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EU Council Regulation 1543/2000

*Establishing a Community framework for the
Collection and Management of the Data
needed to conduct the CFP*

National Programme 2007

IRELAND

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1 Introduction

1.1 General framework

The Marine Institute has compiled this document as the National Programme for Ireland 2007. This programme addresses the following EU Commission Regulations 1639/2001 (*establishing the minimum and extended Community programmes for the collection of data in the fisheries sector and laying down detailed rules for the application of EU Council Regulation (EC) 1543/2000*), as amended by Commission regulation (EC) No 1581/2004. The general framework follows that provided in previous years the main differences is that this year the programme follows the guidelines and uses the standard tables for submissions as provided by STECF in 2005.

1.2 General description of the fisheries

The Irish fishing fleet consists of a little over 1,400 vessels and is divided into three segments; polyvalent, pelagic trawl and beam trawl. There are about 6,000 people working in the fishing fleet associated activities. The majority of Irish fishing, data collection and sampling activity is concentrated the ICES Sub-areas around Ireland VI and VII where Irish vessels are engaged in demersal, pelagic, industrial, deep water highly migratory fisheries and tuna-like fishes Table 1.1. The pelagic fishery targeting mackerel and horse mackerel also operates in the II, IIIa, IV. Some pelagic landings in those fisheries are landed in the UK–Scotland and Norway where scientist in those countries samples them. There are minor demersal and deepwater fisheries in II and IV where Ireland has a small share of an EC quota for cod and other species in Norwegian waters (these are below sampling requirement thresholds see Table 8.2). The Irish fishery for tuna operates Ireland has in the past had a small number of large freezer vessels operating in Mauritanian waters (CECAF FAO 34). This fishery is dependent on EU licensing agreements and the country of landing and first sale is generally either Spain or the Netherlands. Ireland dose intend to sample catches from those fisheries in 2007.

2 Participating institutes

2.1 National correspondent

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2.2 Participating institutes

- **Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR)**
DCMNR is the main governmental department with responsibility for sea fisheries policy, management, control and enforcement.
- **The Marine Institute (MI)**
The MI is a semi state marine research organisation charged by DCMNR with the collection of scientific data on the fisheries sector.
- **An Board Iascaigh Mhara (BIM – The Irish Sea Fisheries Board)**
BIM is a semi state sea fisheries development agency charged by DCMNR with the collection of economic data on the fisheries sector.

3 Module C - Fishing capacities

3.1 MP - Planned sampling

Minimum Programme

In Ireland the collection of data concerning fishing capacity is the responsibility of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR). Irish vessels that undertake commercial fishing activities are registered with the DCMNR. The vessel register is a computerised database which includes details such as;

- Vessel type (e.g. trawler, beam trawler)
- Vessel Age
- GRT, Length, width and draught
- Engine Power

The information in the vessel is registered according to Regulation (EC) No. 2930 and No 2090/98. The vessel register is updated continuously and is held by the Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources. The register includes data on all licensed under 10 m vessels.

Parameters

For the minimum programme, data will be collected in order to assess the average value per vessel of ;

- the gross tonnage
- maximum continuous engine power actually developed by the main engine expressed in kW (as per Council Regulation 2930/86)
- the age of the vessel calculated on the basis of the age of the hull

Disaggregation Levels

The disaggregation level will comply with the segments as defined in Appendix III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004. These data will be updated annually.

Precision Levels

Data on fishing capacity for all active Irish fishing vessels, on an aggregated level by segment, as described in Appendix III of Commission Regulation 1639/2001 will be collected exhaustively by DCMNR

3.2 MP - Derogations and non-conformities

None

3.3 EP - Planned sampling

No data collection will be carried out within the framework of the extended programme during 2007.

3.4 EP - Non-conformities

None

4 Module D - Fishing effort

4.1 MP - Planned sampling

The EC regulation on logbooks and the implementation of control regulations concerning the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) require all vessels greater than 10 meters, used for commercial fishing to carry and complete a logbook of fishing activity. The information contained in the logbook includes;

- Vessel name, number and skipper
- Departure and arrival date and times,
- Gear Type deployed
- Species and weight caught (kgs)
- Fishing grounds, ICES division and ICES rectangle
- Fishing days

The information in the logbooks is registered according to the provision of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2807/83 and No 2847/93. The logbook data are collated by the Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources and kept on a digital database at DCMNR.

Data on the under 10 m fleet will be collected from processor sales slips and fishing calendar depending on the fishery.

Minimum Programme

Parameters

(i) Information on fuel consumption will be collected as part of the minimum programme on the economic evaluation. Ireland will seek funding under the economic evaluation in 2007(see Section JK).

(ii) The Marine Institute routinely conduct analyses of the DCMNR logbook data for use in the stock assessment process. The MI produce annual Irish quarterly fleet activity maps for each ICES statistical rectangle. Data on fishing effort (days or hours fished) on an aggregated level, by segment, as described in Appendix 1 and Appendix VIII of Commission Regulation 1639/2001.

Fishing effort data will be weighted by the measuring unit related to the nominal fishing power of each vessel (KW or GT) as defined in Appendix V.

(iii) Specific Fishing effort will be collected for those stocks of special interest where the catches kept on board exceed certain thresholds listed in Appendix VI of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004.

Disaggregation Levels

Fishing effort indices will be collected according to the fishing techniques defined in Appendix VIII of Commission Regulation 1639/2001, on a quarterly basis by ICES Division.

Precision

Catch and effort data from the EU logbooks are collected exhaustively by DCMNR (census). It is not necessary to carry out a sampling programme for fishing effort by technique for any Irish fleet segments > 10 m. For vessels <10m using passive gears Ireland will sample fishing effort to attain the precision level of 2.

4.2 MP - Derogations and non-conformities

None

4.3 EP - Planned sampling

Ireland will not undertake the extended programme in 2007.

4.4 EP - Non-conformities

None

5 Module E - Catches and landings

5.1 MP - Landings - Planned sampling

The Department of Communications Marine and Natural (DCMNR) resources collect statistics related to the landings of commercial fish species. Ireland currently assesses the commercial catches, including discards, of the stocks from the north-east Atlantic listed in Annex XII of the Application of Regulation 1581/2004.

Landings are currently provided by species, by quarter, by gear, by ICES Division and by ICES rectangle, based on information supplied in the EU Logbooks (level 4 as per Appendix 1 of Commission Regulation 1581/2004). Landings of the under 10 m fleet segment are collected on a monthly basis by census. Landings by vessels >10 m are also collected exhaustively (census) by DCMNR.

5.2 MP - Landings - Derogations and non-conformities

None

5.3 EP - Landings - Planned sampling

Ireland will not undertake further collection of data in 2007 to fulfil the Extended Programme for E.

5.4 EP - Landings - Non-conformities

None

5.5 MP & EP - Discards - Planned sampling

Ireland has a fleet based discard sampling programme. The Irish fleet segments are listed in table 5.2 and those to be sampled in 2007 are given in Table 5.3. These fleet segments definitions are similar to those agreed by the 2005 Regional Co-ordination Meetings. Further sub-divisions have been made to take into account homogenous métiers with similar targeting and discarding practices. Numbers of vessels active and their effort has is based on 2003-2005 averages and the effort is based on fishing days. Discard estimates by species/stocks as required under Appendix XII will be produced for these and fleets on either annual or triennial basis as required.

5.6 MP & EP - Discards - Derogations and non-conformities

The fleet segments not sampled in 2007 will be included in future national programmes on a triennial basis or through international co-operation as appropriate. No derogations are requested and if no non-conformities are foreseen.

5.7 MP - Recreational - Planned sampling

Recreational catches are required for cod (VI and VII) and blue fin tuna. The developing Irish blue fin tuna recreational fishery is based on tag and release. Ireland is participating in tagging these fish (see Mod G Surveys).

Recreational catches for cod in Ireland are difficult to estimate. The Marine Institute will continue with the contract with the Central Fisheries Board (CFB), the agency that has responsibility for recreational fisheries development in Ireland in 2007. This contract will enable the CFB to digitise and collate cod catch statistics for recreational tournaments covered by the CFB. The conclusion of this survey will be forwarded to the Commission by 31 May 2007.

5.8 MP - Recreational - Derogations and non-conformities

None

5.9 EP - Recreational - Planned sampling

None planned

5.10 EP - Recreational - Non-conformities

None

6 Module F - Catches per unit effort

6.1 MP - Planned sampling

A list of the fleets that Ireland will supply data for is shown in table 6.1.

In 2007, Ireland continued to build an updated the various CPUE and /or specific effort of specific commercial fleets for use in stock assessment by various working groups. These data are collected by census from logbooks and sampling data are from those collected under Module I. The fleets to be updated for the MP are those specified by STECF (see SEC 2003 843).

6.2 MP- Derogations and non-conformities

None

6.3 EP - Planned sampling

Ireland will also complete the EP for this module in 2007. The fleets to be updated for the EP are those specified by STECF (see SEC 2003 843).

6.4 EP - Non-conformities

None

7 Module G - Scientific evaluation surveys

7.1 MP - Planned Priority 1 surveys

Ireland meets the criteria of the minimum programme for research surveys as defined in Appendix XIV of Commission Regulation No 1581/2004.

