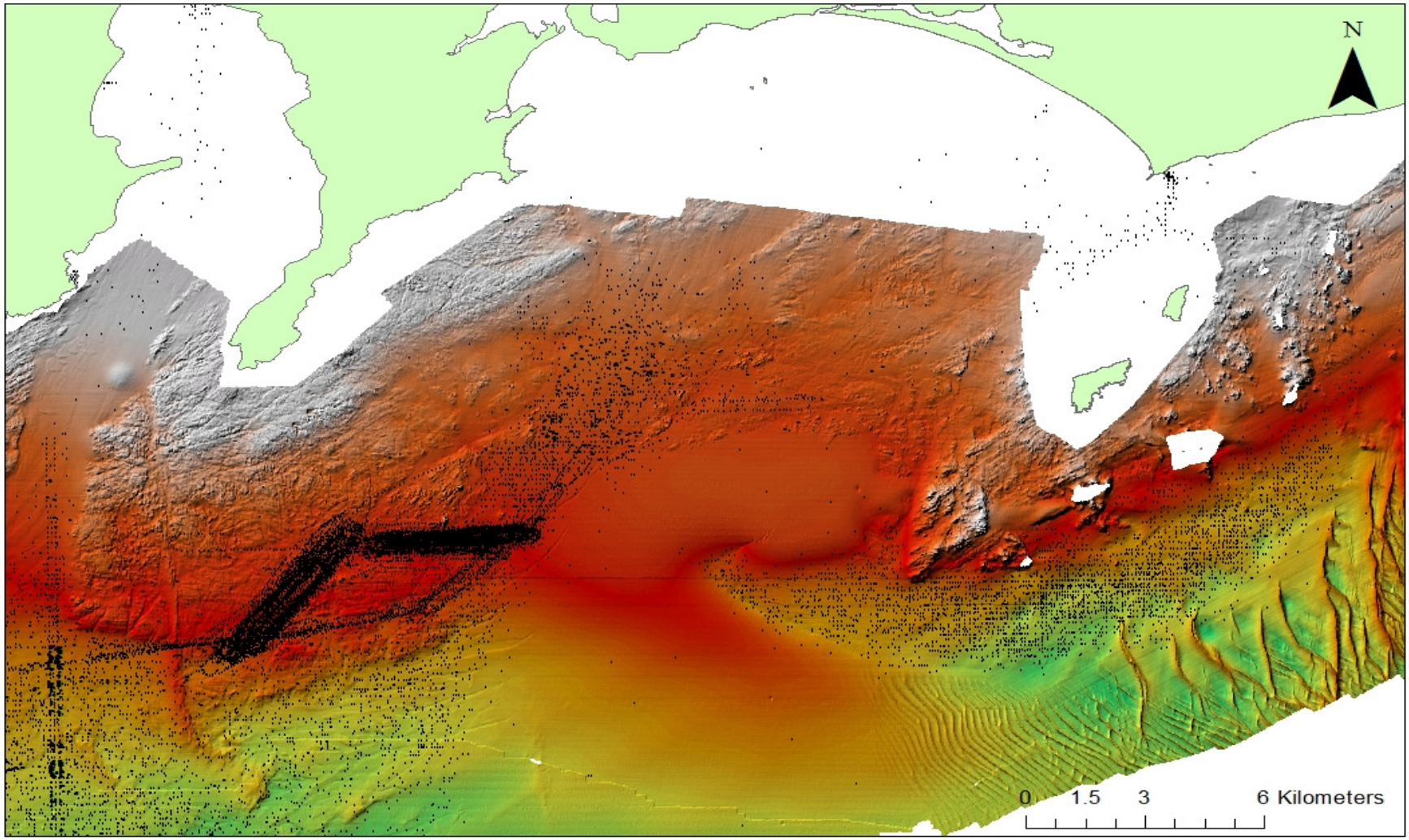

Figure 2. Shaded relief bathymetry (depth) image of the seabed off the Saltees Is and Hook Hd with scallop VMS data superimposed. Scallop fishing south of the Saltees occurs in a uniform gravel bed which is deeper than the surrounding sand terrain. Off Hook Hd the concentration of activity is by vessels <12m in narrow channels in the otherwise rocky terrain. Reporting frequency by vessels under 12m is 5min compared to 2hrs for vessels over 15m. Shaded relief data provided by INFOMAR.