Ireland participates in several ICES expert groups that deal with the coordination and organisation of these surveys. These groups are as follows:

IBTS Working Group (International bottom trawl surveys)
PGHERS (Co-ordinates herring surveys)
PGNAPES (Co-ordinates blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring surveys)
WGMEGS (Co-ordinates mackerel and horse mackerel egg surveys)
WGTT Working Group Tuna Tagging

In 2007, the Irish Marine Institute plans to conduct or participate in the following surveys:

- i) EU Atlanto/Scandian Herring and Blue Whiting Acoustic Survey
- ii) Western IBTS Fourth Quarter Groundfish Surveys
- iii) Mackerel Egg Survey
- iv) Spawning/Pre Spawning Herring Acoustic Surveys
- v) International Blue Whiting Spawning Area Acoustic Survey
- vi) Bluefin tuna tagging

The proposed grids (not definitive) for surveys ii),iii),iv) v) and vi) are shown in Figures 1 to 5.

i) Atlanto/Scandian Herring and Blue Whiting Survey

The aim of the survey is to provide fishery independent indices of abundance on Atlanto Scandian Herring (ASH) and blue whiting to the Northern Pelagic and Blue Whiting Fisheries Working Group (NPBWWG). It also provides ecosystem data on the Norwegian and Barents Seas to other working groups.

Spatial coverage extends from approximately 62° to 73° N and between 5° W and 10° W and includes extensive hydrographic data. Ireland receives a share of the TAC for both stocks and sends one Scientist on the southern leg of the survey.

The survey data is stored in the international ICES PGNAPES database for ASH and blue whiting.

ii) Western IBTS 4th Quarter

The aim of the survey is to collect data on all fish and other species caught in a standardised way and monitor the wider ecosystem. For several commercially important stocks the survey provides an important fishery independent relative abundance index for assessment purposes. A further aim is to be the main data source of biological data for commercial fish and shellfish species listed in Appendix XVI.

The western IBTS 4th quarter groundfish surveys are designed to comply with the protocols set out in the ICES IBTS Protocols Manual. The survey is a depth stratified in design. The spatial coverage is such that this survey forms an important continuum along the west coast of Ireland linking the Scottish survey to the North, the French survey to the South, and the Spanish survey on the Porcupine Bank. Further details of the survey design are given in the IBTS WG report.

Irish survey data are held on a Microsoft Access database. The data collected are reported to the appropriate working groups and has been transferred to the ICES DATRAS databases.

iii) Mackerel/Horse Mackerel Egg Survey

Ireland participates in the international mackerel and horse mackerel egg survey that is coordinated by ICES every three years. The aim of this survey programme is to assess the spawning stock biomass of the mackerel and horse mackerel stocks in the northeastern Atlantic. Plankton samples are collected via a Gulf IIV plankton sampler; mackerel and horse mackerel eggs are extracted and quantified to calculate an annual egg production. Adult samples are collected for the analysis of fecundity and subsequently egg production and fecundity estimates are used to calculate the spawning stock biomass for the assessment working group. All protocols are in accordance with the ICES WGMEGS. The international survey program covers the eastern Atlantic from Gibraltar to the north coast of Scotland between January and July and works on a sampling grid with a resolution of $\frac{1}{2}$ latitude * $\frac{1}{2}$ longitude.

The 2007 ICES international mackerel and horse mackerel egg survey is split into five sampling periods, allowing full coverage of the expected spawning area in the south (periods 1-3), and in the western area (periods 1-5). Norway, Scotland, Netherlands, Germany and Ireland will cover the western survey area, from the Bay of Biscay to the North of Scotland, between February and July. Spain and Portugal will cover the southern spawning area west of Portugal, Cadiz, Galicia and the Cantabrian Sea.

The Irish mackerel egg survey data is stored in a series of spreadsheets and forwarded to the data coordinator in Marlab- Scotland where it is held on the international egg survey database.

iv) Spawning/Pre Spawning Herring Acoustic Surveys

The aim of the Marine Institute herring acoustic surveys is to provide fishery independent indices of relative abundance to the ICES herring working group (HAWG).

The Marine Institute conducts annual acoustic surveys of herring stocks in ICES divisions VIIa south, VIIg and VIIj (Celtic Sea), and in ICES divisions VIIb, VIIc and VIa south off the north west coast of Ireland. In 2007 two surveys are planned with the aim of supplying estimates of relative abundance for these stocks to the Herring Working Group for stocks south of 62° N (HAWG). Ireland is allocated 86% and 91% respectively of the TACs in these two stock divisions.

The surveys comprise an extensive fishery independent data source on these stocks. In 2005 and 2006 MI conducted intensive reviews of the survey data series with the aim of standardising estimates of relative abundance across both survey series and further refining survey design. This work was done with expert staff contracted from NIWA Ltd. New Zealand.

A new ACCESS database is being designed for acoustic data storage and will be housed in the Marine Institute.

VIaS and VIIb Herring Acoustic Survey

The aim of the survey is to provide an estimate of relative abundance to the HAWG and to compile a time series of estimates that can be used to tune the assessment of this stock.

This survey takes place on spawning aggregations. Otherwise survey protocols are in accordance with those of the planning group on herring surveys (PGHERS). The area covered by the survey is shown in Figure 3. The survey will take place over 21 days in January 2007 onboard the RV Celtic Explorer. Hydrographic, seabird and cetacean data will also be collected.

A new ACCESS database is being designed for acoustic data storage and will be housed in the Marine Institute.

Celtic Sea Herring Acoustic Survey

The aim of the survey is to provide an estimate of relative abundance to the HAWG and to extend the tuning series used in the assessment.

This survey takes place on spawning aggregations. Otherwise survey protocols are in accordance with those of the planning group on herring surveys (PGHERS). The survey has been conducted in the fourth and first quarters with timing being guided by fisheries information on the distribution of the stock. The 2007 survey will take place over 21 days in the fourth quarter of 2007 onboard the RV Celtic Explorer. The area to be covered is shown in Fig. 3. Hydrographic, seabird and cetacean data will also be collected.

A new ACCESS database is being designed for acoustic data storage and will be housed in the Marine Institute.

v) International Blue Whiting Spawning Area Survey

The aim of the survey is to provide a series of stock abundance estimates to tune the blue whiting assessment at the Northern Pelagic and Blue Whiting Working Group (NPBWWG) and to collect hydrographic information. Ireland has been a partner in the International Acoustic survey for blue whiting since 2004 with Holland, Norway, Russia. The Faeroe Islands joined the survey in 2005.

The survey is coordinated by the Planning Group for North Atlantic Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys and is aimed at containing the stock in spawning season. Ireland participates through the RV Celtic Explorer over 21 days in March and April. The Irish survey sector and proposed cruise tracks for 2007 are shown in Fig. 4. Blue whiting is the biggest pelagic stock in the North Atlantic and Ireland receives an important allocation from the EU quota.

Data from the survey is stored at the ICES PGNAPES international database for blue whiting.

vi) Bluefin Tuna Tagging Survey

The aim of the Joint European Tuna Tagging Programme is to provide tagging data to the ICCAT bluefin tuna assessment group. This data will be used by the group to address uncertainties in stock mixing and delimitation, and to refine CPUE series used to tune the assessment.

Ireland aims to deploy five pop up archival tags (PSATS) in adult tuna on the North West Coast between August and November. Tagging will take place onboard chartered angling vessels. The tagging areas are shown in Fig. 5.

Tagging data will be stored on the ICCAT tuna tagging database.

7.2 MP - Derogations and non-conformities

None. No changes in survey vessels, timing, protocols or design are anticipated in 2007.

7.3 EP - Planned Priority 2 surveys

i) *Nephrops* Surveys (*Nephrops* Ecology in Divisions VIIa)

The aim of this survey is estimate the density and distribution of *Nephrops* and other benthic species in the western Irish Sea and to investigate the ecology of *Nephrops*. Ireland (Marine Institute) and UK Northern Ireland (DARDNI) have successfully conducted joint *Nephrops* ecology/UWTV survey in August-September each year since 2003. Funding is sought in the under the extended programme in 2007 for the Irish leg of this joint survey.

The survey is based on a randomised fixed grid design with stations approximately 3 nautical miles apart. The estimate numbers of stations in 2007 is 140 an example grid is shown in Figure 6. At each station

burrow counts are made and densities are estimated. Various ecosystem data are collected throughout the survey area. Ireland has budgeted for 12 sea days in 2007 to complete the survey grid.

The data are collected following standard in house protocols and stored in a database specifically designed for UWTV data. There has been international co-operation with the UK Northern Ireland and UK Scotland in the development of the survey. These data will be made available to the scientists in Ireland and the UKNI and results will be presented at the ICES WGNSDS. Methodologies are due to be presented and discussed at an international workshop in 2007 (See Table 13.1).

ii) Deep Water Trawl Survey

Ireland intends to continue deepwater surveys in Sub-area VI and VII in the 2007 programme in coordination with the UK deepwater survey of Sub-area VI. The aim of the survey is to collect data on the deepwater and slope fishery in Sub Areas VI and VII (Figure 7). Additional data will be collected to describe the deepwater ecosystem including the taxonomic analysis of other species and the collection of environmental parameters. Fishing will be undertaken by demersal trawling and protocols will be in agreement with the methods used on the UK deepwater survey.

The Irish deep water survey data are held on a Microsoft Access database and is reported to the appropriate ICES working groups.

ii) Aran Nephrops UWTV Survey

This survey has been in operation annually since 2002 and now has an established time-series (5 years). The aim of the survey is to be a reliable *Nephrops* abundance index and examine this distribution of the stock. The survey is based on a randomised fixed grid design with stations approximately 2.25 nautical miles apart. The estimate numbers of stations in 2007 is 80 an example grid is shown in Figure 8. At each station burrow counts are made and densities are estimated. Various ecosystem data are collected throughout the survey area. Ireland has budgeted for 8 sea days in 2007 to complete the survey grid.

The data are collected following standard in house protocols and stored in a database specifically designed for UWTV data. There has been international co-operation with the UK Northern Ireland and UK Scotland in the development of the survey. The survey data was provided and used by WGHMM and ACFM as the basis for assessment and the provision of management advice for this stock.

7.4 EP - Non-conformities and priority upgrades

None. No changes in survey vessels, timing, protocols or design are anticipated in 2007.

Ireland requests the inclusion of the *Nephrops* UWTV survey series on the Aran Grounds as a priority 2 survey from 2007 onwards.

8 Module H - Length and age sampling

8.1 MP - Landings - Planned sampling

The species and stocks that will be sampled for length, and where appropriate ages, are given in Table 8.1. Numbers planned exceed the minimum numbers required where the data are either used in analytical stock assessments, are for recovery plan stocks, or can be collected at no additional cost to the EC.

Landings length and age sampling are stratified by ICES Area, Quarter, and Species (with the exception of Tuna where annual sampling occurs). Age samples are also length stratified. In all cases sampling intensity is adjusted to take into account seasonal distribution of landings. The sampling programme involves both market and port sampling where appropriate. Additional landings sampling occurs during discard trips.

Precision Levels and Sampling Intensities

Ireland has examined the relationship between precision levels and sampling intensities for a number of stocks (see Technical Report – Irish National Program, 2003). A comparison was made between the CV in numbers-at-age realised by actual levels of Irish sampling and the precision achievable by sampling at the intensities defined under the MP of the DCR. This analysis indicated that, when sampling to a level specified under the MP of the DCR:

- Sampling intensity can be grossly inadequate.
- Sampling levels are sometimes so low that the probability of sampling fish from the extremes of the length distribution is often zero.
- Highest CV's in the catch numbers are sometimes coincident with the most abundant age in the catch.

The sampling strategy and planned length and age targets proposed by Ireland in its 2007 National Programme is consistent with that used in the 2004-6 National Programmes.

Sampling of Foreign Landings

“Sampling of foreign flag vessel landings for length and age is one of the requirements of the DCR. According to the current provisions of the DCR, this sampling should be done at the port of landing (section H.1.c. of EU Regulation 1639-2001). This may pose logistic problems, especially when the port of landing differs from the port of first sale, e.g. when the landings are transferred in the port of landing to refrigerated lorry, for transportation to an auction in the flag country of the vessel.

In its December 2003 report, SGRN noted that the issue of foreign flag vessel sampling is often very inadequately covered by the National Programme proposals and that it could be improved by better task sharing between the countries involved. SGRN also suggested that the problem be resolved by bilateral agreements between the flag country of the vessels concerned and the countries where the landings are taking place. These agreements could then be included as part of the National Programme submissions of the two parties, as proof of the action that is / will be undertaken”. (RCM – DCR North East Atlantic Area, September 2004)

Ireland will follow the recommendations of both SGRN and the North East Atlantic RCM which recommend that foreign landings be sampled in the country of first sale. As a first step Ireland has begun the process of agreeing and implementing Bi – lateral agreements with other EU countries to better co – ordinate this sampling effort. An example of one such agreement is included in Annex II.

At the PGCCDBS (Planning Group On Commercial Catch, Discards And Biological Sampling) meeting March 2005, it was agreed that Ireland would be tasked with the coordination of the 2005 International Cod otolith exchange. This is a wide reaching exchange to encompass all areas. Based on the results of this exchange a proposed Cod Age Reading Workshop may be convened if required in 2007.

8.2 MP - Landings - Derogations and non-conformities

An overview of average landings, shares in EU TACs and EU landings, and exemption rules applied are given for mandatory species and stocks in Table 8.2. The only non-conformity to mention is that some non-obligatory species/stocks will be sampled when encountered on surveys at no additional cost to the EC.

8.3 EP - Landings - Planned sampling

Extended programme species to be sampled are shown in table 8.3

8.4 EP - Landings - Non-conformities

None

8.5 MP & EP - Discards - Planned sampling

Ireland discard sampling is based on the identified fleet segments or metiers identified previously identified in table 5.3. Discard sampling for all metiers is based on a random target sub-sample of discarded catches. All species will be measured in a sub-sample obtained for each haul. Landings sampling for length and age will also occur on discard trips to fulfil the requirements for species/stocks in 8.1. Age sampling of discards will occur for species/stocks in Annex XII of Regulations 1581/2004 where the lengths observed are outside the ranges covered by landings sampling. No specific targets are set since sampling intensities are not readily predictable as they are dependent on occurrence of the species/stock in the discard sub-samples. However, heretofore data on Irish discard rates and numbers and weights-at-age are provided and used by several ICES stock assessment working groups.

In 2007, Ireland will continue a self-sampling project in the *Nephrops* fishery. This project (ECONEPH) will be conducted with co-operation of the Irish Industry and will involve several vessels providing catch samples on a monthly basis.

8.6 MP & EP - Discards - Derogations and non-conformities

None

9 Module I - Other biological sampling

9.1 MP - Planned sampling

The species for which sampling requirements exist are given in Table 8.2.

Cod, black and white bellied monkfish, haddock, whiting and saithe

These species are usually landed gutted and biological parameters can therefore not be established from the sampling the landings. Requesting fish to be landed round, is an expensive option, as these fish have to be purchased and can usually not be sold on for human consumption. Obtaining biological parameters during observer trips tends to interfere with the work of the fishermen and is therefore impractical. Apart from the availability of samples, there are a number of other drawbacks to sampling from commercial sources: (1) The size range of the fish in commercial sources is often so that very few immature fish are caught, making estimates of maturity imprecise; (2) Commercial fishermen often target spawning aggregations, thereby biasing the sampling; (3) Samples from commercial sources are not suitable for histological analysis as the ovaries have to be freshly preserved in formalin. Therefore the only feasible method of collecting fresh, unbiased samples in the right size range, is by using nationally funded at sea sampling programme.

As the optimum time to establish maturity parameters is just before the peak of spawning, Irish maturity sampling programme for these species take place around February or early March. In 2005 the Biological Sampling Programme covered the area to the west of Ireland, while the Irish Sea was sampled in 2006. It is proposed that in 2007 the Celtic Sea (ICES div VIIg and VIIj) will be sampled. Additional sampling for biological parameters will take place on autumn groundfish surveys (Irish Groundfish Survey; western IBTS 4th quarter), which will cover ICES divisions VIa S and VIIbcgjk.

The TAC for haddock is set for the combined ICES areas VII, VIII, IX and X. However, Ireland has reported no catches from VIII, IX or X. Therefore no sampling will take place in these divisions. Similarly, the TAC for whiting is set for the combined areas V, VI, XII and XIV, however the vast majority of catches in this TAC area are from VIa. Therefore sampling will not take place in V, XII or XIV.

Megrim, plaice and sole

These species are often landed with the gonads (partly) in place, however sampling from commercial sources is subject to the same drawbacks as mentioned above (size range, bias and histology). Megrim and plaice are caught in large numbers on groundfish surveys and will continue to be sampled. Sampling levels of sole have been supplemented by port sampling in 2005. In 2007, sole will only be sampled for biological parameters during surveys, including areas where the derogation rules apply. Maturity and sex-ratio information will be collected during the Biological Sampling Programme (VIIgj) and additional sex ratio data will be collected on the Irish Groundfish Survey (VIaS, VIIbcgjk).

Rays

Maturity of rays can be determined year-round, so both maturity and sex ratio parameters will be collected during the Biological Sampling Programme and the Irish Groundfish Survey (VIa S, VIIbcgjk).

Herring, mackerel and horse mackerel

Maturity and sex of these species is determined for commercial samples as well as for survey samples. Surveys on which these species are sampled include the Herring Acoustic Surveys (VIa S, VIIb / VIIa S, VIIgj) and the Groundfish Surveys (VIa S, VIIbcgjk). Fecundity sampling for mackerel and horse mackerel will take place in 2007 as part of the Mackerel Egg Survey in Module G.

Blue whiting

Maturity and sex parameters will be collected on International Blue Whiting Surveys (VI) and on the Irish Groundfish Survey (VIaS, VIIbcgjk).

Nephrops

The sex ratio and the maturity stage of female nephrops in commercial samples (FU 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20) and of those caught on groundfish surveys (VIa S, VIIbcgjk) will be determined. Additionally, data on the maturity of males will be collected for these stocks from commercial samples.

Edible crab and lobster

Sampling for biological parameters of edible crab took place in 2005, no sampling is planned for 2007. Lobsters will be sampled for maturity and sex ratio in the Irish ports during 2007.

Task sharing

The UK (CEFAS) and Ireland (MI) have overlapping survey areas in the Irish and Celtic Seas. It is proposed by both countries to sample this area on a rolling basis but with the flexibility to target specific areas or species, should data be requested by the RCM NEA or ICES Working Groups. It is possible that it is necessary for both countries to be working in the same area in a given year in order to collect sufficient data on specific stocks.

Rather than sampling a standard grid each year, it will be necessary to sample assemblages of fish that meet sampling needs for a particular stock within an area. The institutes will endeavour to co-ordinate sampling between the institutes to ensure the optimisation of data collection between areas and by stock. Both institutes apply similar data collection protocols, so raw data can be combined.

As the aim of these cruises is to collect as much useful data as possible it will be necessary to use different gears to obtain these data. Currently CEFAS uses 4m beam trawls and PHHT bottom trawls and MI uses the GOV. It is likely that both institutes own other fishing gears that may be identified as being more suited to collecting information on specific stocks. As these cruises are not intended as time series both institutes should retain the flexibility of gears to be employed.

9.2 MP - Derogations and non-conformities

Portuguese dogfish and orange roughy

As the deep-sea fishery off Ireland has drastically decreased in recent years, it is not expected that these species will be caught in large quantities. Ireland therefore requests derogation for the sampling of biological parameters of these species.