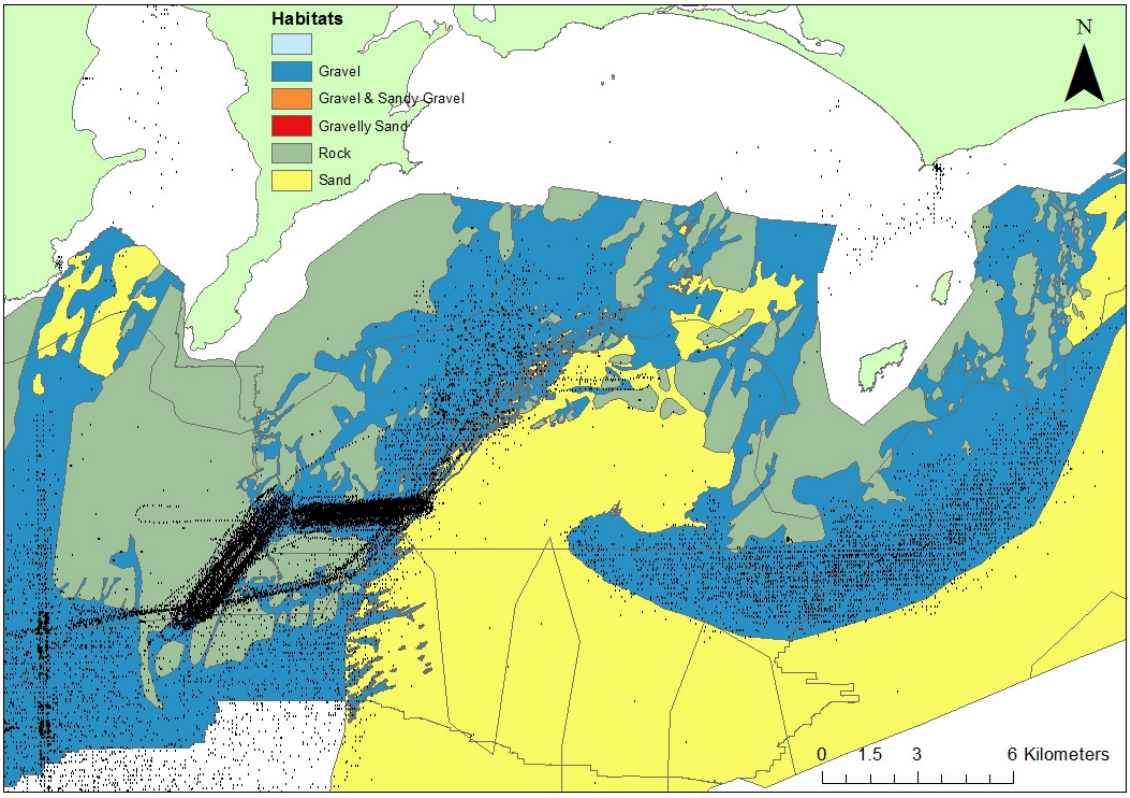

Figure 3. Distribution of sea bed substrates classified from multibeam backscatter and bathymetry data (source: INFOMAR)

Bottom trawling on habitats in the SACs

Bottom trawling occurs extensively throughout the Celtic Sea. Closer to the coast in the vicinity of the Hook Hd and Saltees Is SACs the level of trawling activity is low (Figure 4). There is essentially no activity in the Saltees SAC and there are low levels of activity south of Hook Head SAC. Point data for 12-15m vessels from 2014 are mainly steaming tracks to and from Waterford estuary (Figure 4).

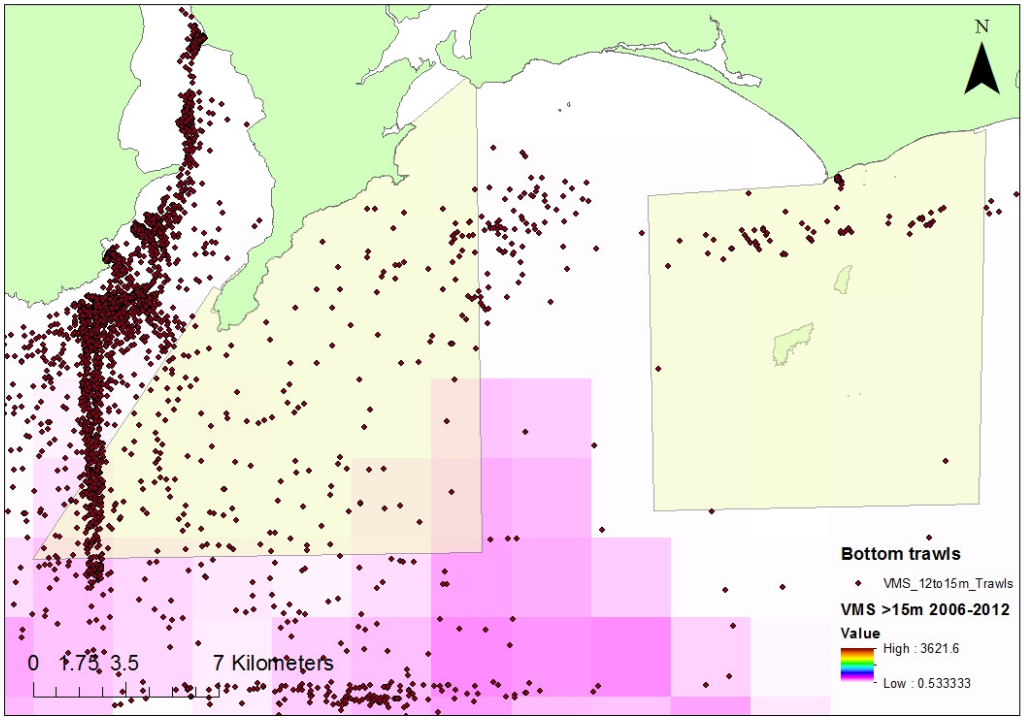

Figure 4. Raster image of VMS data for bottom trawling by vessels over 15m (2006-2012) and point data for vessels 12-15m (2014).