Rays and skates

The average Irish landings of rays and skates were 2530T. After the four species mentioned in Table 8.2 (*R brachyura*, *R clavata*, *R montagui* and *R naevus*), the next most common species makes up less than 3% of the catches on surveys in the last 3 years, which would result in an estimated catch of less than 100T for all other species of rays and skates.

9.3 EP - Planned sampling

No extended programme is planned

9.4 EP - Non-conformities

No extended programme is planned

10 Module J – Economic data on fishing vessels

10.1 MP – Planned sampling

In 2007, the following data will be collected in fulfilment of the requirements of Commission Regulation 1543/2000. Also listed are the parameter definitions as discussed at the workshop on economic indicators, held in Paris in May 2004 (IFREMER, 2004). The recommendations arising from this workshop and subsequent workshops are instrumental to any changes made to the economic parameters collected.

Commission Reg. No. 1639/2001 Appendix XVII	Economic Parameters to be collected in 2007	SGECA Report Oct 2004
Income (turnover)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income per species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under 12 m from assessment forms ○ Over 12 m from Logbook • Income from other marine related activities • Funding for scientific surveys / development trials • Grant Aid 	Turnover: 1. Gross value of landings (including processing onboard) whatever the marketing channels – total and per species 2. Income accruing from other activities of the vessel (e.g. tourism, recreational fishing) 3. Incoming rents from quotas or fishing rights 4. Other income, e.g. revenues from POs 5. Do not include social benefits of persons Gross revenue: 1. Turnover 2. Subsidies connected to the production including compensation for bans on fishing
Production costs		
--- crew (include social cost)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total crew costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crew payment method ○ Crew / Vessel share ○ Estimated value of owner's labour 	Labour costs: 1. Wages and salaries of crew 2. Imputed value of owner's labour on board (and other unpaid family workers) 3. Social security costs
--- fuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel • Lube oil 	1. Only fuel lubricant 2. Value Recommend that fuel volume is considered as an optional indicator of "Effort"

Commission Reg. No. 1639/2001 Appendix XVII	Economic Parameters to be collected in 2007	SGECA Report Oct 2004
--- repair and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic and similar equipment • Gear repairs and replacements • Hull of vessel • Lifting equipment • Refrigeration / freezing • Equipment • Safety equipment 	Repair and maintenance Costs
--- other operational costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food ○ Ice ○ Boxes/bins ○ Bait ○ Lube Oil ○ Crew travel ○ Harbour dues ○ Auctioneer's Commission ○ PO levy ○ Agents Commission ○ Co-op fees ○ Other costs • Non-variable costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Insurance ○ Other (incl. admin, shore labour etc.) • Lease of equipment 	<p>Other costs: Separate variable and non-variable costs</p> <p>1. Variable costs: landings costs, sales, lubricant, treatment, ice, bait, boxes, salt, food, transport, harbour dues, pilot services, PO fees</p> <p>2. Non-variable costs: administration (shore staff, communications, etc.), netting, insurance, general expenses, net leasing of technical equipment, costs of hiring/renting of quota or other fishing rights</p> <p>Comment: 1. Separation of variable and non-variable costs was agreed by the Concerted Action for the purpose of bio-economic analysis 2. Separation of these costs should be optional for MS 3. It is desirable if information on costs of quota and fishing rights</p>

Commission Reg. No. 1639/2001 Appendix XVII	Economic Parameters to be collected in 2007	SGECA Report Oct 2004
Fixed costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insured value of vessel • Market value of vessel (if insured not available) • Age of Vessel • Age of Engine 	<p>Capital costs Depreciation of the physical capital, including very expensive netting. Discussion and clarification is needed on the depreciation system, depreciation of fishing rights, application of different depreciation rates to different assets, different ways of valuing assets</p>
Financial Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insured value of vessel • Outstanding loans of vessel 	<p>Financial position Borrowed capital divided by total capital</p>
Investment (Assets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age of Vessel • Purchase price of vessel • Insured value of vessel • Replacement/Purchase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electronic equipment ○ Gears ○ Hull of vessel ○ Lifting equipment ○ Refrigeration / freezing equipment ○ Safety equipment ○ Engine ○ Other 	<p>Capital value Include value of fishing rights, as a separate item if possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Codes should be used as guidance to the definition of the indicator 2. Discussion on the specifications for fisheries is required, in line with discussions of “Capital costs” <p>Investments Include value of fishing rights, as a separate item if possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Codes should be used as guidance to the definition of the indicator 2. Discussion on the specifications for fisheries is required, in line with discussions of “Capital costs”

Commission Reg. No. 1639/2001 Appendix XVII	Economic Parameters to be collected in 2007	SGECA Report Oct 2004
Prices/species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prices per species from Logbook data 	Use country statistics
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total crew numbers Parttime/Fulltime/Casual Rotating Crew numbers 	Employment 1. Full-time equivalents 2. Full-time 3. Part-time Recommend a study on defining full-time equivalent, with Eurostat collaboration
Fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of vessels GT Kw Age Gears used 	Vessels in fishing vessel register
Effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days at Sea 	1. Days at sea 2. Data should conform to that produced under module D of 1639/2001

The national programme for collection of economic data will be based on the following data sources:

- Fleet register information from Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR)
- Log sheet information from the DCMNR
- Questionnaire information returned from vessel owners on a voluntary basis.
- Financial accounts from certified accountants

The fleet will be divided into two distinct populations; the offshore fleet (vessels with an overall length of 12 meters or greater), and the inshore fleet (less than 12 metres), to ensure the highest possible standard of survey results, whilst recognising the time and cost associated with a complete census of all vessels.

To identify the sample sizes necessary to attain the required level of precision for each of the fleet segments as defined in Appendix III of Commission Regulation EC 1639/2001, BIM employed independent consultants to examine historical economic data, in conjunction with the existing fleet structure. The population and planned sample sizes for each segment are reported in Table 10.1.

The target population, in the first instance, will be the 2006 fishing fleet register. However, for vessels over 12 meters in length, only those vessels that have logbook returns for 2006 will constitute the final target population. Therefore, the precise sample size required to achieve precision will only become apparent after examination of the 2006 official logbook data and the 2006 fleet register. The predicted target and planned

sampling figures reported in Table 10.1 are based on the official fishing fleet register as it appeared in March 2006

For vessels under 12m the target population will be the 2006 fishing fleet register. In recognition of the costs involved in over sampling, an attempt will be made to estimate the inactive proportion of this population to reduce the sampling effort needed to achieve the required precision as specified in the regulations.

The sampling strategy is one of stratified random sampling within each of the fleet segments identified in Table 10.1.

Following advice and input from the industry, the timing of the 2006 survey will be scheduled to coincide with the end of the financial year. This adjustment in the data collection strategy is intended to encourage the active participation of fishermen and their accountant's in providing the relevant data at a single and convenient time of the year

Liaison with the fishing industry and their representative organisations will continue in order to maximise the response rate to survey questionnaires. Vessel owners will be asked to engage with survey staff and actively participate in an interview designed to verify and improve the quality of submitted data.

Gross value of landings for the offshore fleet will be determined as the product of the landings and contemporary fish prices, as provided in official fishing logbooks and contemporary price databases provided by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. For the inshore fleet, gross value of landings will be ascertained from the economic assessment forms, on a per species basis.

To ensure the anonymity of all fishermen that cooperate in the survey no unique vessel identifiers will be stored in the bio-economic database developed for this purpose.

10.2 MP – Derogations and non-conformities

None

10.3 EP – Planned sampling

Not applicable

10.4 EP – Non –conformities

Not applicable

11 Module K - Data concerning fish processing industry

11.1 MP - Planned sampling

Data Sources

The national programme for collection of economic data for the processing industry combines information from three main sources;

- Bord Iascaigh Mhara's (BIM) internal data bank;
- The Central Statistics Office (CSO);
- The Department of the Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR).

Target Population

The target population is all fish processing companies listed in BIM's Irish Seafood Trade Directory. This is based on companies registered with the DCMNR and is verified and updated annually.

Collection of economic data

Table 1 Economic information from the processing industry as defined in Appendix XIX

Parameter	Availability	Source of Data
Income - Turnover - Other Income	Total - Available Per Product - Not Available	Total available from CSO Census of Industrial Production.
Production costs -Total	Total - Available	Total available from CSO Census of Industrial Production.
— labour	Available	Total available from CSO Census of Industrial Production.
— energy	Available	Aggregated with raw material in CSO Census of Industrial Production.
— raw material (value)	Available	Aggregated with fuel in CSO Census of Industrial Production.
— other operational costs	Available	
Fixed costs - Depreciation, Financial Costs Net, Extraordinary costs net, all taxes, profit for the financial year	Not available	To be collected by survey and/or company accounts
Investment (Asset) - Gross investment in tangible goods	Not available	To be collected by survey and/or company accounts
Investment (Asset) - Balance sheet total (Assets)	Not available	To be collected by survey and/or company accounts
Financial position -Net capital	Not available	To be collected by survey and/or company accounts
Financial position - Debt	Not available	To be collected by survey and/or company accounts
Financial position -Balance sheet total (liabilities)	Not available	To be collected by survey and/or company accounts
Raw material - Total and per species	Available	Calculated from landings data (DCMNR) and Import data (CSO). Per species N/A
Employment -Numbers (full-time equivalents)	Available	BIM Employment Survey

A mail (postal/email) survey will be carried out on an annual basis to provide data on the parameters which are currently unavailable.

This will be a stratified sampling survey based on company size, as determined by number employed, and category of fish processed.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara will ensure the best possible outcome by following up on the mail survey by telephone call and/or company visits. The survey will also be advertised in the national trade press and on the BIM corporate website.

Time scale and delay

The CSO Census of Industrial Production, while conducted annually, is published with a time lag of approximately 18 months. The BIM employment survey is currently carried out every two years but will be incorporated into the more detailed (DCR) survey of the fish-processing sector and will be conducted on an annual basis.

Database Development

In compliance with article 9, 10 and 11, a database has been created to store information collected on the fleet (Module J – Economic data by groups of vessels). In 2006, the redesign of this was commenced to store and analyse all data relevant to module K (fish processing). Work on this will continue in 2006/2007. The data will be stored in aggregated format only and it will not be possible to identify individual processors. As stipulated in article 10(2) of the regulation, it will be possible to extract any data requested by the Commission within 20 working days.

11.2 MP - Derogations and non-conformities

No derogations requested

11.3 EP - Planned sampling

None planned

11.4 EP - Non-conformities

Not Applicable

12 Databases

12.1 Database development and data management

Data Base Development for 2007

Significant progress has been made over recent years to consolidate the range of databases and data management solutions in place for fisheries datasets. At present data from FSS port sampling is warehoused in the STOCKMAN system, which is a client-server relational database in SQL2000 with a VB6 graphical user interface (GUI). Other data, such as survey, discard and so on is presently housed in a number of Access 2000 databases on the Marine Institute's network. Other data continues to be managed in Excel spreadsheets. The thrust of the data management programme is to consolidate data where possible, and centralise on more robust and secure enterprise-wide databases while continuing to enhance and further develop the suite of analysis and reporting tools available.

The planned priorities for 2007 are as follows;

Stockman – Biological Sampling Database

- Address minor bugs encountered with the current GUI of STOCKMAN Data Entry and develop data validation routines
- Complete uploads of archived data restored from obsolete media and historic formats to STOCKMAN & implement an archive policy
- Implement further enhancements to the STOCKMAN Extraction modules to support both Demersal/Pelagics and Nephrops reporting requirements

Catch/Logbooks Data Management System.

- Consolidate the new SQL Database developed in 2006 in response to the new system now operational in the Department of Marine
- Scope and plan web access to the live Integrated Fisheries Information System operational in the Department of the Marine using the government VPN
- Migrate all archives of logbook data to the new data model

DCR Control Exercise.

- Monitor and implement any changes in codification standards.

Discard Database

- Work will continue on the discard database with plans to finalise database security, data entry validation and GIS export solutions .

Survey Databases

- Work will continue across all sections of the fisheries science services to implement the generic survey data model developed in 2006 in SQL Server. Advanced reporting options to support acoustic data analysis tools developed in R, will be finalised and released to production. Scripting routines will be developed to provide necessary outputs from trawl survey data, and work will continue in populating core and look up tables for all sections of the fisheries group which undertake survey work.
- The work initiated in 2006 to spatially enable the Survey database will be implemented and GIS tools provided to support analysis and dissemination of data. Meta data is currently available on www.maps.marine.ie .

13 National and international co-ordination

13.1 National co-ordination

Several National co-ordination meetings for the Data Collection Regulation were held between the three main participating agencies; the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, the Marine Institute and Bord Iascaigh Mhara. Costs for these meetings were nationally funded.

13.2 International co-ordination

Scientific Planning and Co-ordination meetings

During 2007, Ireland will participate fully in the ICES planning and co-ordination meetings and ageing exchanges which are directly related to data collection requirements under Commission Regulation (EC) 1639/2001. Table 13.1

13.3 Follow-up of RCM recommendations and initiatives

RCM NEA recommends providing aggregated maturity data to the assessment working groups on a yearly basis for those stocks that are sampled on a routine basis yearly, in a format agreed by the working group.

Ireland has provided aggregated maturity data for in 2005 for the NSDSWG, SSDSWG and the HM&M WG, and will continue to provide this data to all the relevant working groups.

RCM NEA recommends setting up species-specific workshops to give guidance in collecting and analysing maturity data. Megrim was regarded as the best candidate species for a first workshop because there exists good and widespread data through international market sampling.

Ireland will consider participation at any relevant workshops as they arise.

RCM North Sea recommends that where discard sampling coverage is restricted to a low level, the country concerned considers whether the inputs from other countries are sufficient and enters into bilateral agreements where appropriate.

Ireland will follow up on this recommendation in the following areas, as discussed during the RCM NEA.

- Sub-area VIIa: There is a potential for task sharing between Belgium and Ireland for the beam trawl fishery for demersals in the Irish Sea, but a preliminary analysis on the comparability of the discard patterns of the two fleets is required, before it can be decided that there is no need to complement the Belgian discard data series with Irish discard information. Irish discard data are available for the years 1995-2002, that could be compared to the Belgian discard information collected in 2002-2005.
- Sub-area VIIb,c,j,k: There might be a gap in coverage, as there is no discard sampling program on the Irish Nephrops fishery on the Porcupine Bank (FU 16), although there is evidence that the exploitation pattern of the Irish Nephrops fleet in this area differs from that of the other fleets.

In an attempt to first gather data on these two areas Ireland has decided to carry out some preliminary investigations into discarding in the Irish sea beam trawl fishery in 2007 and make a direct comparison with the Belgian Data collected in 2007. Furthermore in 2007 as part of an annual/triennial sampling scheme Ireland will carry out discard trips in the Irish Nephrops fishery on the Porcupine Bank (FU 16).

***RCM North Sea** recommends that countries enter into bi- or multilateral agreements in cases where the required level of sampling under the DCR is too low to make a useful contribution to maturity estimates by individual member states.*

Ireland has established a coordinated approach to maturity sampling in the Celtic Sea and the Irish Sea with CEFAS, identifying areas where sampling can be shared and other areas where all parties are required to carry out intensive sampling.

***The RCM North Sea** reiterates its 2004 recommendation on the conclusion of formal bilateral agreements on the sampling of foreign flag vessels, and on the inclusion of these agreements in the MS' national program proposals.*

Ireland will continue with the process of identifying the need for Bi – Lateral agreements, and will include all agreements in future National proposals.

14 List of acronyms and abbreviations

ACFM Advisory Council on Fisheries Management – This ICES group is responsible for compiling and analysing all available fish stock information to compile advice on stock levels and strategies for management.

Acoustic surveys Acoustic surveys use sound waves emitted from a "transducer" to estimate the density of plankton and fish shoals. The survey vessel tows the transducer under water, which is linked to an echo sounder in the vessel which records the shoals of fish as "marks" on a screen or paper trace. The density of these marks is used to calculate total biomass of a stock.

Age The number of years of life completed, here indicated by an Arabic numeral, followed by a plus sign if there is any possibility of ambiguity (age 5, age 5+).

BIM An Bord Iascaigh Mhara, The Irish Sea Fisheries Board, charged with responsibility for development of the fishing and aquaculture industries in Ireland. (see www.bim.ie)

By-catch Refers to discarded catch (see Discards) plus incidental catch not purposely targeted by the fishermen.

CPUE /Catch Per Unit of Effort The catch of fish, in numbers or in weight, taken by a defined unit of fishing effort. Also called catch per effort, fishing success, or availability.

DCMNR Dept. of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (see www.dcmnr.gov.ie/Marine)

DCR / Data Collection Regulation EU Council Regulations 1543/2000 and 1639/2001 established a community framework for the collection and management of the data needed to conduct the common fisheries policy. Each member state must collect data on the biology of the fish stocks, on the fleets and their activities and on economic and social issues

Discard Discards are defined as that part of the catch returned to the sea as a result of economic, legal or other considerations.

Discard rate The percentage (or proportion) of the total catch which is discarded.

EP Extended Programme

FAT Fisheries Assessment Technician – regionally-based sea-going staff employed by FSS.

Fishing Effort The total fishing gear in use for a specified period of time. When two or more kinds of gear are used, they must be adjusted to some standard type

Groundfish Species of demersal fish dwelling on, or close to the sea floor, as targeted in the annual FSS groundfish surveys around the Irish coast.

ICES International Council for the Exploration of the Seas –Ireland shares the Total Allowable Catches TACs for many stocks we exploit with our European Union partners. Because of this international dimension many stocks need to be assessed in an international fora such as ICES.

ICCAT International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna

Marine Institute The Marine Institute is Ireland's national agency with the following general functions : "to undertake, to co-ordinate, to promote and to assist in marine research and development and to provide such services related to marine research and development, that in the opinion of the Institute will promote economic development and create employment and protect the environment." Marine Institute Act, 1991 (see www.marine.ie)

FSS / Fisheries Science Services – One of seven service areas of the Marine Institute, FSS's mission is to assess, research and advise on the marine fisheries resource in Irish waters

LT Laboratory Technician.

MP Minimum Programme.

MS Member State.

Nemesis *Nephrops* measuring system.

NP National Programme.

RCM Regional Co-ordination Meetings.

Recovery Plan This is a multi-annual plan to recover seriously depleted stock. The plans general involve agreed Harvest control Rules, Technical Measures, effort controls and various control and enforcement measures.

Recruitment The amount of fish added to the exploitable stock each year due to growth and/or migration into the fishing area. For example, the number of fish that grow to become vulnerable to the fishing gear in one year would be the recruitment to the fishable population that year. This term is also used in referring to the number of fish from a year class reaching a certain age. For example, all fish reaching their second year would be age 2 recruits.

Sample A proportion or a segment of a fish stock which is removed for study, and is assumed to be representative of the whole. The greater the effort, in terms of both numbers and magnitude of the samples, the greater the confidence that the information obtained is a true reflection of the status of a stock (level of abundance in terms of numbers or weight, age composition, etc.)