Beam trawling on habitats in the SACs

Beam trawling occurs extensively in the Celtic Sea although the fleet is represented by less than 10 vessels all of which are over 15m in length. In the vicinity of Hook Hd and Saltees Is activity is low; most of the data represents steaming activity to Kilmore Quay (Figure 5). There is essentially no activity in the Saltees SAC and there are low levels of activity south of Hook Head SAC. Point data for 12-15m vessels from 2014 are mainly steaming tracks to and from Waterford estuary.

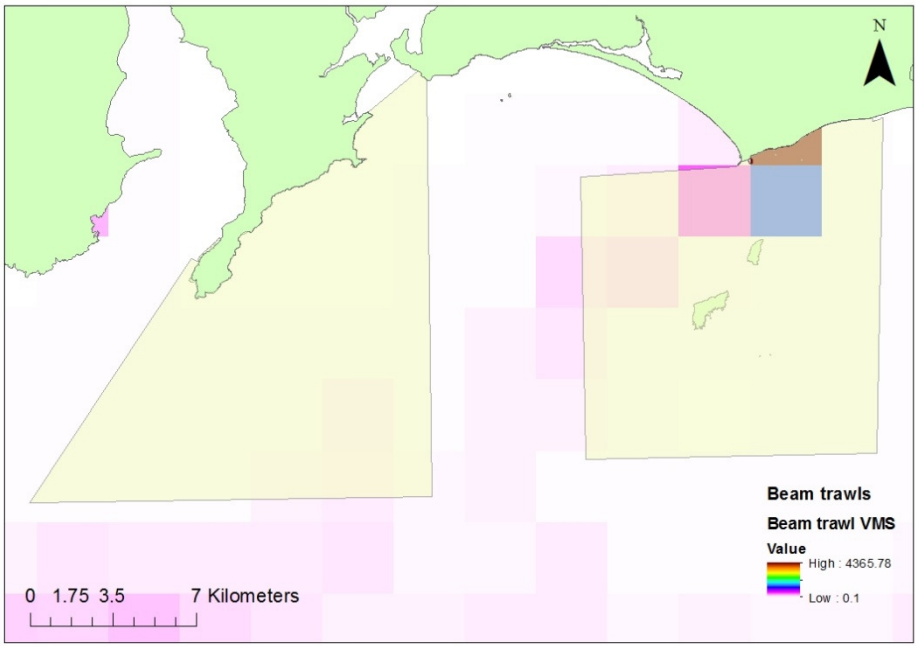

Figure 5. Raster image of VMS data for beam trawling by vessels over 15m (2006-2012).

Overlap of scallop fishing with habitats in the SACs.

An assessment of the risk posed by dredging for scallops and other fisheries on habitats in the Hook Head and Saltee Is SACs is included in Marine Institute (2015) which profiles the risks posed by all fisheries in all marine SACs in Ireland (see Annex I for risk assessment summary for Hook Head and Saltees SACs). This assessment uses a specific risk assessment framework designed to assess risk relative to the conservation objectives set for habitats and species by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The relevant habitat maps were produced by NPWS.

- Hook Hd and Saltee Is SACs are designated for the following qualifying interests (QIs)
  - Large Shallow inlets and Bays (QI 1160)
  - Reefs (QI 1170)
  - Mud and sandflat not covered by seawater at low tide (QI 1130); Saltee Is only
  - Submerged or partly submerged sea caves (QI 8330)
  - Grey seals (QI 1364); Saltee Islands only
  - Vegetated sea cliffs (QI 1230)
- Scallop fishing does not overlap or have any possible effect on
  - Submerged or partly submerged sea caves (QI 8330)
  - Vegetated sea cliffs (QI 1230)
  - Mud and sandflat not covered by seawater at low tide (QI 1130)
- The risk posed to seals is regarded as low and insignificant; there is no risk of by-catch, grey seal do not prey on scallop and there is little risk that scallop fishing could disturb grey seal haul out locations.
- Scallop fishing in Hook Hd and Saltee Is SAC therefore overlaps only with
  - Large Shallow inlets and Bays (QI 1160)
  - Reefs (QI 1170)

- A number of marine communities (habitats) occur within Large Shallow inlet and Bays and Reefs. The scallop fishery (and other fisheries) may overlap with these marine communities (Figure 6, Table 1).
- The overlap and potential impact of scallop fishing is relevant to the following marine communities
    - Hook Hd
        - Echinoderms and sponge dominated community complex
        - Coarse sediments with *Pisidia* and epibenthos
        - *Deep coarse sediments*
    - Saltees Is
        - Coarse sediments with *Pomatoceros, Pisidia* and epibenthos
        - Sub-tidal reef dominated by echinoderms and sponges community complex
        - *Mixed sediments*
- Of these
    - Deep coarse sediment (Hook Hd.)
    - Mixed sediments (Saltee Is.)

  do not have conservation objectives set for them (although they are within the borders of the SACs they are outside of the qualifying interests for which the sites were designated i.e. they are not components of Reef or Large shallow inlet and Bay).

- The mitigation of risk of scallop fishing to marine habitats in the SACs is therefore, in effect, relevant only to the following marine habitats

    - Hook Hd
        - Echinoderms and sponge dominated community complex
        - Coarse sediments with *Pisidia* and epibenthos
    - Saltees Is
        - Coarse sediments with *Pomatoceros, Pisidia* and epibenthos
        - Sub-tidal reef dominated by echinoderms and sponges community complex

- The Marine Institute (2015) risk assessment indicated that scallop fishing poses a moderate to high risk to these habitats

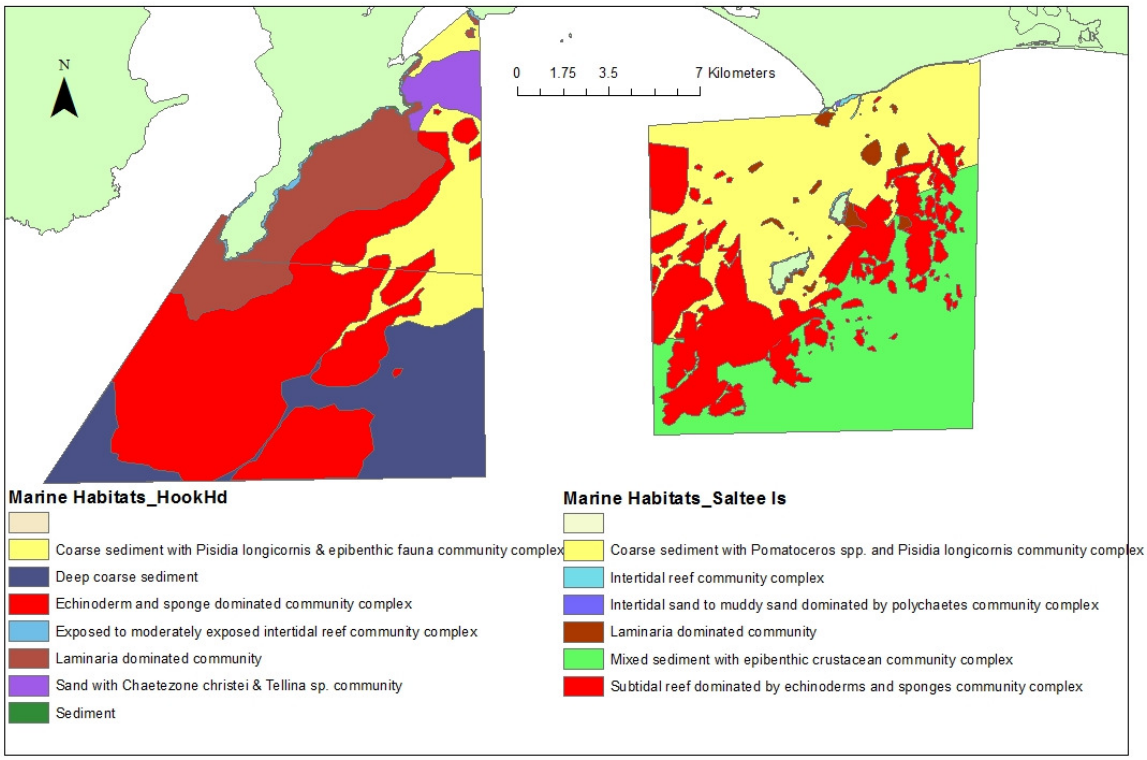

Figure 6. Marine Habitats within Hook Head and Saltee Is SACs. Maps derived from point biological sampling data. There is strong correspondence between these habitats and substrate maps derived from bathymetry and acoustic backscatter (Figure 3). Source: NPWS.

Table 1. Marine habitats in Hook Head and Saltee Is SACs with which the scallop fishery overlaps. Where available the percentage of the habitat that is overlapped by the fishery (<15m vessels) is given. These figures are not calculated for over 15m VMS data owing to the low resolution of the VMS reporting frequency.

SAC	Qualifying Interest	Marine Habitat	Fishing overlap >15m (VMS)	Fishing overlap vessels <15m (% overlap)
Hook Head	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Sand with Chaetozone christiei and Tellina sp. community	None	None
Hook Head	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Laminaria-dominated community	None	None
Hook Head	Reefs [1170]	Exposed to moderately exposed intertidal reef community complex	None	None
Hook Head	Reefs [1170]	Laminaria-dominated community	None	None
Saltee Islands	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Intertidal sand to muddy sand dominated by polychaetes community complex	None	None
Saltee Islands	Reefs [1170]	Intertidal reef community complex	None	None

Saltee Islands	Reefs [1170]	Laminaria-dominated community	None	None
Hook Head	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Coarse sediment with Pisidia longicornis and epibenthic fauna community complex	Yes	66
Hook Head	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Echinoderm and sponge dominated community complex	Yes	38
Hook Head	Reefs [1170]	Echinoderm and sponge dominated community complex	Yes	49
Saltee Islands	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Coarse sediment with Pomatoceros spp. and Pisidia longicornis community	Yes	1
Saltee Islands	Reefs [1170]	Subtidal reef dominated by echinoderms and sponges community complex	Yes	1