STECF The Scientific Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries was established by the European Commission and comprises fisheries scientists and economists from the member states. The role of STECF is to advise the European Commission on scientific, technical and economic issues related to the management of fisheries resources that are exploited worldwide by members of the European Union.

STO Scientific and Technical Officer

Stock A "stock" is a population of a species living in a defined geographical area with similar biological parameters (e.g. growth, size at maturity, fecundity etc.) and a shared mortality rate. A thorough understanding of the fisheries biology of any species is needed to define these biological parameters.

SSB / Spawning stock biomass The total weight of all sexually mature fish in the population. The size of SSB for a stock depends on abundance of year classes, the exploitation pattern, the rate of growth, fishing and natural mortality rates, the onset of sexual maturity and environmental conditions.

STOCKMAN A custom developed relational database which houses the Marine Institute Fisheries Science Services sampling data.

TAC / Total allowable catch is the total regulated catch from a stock in a given time period, usually a year.

TL Team Leader

15 Comments, suggestions and reflections

General Comments on the Data Collection Regulation

Council Regulation 1543/2000 established a community framework for the **collection and management of the data** needed to conduct the common fisheries policy. These comments are made with a view to stimulating debate on the new Data Collection Regulation and in the light of the revisions planned during 2005.

- (1) In May each year MS must submit a Technical Reports for the previous year, a cost statement of the previous year and their National Programme for the following year. This creates great pressure on MS at this time as the same people are generally involved in producing the three reports. National Programmes and Technical Reports should be submitted as three year programmes by 31st January. Cost Statements should be submitted annually 31st May.
- (2) This year eels and salmon were included in the DCR National Programmes. There was great confusion about whether this related to marine sampling only or whether freshwater sampling should be included in programmes.
- (3) There is a clear need for further work and guidelines on precision methodology.

Special Comment

Overall projected personnel costs for the MP in this module in 2007 are 31 % higher (€1,162,371 in 2006; €811,784 in 2005). The 31 % increase is due to salary increases associated with national pay agreements (see introduction). It is also due to the real staff costs of delivering the national programme, which have only become apparent through the experience of delivery in 2003 to 2005. In order to deliver on the requirements of the programmes in those years, staff worked excessive hours (contrary to the EU Working Time Directive). This excessive work resulted in accrual of lieu leave, which could not be taken, if the programmes were to be delivered. During 2005, several meetings were held to evaluate the real staff costs associated with the DCR, drawing on the experience gained from the earlier work. These new estimates of real salary requirements explain the 29% increase.

Comments on Appendix XV

Clupea harengus is listed as an optional species in this appendix for the NE Atlantic and the western channel, however it is listed in appendix XII as a stock that yearly discard estimates are required. ICES division VIIg is also omitted as an area for sampling

Cod VIIb is not listed in appendix XV as a species for sampling but like herring it is listed in appendix XII as a species which triennial discards estimated are reported

Megrim VI is not listed in appendix XV as a species for sampling but like herring and cod it is listed in appendix XII as a species which triennial discards estimated are reported

The Whelk species listed in appendix XV is *Busycon* spp, this genus is fished in the USA and not in European waters.

Maps of Proposed Cruise Tracks & Station Positions for 2007 Surveys

Figure 1: Stations for Western IBTS Groundfish Survey 2007

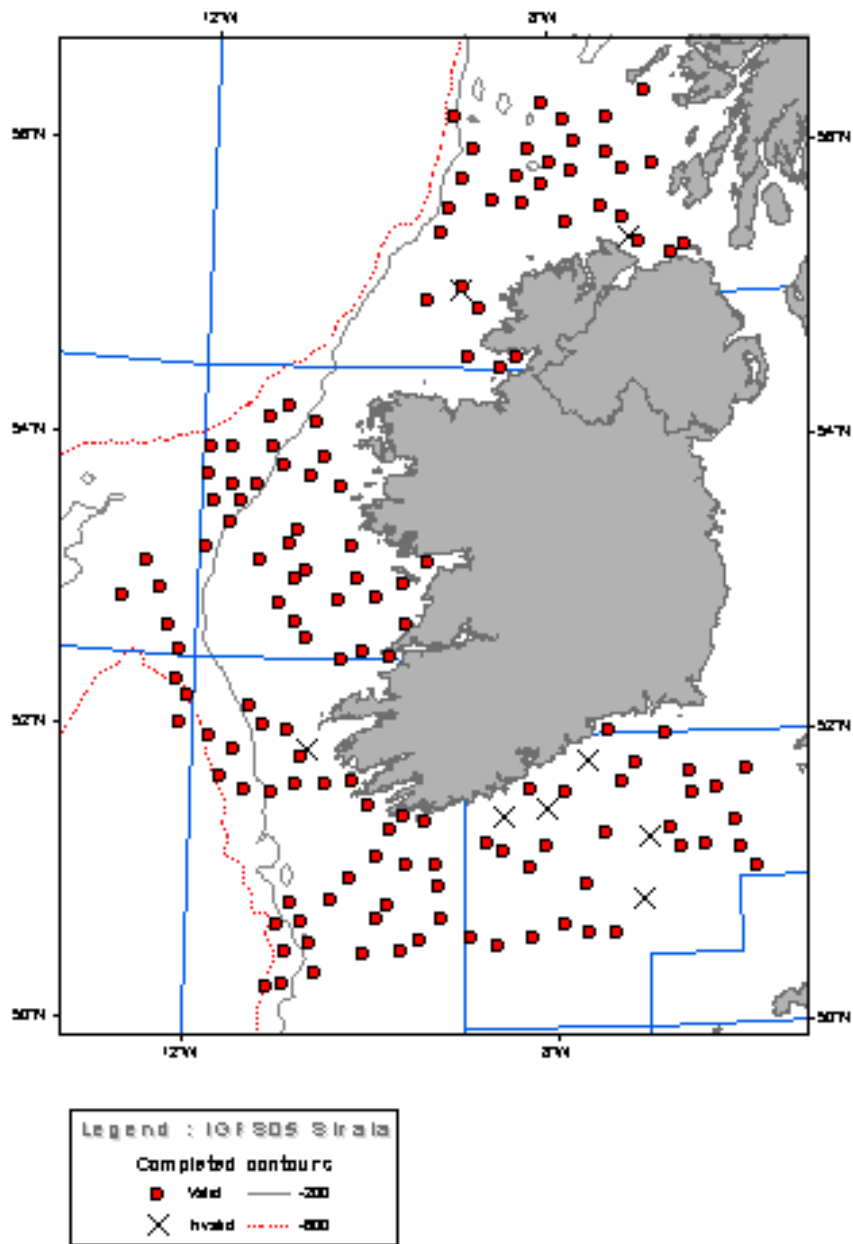
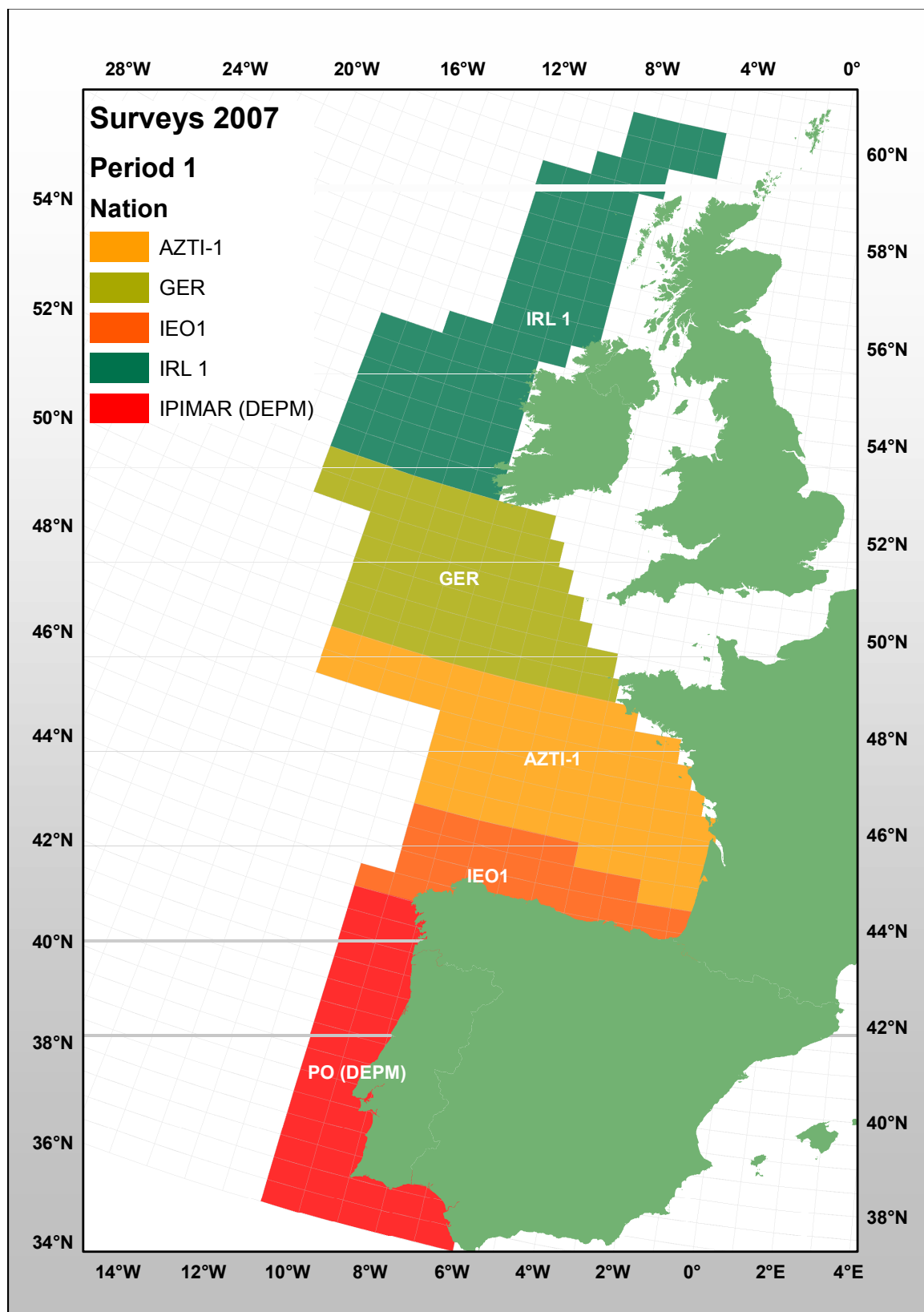