Guidance on specific conservation objectives for marine habitats

The conservation targets established by NPWS for marine communities recognise that such habitats have different sensitivities to physical disturbance. In this respect there are two important and separate components of habitat sensitivity that are relevant to the mitigation of risk posed by scallop fishing. Sensitivity is a composite of the resistance and resilience of a habitat when exposed to a physical pressure such as scallop dredging. It is clear from various studies that few habitats have any significant resistance to the surface and sub-surface benthic pressures caused by scallop gear. However, habitats vary in their resilience (how quickly they recover) to such pressure or from such impacts. The rate of recovery following a disturbance is an important consideration in that habitats which show rapid recovery could in general be in good condition even if disturbed frequently whereas habitats with poor recovery would generally be in poor condition even if disturbed infrequently. As outlined in the conservation objective guidance documents from NPWS the scale of disturbance (the % of the habitat that is disturbed) and the persistence of the disturbance is relevant to achievement of favourable conservation status of habitats. The conservation status is reported on a 6 year cycle as directed by Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.

Table 2. Conservation objective guidance on marine habitats with which scallop fishing overlaps and suggested management options.

Habitat in which scallop fishing occurs	Conservation objective guidance	Management options to achieve conservation targets
Sedimentary habitats: Coarse sediment with *Pisidia longicornis* and epibenthic fauna community complex Coarse sediment with Pomatoceros spp. and Pisidia longicornis community	<15% by area may be exposed to persistent disturbance. If >15% then the disturbance should not be persistent (or have persistent effects relative to the frequency of disturbance)	- Manage the spatial overlap of fishery and habitat - Manage the frequency of disturbance of habitat relative to resilience of the habitat
Reef habitats: Echinoderm and sponge dominated community complex	As above	As above

Subtidal reef dominated by echinoderms and sponges community complex		

Risk mitigation proposals for scallop fisheries

1. Spatial limits within the SACs:

Scallop fishing will be limited to areas south of the lines indicated in Figure 7 and Figure 8 (co-ordinates in Table 3). Two lines are presented; one from co-ordinates supplied by industry and a second line which slightly modifies the industry co-ordinates using shaded relief bathymetry data which shows the extent of reef habitat. The modified line removes scallop fishing from the edges of reef in the south west of the Hook Head SAC in areas where there is little VMS activity.

This will limit overlap with habitats as follows;

- Hook Hd
  - Echinoderms and sponge dominated community complex (18-21% overlap)
  - Coarse sediments with *Pisidia* and epibenthos (75-76% overlap)
- Saltees Is
  - Coarse sediments with *Pomatoceros, Pisidia* and epibenthos (0% overlap)
  - Sub-tidal reef dominated by echinoderms and sponges community complex (7% overlap)

Table 3. Co-ordinates of line of northern limit of scallop fishing in Hook Head and Saltees Is SACs. Co-ordinates agreed at industry meeting Jan 29th 2016. Alternative points relating to Hook Head SAC are proposed by the Marine Institute to remove scallop dredging from reef habitat in this area based on shaded relief bathymetry data.

		Latitude		Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
SAC	Geography	Degrees	Decimal minutes	Degrees	Decimal minutes	Decimal degrees	
Industry proposed co-ordinates							
Hook Head	Landfall	52	7.88	-6	56	52.1313	-6.9333
Hook Head	West	52	5.07	-6	59.5	52.0845	-6.9917
Hook Head		52	3.4	-6	59.1	52.0567	-6.9850
Hook Head	South	52	3.45	-6	59.16	52.0575	-6.9860
Hook Head	South	52	3.15	-6	56.45	52.0525	-6.9408
Hook Head		52	5.03	-6	53.71	52.0838	-6.8952
Hook Head		52	5.27	-6	50.94	52.0878	-6.8490
Hook Head		52	7.89	-6	50.45	52.1315	-6.8408
Hook Head		52	9.05	-6	48	52.1508	-6.8000
Hook Head	East	52	9.05	-6	47.26	52.1508	-6.7877
Saltees	West	52	5.5	-6	41.5	52.0917	-6.6917
Saltees		52	4	-6	41	52.0667	-6.6833
Saltees		52	4	-6	38	52.0667	-6.6333

Saltees		52	4.9	-6	38.2	52.0817	-6.6367
Saltees	East	52	7.9	-6	30.6	52.1317	-6.5100
Saltees	Landfall	52	11.28	-6	30.45	52.1880	-6.5075
MI proposed co-ordinates based on shaded relief bathymetry							
Hook Head	Landfall	52	8.26	-6	55.78	52.1377	-6.9297
Hook Head	West	52	5	-6	59.64	52.0833	-6.9940
Hook Head		52	3.29	-6	59.68	52.0548	-6.9947
Hook Head	South	52	2.82	-6	56.65	52.0470	-6.9442
Hook Head		52	4.96	-6	53.71	52.0827	-6.8952
Hook Head		52	5	-6	50.94	52.0833	-6.8490
Hook Head		52	7.89	-6	50.45	52.1315	-6.8408
Hook Head		52	9.05	-6	48	52.1508	-6.8000
Hook Head	East	52	9.05	-6	47.26	52.1508	-6.7877
Saltees	West	52	5.5	-6	41.5	52.0917	-6.6917
Saltees		52	4	-6	41	52.0667	-6.6833
Saltees		52	4	-6	38	52.0667	-6.6333
Saltees		52	4.9	-6	38.2	52.0817	-6.6367
Saltees	East	52	7.9	-6	30.6	52.1317	-6.5100
Saltees	Landfall	52	11.28	-6	30.45	52.1880	-6.5075

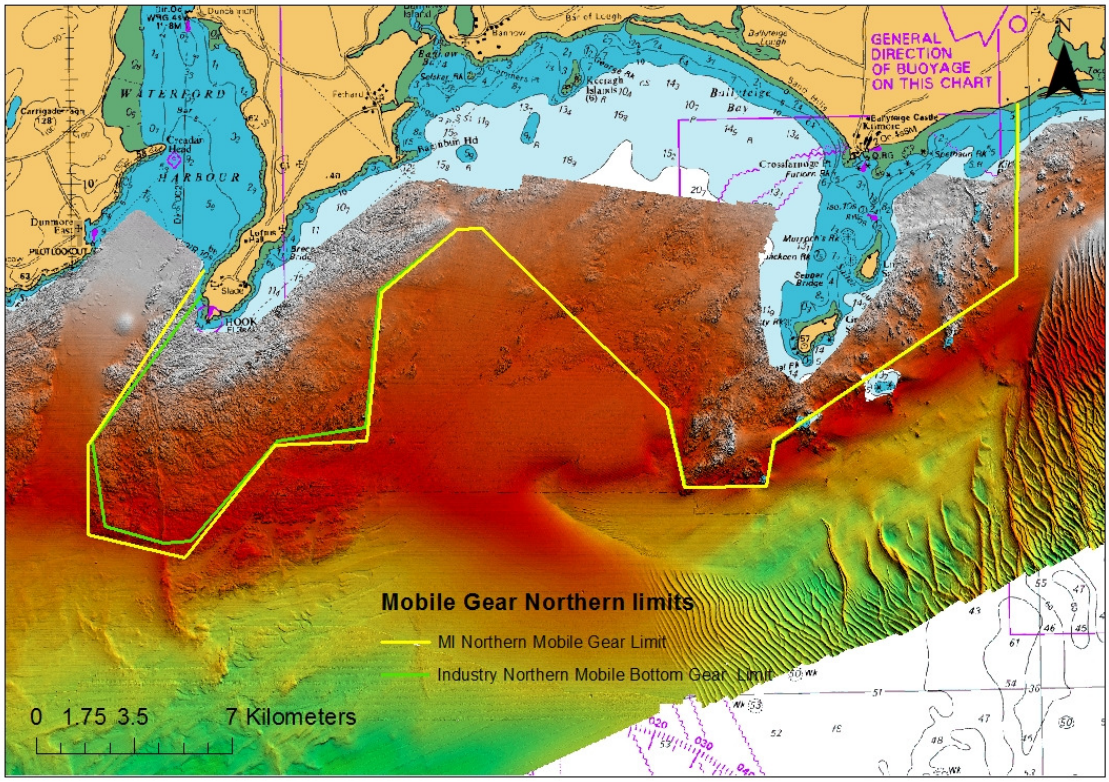

Figure 7. Proposed line of northern limit for scallop fishing and mobile bottom towed gears in Saltees and Hook Head SACs showing shaded relief bathymetry in the background