Figure 2: Proposed Stations for Mackerel Egg Survey 2007



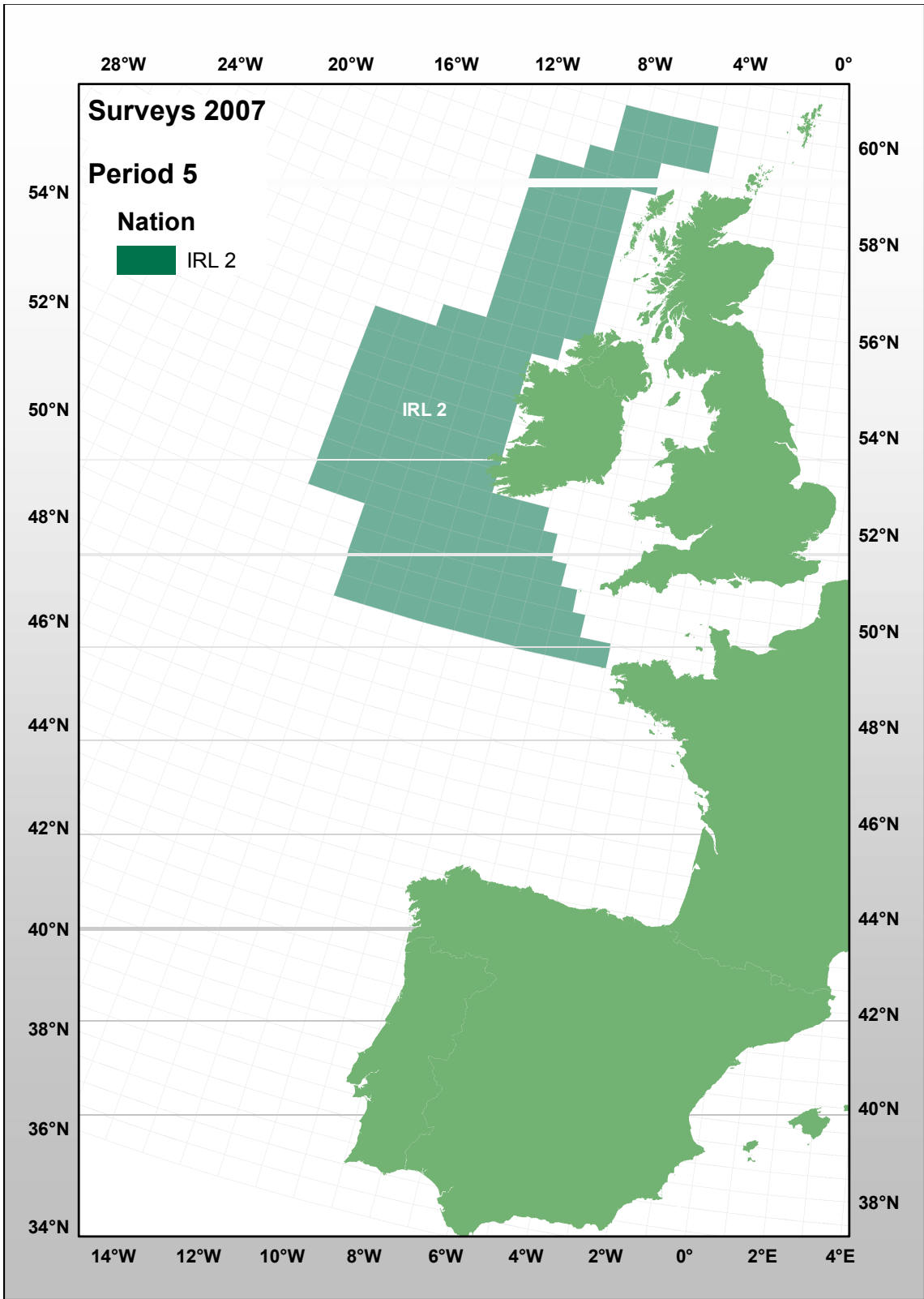
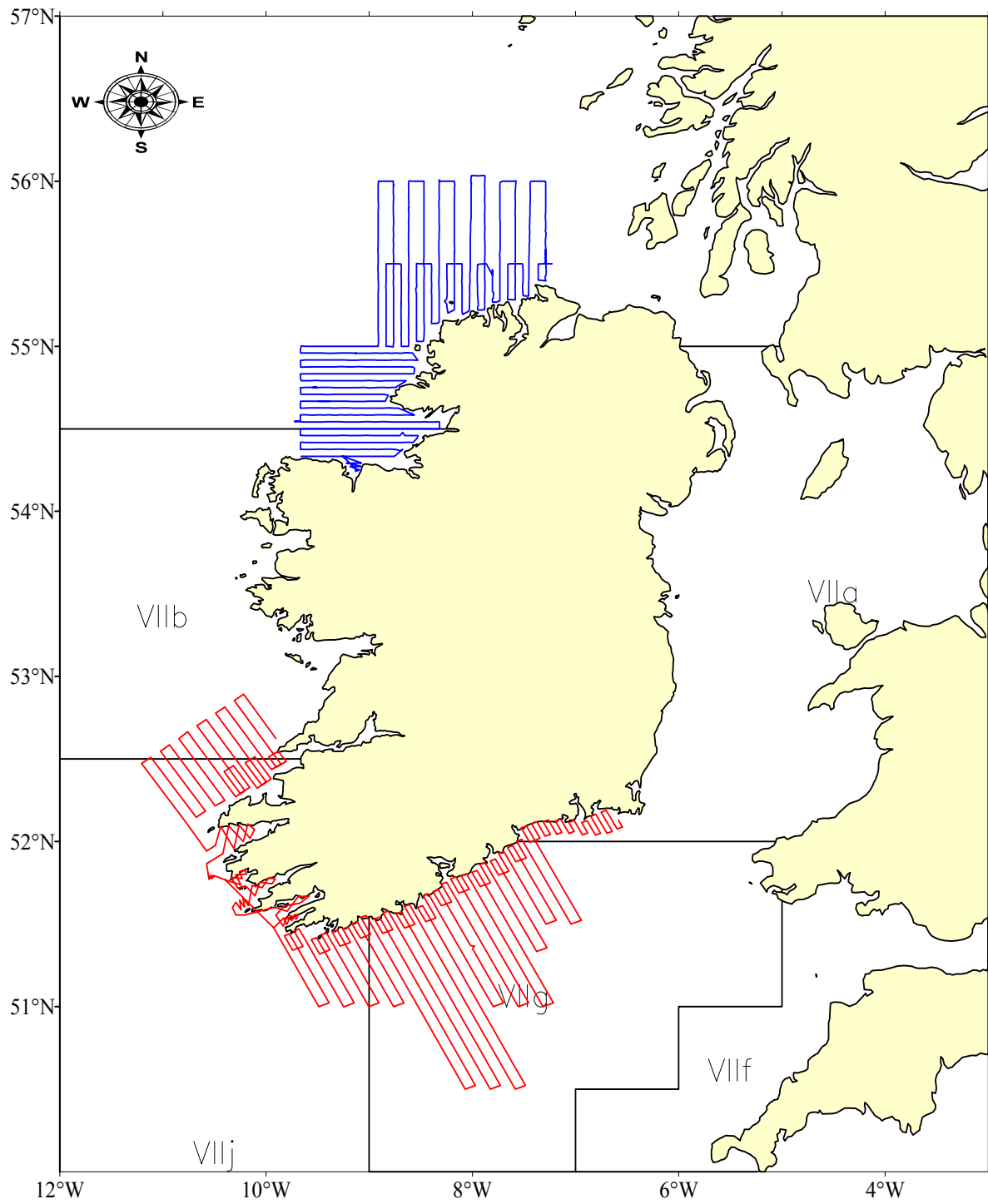


Figure 3: Survey Tracks for spawning and pre spawning Herring Acoustic surveys 2007



- North West Herring Acoustic Survey
- Celtic Sea Herring Acoustic Survey

Figure 5: Proposed Areas for Bluefin Tuna Tagging

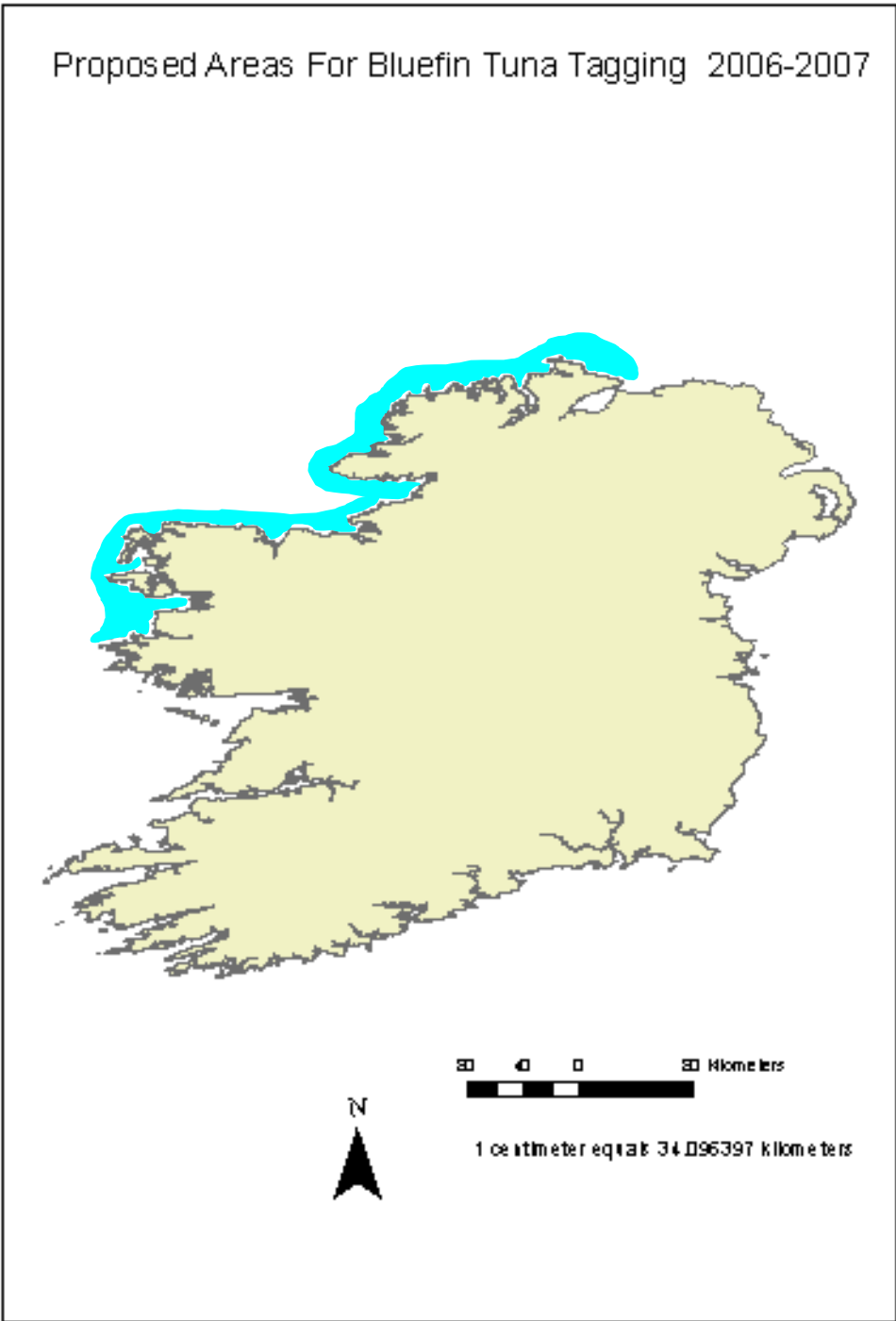


Figure 6: Proposed Station positions for joint Marine Institute Nephrops UWTV Surveys in Irish Sea during 2007

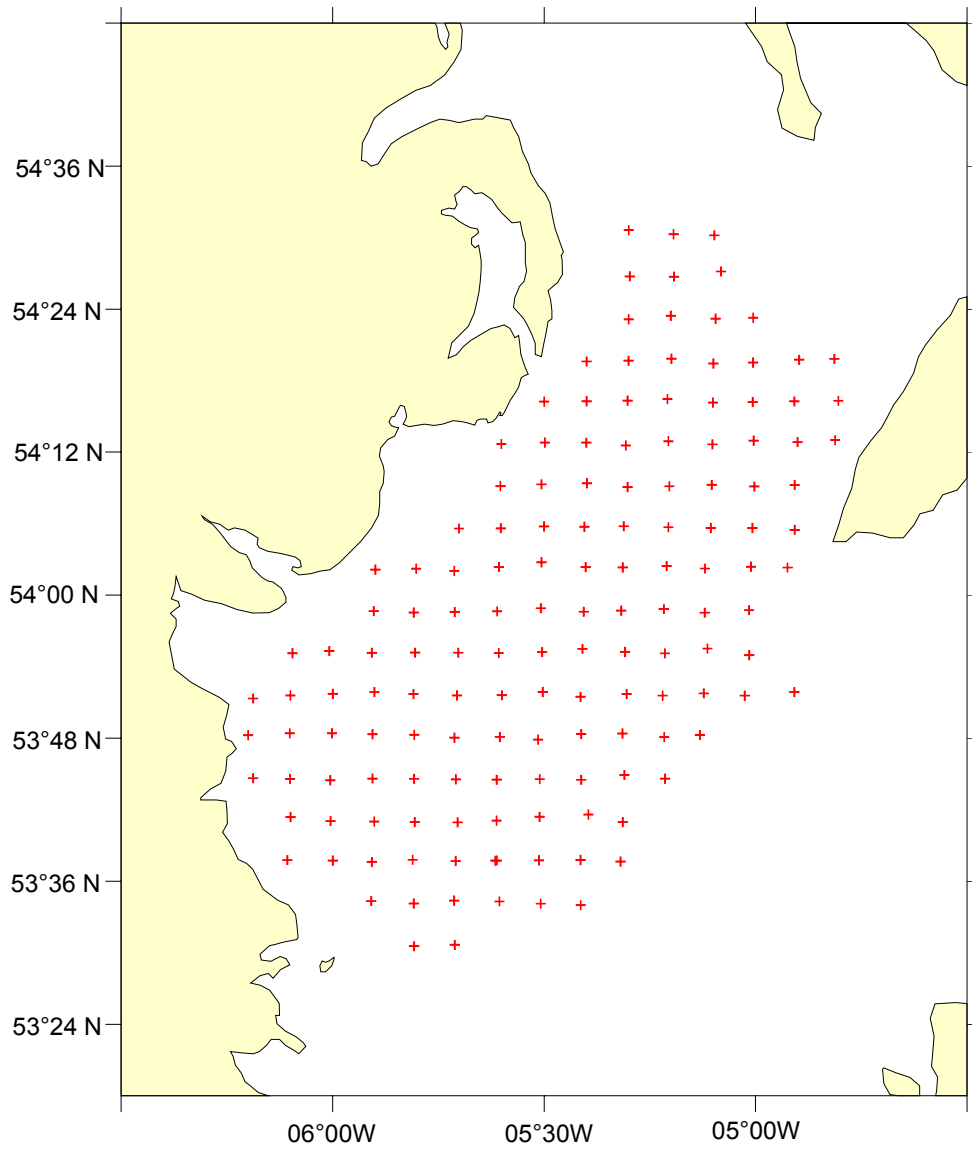


Figure 7: Proposed trawl areas for the Deepwater survey 2007

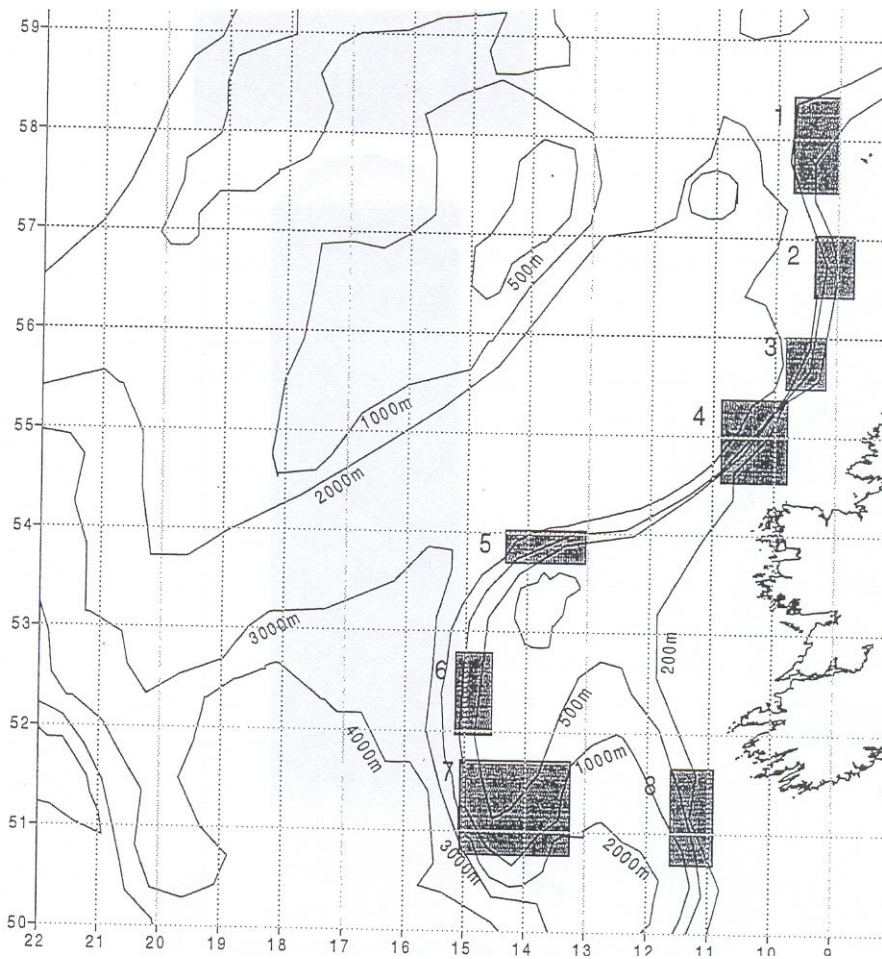


Figure 8: Proposed Station positions for joint Marine Institute Nephrops UWTV Surveys on Aran Grounds in 2007