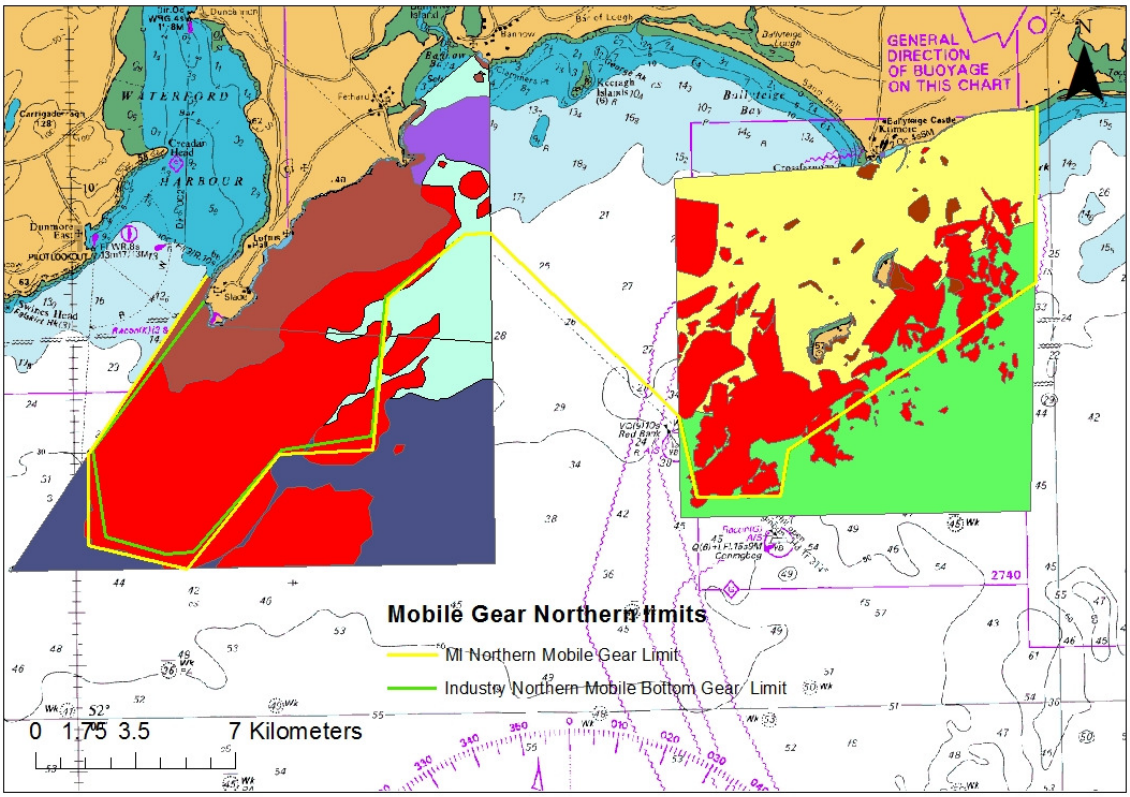

Figure 8. Proposed line of northern limit for scallop fishing and mobile bottom towed gears in Saltees Is and Hook Head SACs showing Marine Communities in the background.

2. Measures to reduce persistent disturbance on habitats in the SACs

In the areas where scallop fishing overlaps with habitats that are subject to conservation objectives within the SACs i.e. south of the line indicated in Figure 7 for these habitats, the following measures will apply

a. Dredging for scallops will occur only between Dec 1st and Feb 28th inclusive
b. Dredge limits
    i. The maximum number of dredges per vessel will be 24 dredges in total inside the national 12nmile limit. This limit is seen as a measure that will prevent future escalation of fishing effort per vessel on inshore scallop stocks. There are no vessels in the national fleet currently using more than this number of dredges.

3. Monitoring and implementation

a. All vessels fishing for scallop within the SACs will carry a vessel monitoring system (VMS) which will report the position of the vessel at a defined frequency.
b. VMS data will be monitored by the SFPA
c. VMS data and other information will be used by MI to map trends in fishing effort for the annual review of the mitigation plan
d. The implementation of the mitigation plan will be reviewed annually.

Mitigation plan for bottom trawl fisheries

The northern limit line and seasonal restrictions described above for scallop will apply also to bottom trawls

Mitigation plan for beam trawl fisheries

The northern limit line and seasonal restrictions described above for scallop will apply also to beam trawls

Other issues arising during the development of the mitigation plan

During consultations with the inshore and offshore scallop fleets and with the inshore potting fleet a number of issues arose relating to spatial management of fisheries in the area. No proposals were finalised. The issues arising are listed below.

Interactions between mobile and static fishing gears

1. Scallop fishing in the areas immediately south of the northern limit line for scallop fishing proposed above, which limits the exposure of the Hook Hd and Saltees SAC to scallop fishing, overlaps significantly with static gear (pots) fisheries for crab and lobster. Effectively, given the quantity of static gear in the area fishing with mobile gear is not possible without incurring the risk of entanglement with static gears. This can result in the loss of static gears and is a source of conflict between scallop and static gear fishermen. Although gentlemen's agreements have been in place in recent years whereby pots may be moved out of scallop areas both fleets consider that a more formal arrangement is needed. Limiting scallop fishing from Dec 1st to Feb 28th will partly alleviate the gear conflict within the Hook Hd and Saltees Is. SACs.
2. The potting fleet contend that scallop dredging close to reef habitat can cause mortality of lobster and crab. There is currently no data or direct evidence of this. If such interactions are common then scallop fishing could cause significant negative effects on crustacean stocks in these areas.

Vessel size and dredge limits for scallop in inshore waters

1. Vessels fishing for scallop off the south east coast vary from 24m to under 10m. There was some discussion on whether smaller vessels should be provided with preferential access to inshore scallop stocks in the area given that they are not capable of fishing offshore.
2. That dredge limits for larger vessels in inshore waters would be lower than that used in offshore waters.

The minimum landing size of scallop

1. A proposal to increase the minimum landing size of scallop was supported by a number of scallop fishermen. Growth rates of scallop off the south east coast decrease from east to west. This is due to environmental effects mediated through temperature and current strength near the sea floor. Higher yields will result where the gains in biomass due to growth outweigh losses due to mortality. This is likely to be the case in the area south of Saltees and east of this towards the Georges Channel. An increase from 100mm to 110mm is likely to be beneficial with respect to yields and would also allow an extra spawning event to

occur. As the direction of larval drift is also predominantly east to west recruitment to the west of the area may benefit.

Annex I Risk profile of fisheries interaction with marine habitats in Hook Head and Saltee Is SACs.

Hook Head
Number of fisheries: 11
Fisheries active: Yes
Average risk score: 8.6
Maximum risk score: 16

Qualifying interest	Marine Community Type	Description	Fishing current	Trap - lobster	Trap - crab	Trap - shrimp	Dredge - scallop	Dredge - razor clam	Dredge surf clam	Gill net	Trammel netting bait	Beam trawl - demersal	Otter trawl - demersal	Mid-water trawl
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Sand with Chaetozone christiei and Tellina sp. community	Sands	Yes	4	4	4					4			4
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Coarse sediment with Pisidia longicornis and epibenthic fauna community complex	Coarse sediment	Yes	4	4	4	12	10	9		4	12	12	4
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Echinoderm and sponge dominated community complex	Reef fauna	Yes	9	9	6	16		16		9	16	16	4
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Laminaria-dominated community	Kelp community	Yes	9	9	6	8		8		9			4
Reefs [1170]	Echinoderm and sponge dominated community complex	Reef fauna	Yes	9	9	6	16		16	9	9	16	16	4
Reefs [1170]	Laminaria-dominated community	Kelp community	Yes	9	9	6	8		8	9	9			4

Saltee Islands
Number of fisheries: 7
Fisheries active: Yes
Average risk score: 8.8
Maximum risk score: 16
Conservation objectives published: Yes

Qualifying interest	Marine Community Type	Description	Fishing current	Trap - lobster	Trap - crab	Dredge - scallop	Dredge - razor clam	Dredge surf clam	Trammel netting bait	Beam trawl - demersal
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Coarse sediment with Pomatoceros spp. and Pisidia longicornis community	Coarse sediment	Yes	4	4	6	10		4	12
Reefs [1170]	Subtidal reef dominated by echinoderms and sponges community complex	Faunal reef	Yes	9	9	16		8	9	16
Reefs [1170]	Laminaria-dominated community	Kelp community	Yes	9	9	8		8	9	

Annex II Consultation process during development of the mitigation plan

May 11th 2015:

Invitation to meeting sent by MI to Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation (ISEFPO), Skippers, South East Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum (SERIFF) to discuss mitigation

- The existing distribution of the fishery (a compilation of the information sent to us or available from VMS)
- What habitats are at risk and why (MI risk assessment)
- What do we need to do to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive for these habitats
- Other linked issues associated with this discussion on the management of scallop or fixed gear fisheries in this area.
- Drafting of mitigation plan

May 27th 2015:

Meeting Held in Tower Hotel Waterford. In attendance

- Oliver Tully (MI)
- John Hickey (BIM)
- Ciaran Whelan (Skipper)
- William Bates (Skipper)
- Connor Moore (Skipper)
- Brendan Moore (Skipper)
- Noel Carroll (Skipper)
- Trudy McIntyre (SEAST RIFF Chair)
- Michelle Scallan (SEAST RIFF)
- Miriam Kearney (ISEFPO)
- Denis O'Flaherty (ISEFPO)

Mitigation plan drafted at meeting.

May 29th 2015:

Draft plan e-mailed by MI to ISEFPO, SERIFF and skippers for approval.

June 2nd 2015:

Michelle Scallan (SERIFF) consulted with the following skippers of inshore scallop vessels who were not at the meeting May 27th meeting

- Patrick Myler
- David Myler
- Alex Scallan

Feedback indicated that these skippers had no issues with the draft plan

June 5th 2015:

Further proposal, by phone, to limit dredge numbers inside 12nm. Further changes to northern limit co-ordinates proposed by scallop Skippers.

Jan 29th 2016:

Meeting in Irish South and East Producers Organisation (ISEPO) offices. In attendance

- Oliver Tully (MI)
- Hugo Boyle (ISEPO)
- Miriam Kearney (ISEFPO)
- Trudy McIntrye (SERIFF)
- Ciaran Whelan (Skipper owner)
- Malcolm Whelan (Skipper owner)
- Brendan Moore (Skipper owner)
- Willie Bates (Skipper owner)
- Noel Carroll (Skipper owner)
- Dennis O'Flaherty (Owner)

The co-ordinates outlined in Table 7 of this report were proposed by the scallop fleet. Interactions between scallop fishing and pot fishing were discussed. Proposals on restricting scallop fishing to a winter period in undefined area south of Hook and Saltees developed in order to reduce fishing conflicts between dredging and static gears. Suggestions to increase minimum landing size of scallop south of Saltees proposed.

Feb 10th 2016:

Meeting in New Ross with pot fishermen (attendance of about 30 fishermen including SERIFF representatives) to discuss the scallop proposals and in particular

- the northern limit line for scallop fishing
- the area where winter fishing for scallop would occur
- areas and seasons where potting would be excluded to allow winter scallop fishing

This meeting did not agree with the northern limit line proposed by scallop fishermen on Jan 29th although it did propose areas where a winter scallop fishery would occur and where pots would be excluded from at this time. Representatives for the potting sector nominated to meet with scallop fishermen

Feb 11th 2016:

E-mail from Marine Institute to ISEPO and SE RIFF outlining the differences in outcome of the Jan 29th (scallop fleet) and Feb 10th (potting fleet) meetings and the suggestion that representatives from both fleets should meet.

March 24th 2016:

As no meeting of the potting and scallop fleets were proposed MI e-mailed ISEPO and SERIFF on its intention to finalise the mobile gear mitigation plan for the SACs and submit to DAFM. Gear conflict issues arising during meetings and proposals to manage these were not finalised and are not proposed as part of the mitigation plan described in the final document attached.