



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications



INFOMAR

Integrated Mapping for the
Sustainable Development
of Ireland's Marine Resource



TC22_02 INFOMAR Survey Report Area: Celtic Sea

For:
Marine Institute & Geological Survey Ireland

RV Tom Crean

September 2022

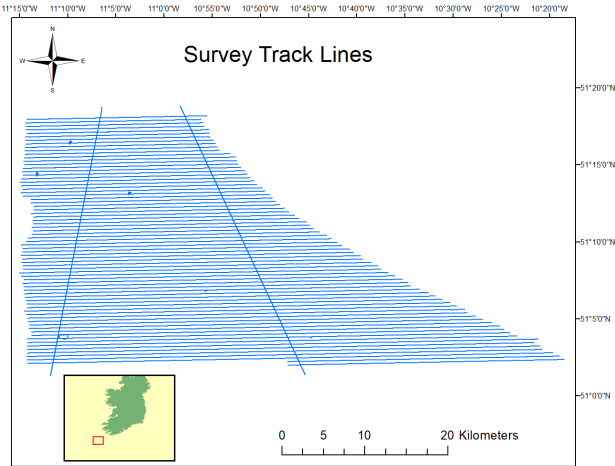
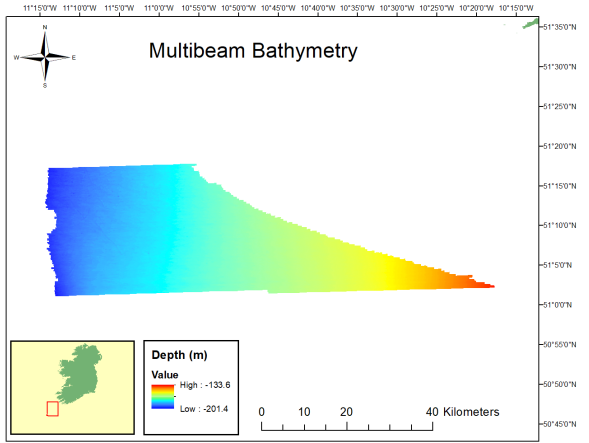
Prepared by Kevin Sheehan & INFOMAR Survey Team



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|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Marine Institute Reference No: | Survey Report: TC22_02 |
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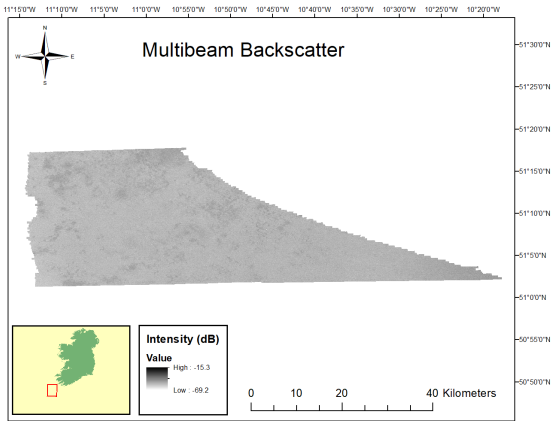
| | | Signature | Date |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| Compiled by | Kevin Sheehan | <i>Kevin Sheehan</i> | 11/09/2023 |
| Checked | Fabio Sacchetti | <i>Fabio Sacchetti</i> | 14/09/2023 |
| Project Managers: Thomas Furey, Marine Institute & Sean Cullen, Geological Survey Ireland | | | |

| Issue | Date | Description | Author | Approved |
|-------|------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 11/09/2023 | Draft | Kevin Sheehan | Fabio Sacchetti |
| 2 | 14/09/2023 | Final | Kevin Sheehan | Fabio Sacchetti |

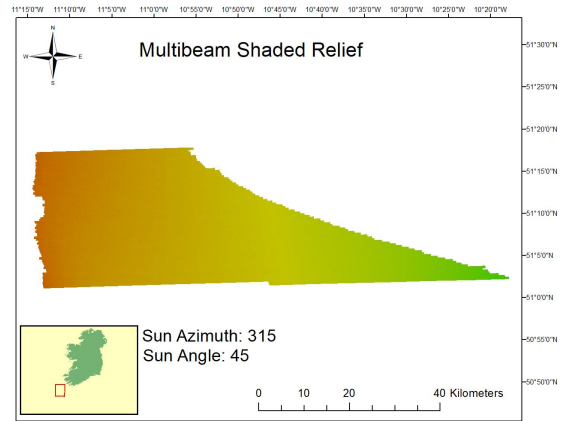
| Executive Summary | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Survey Summary | | | |
| Survey Vessel: | RV <i>Tom Crean</i> | Survey Leg: | TC22_02 |
| Mobilisation: | Galway | Demobilisation: | Cork |
| Survey Areas: | Celtic Sea | Start Date: End Date: | 12/09/2022 22/09/2022 |
| Northwest Boundary | 51° 17.228 N -11° 13.887 W | Southeast Boundary | 51° 02.210 N -10° 17.819 W |
| UKHO Admiralty | 0002 (1:1,500,000) & 1123 (1:500,000) | | |
| Key References | TC22_02 Survey Leg Report & TC22_02 Executive Report | | |
| Equipment Used | Kongsberg EM2040D MKII MBES, Knudsen 3260 Chirp sub-bottom profiler, SeaSpy magnetometer, AML MVP30-350, Valeport SVP Mini, C-Nav 3050 GNSS, Seapath 380 R. | | |
| Survey Statistics | | | |
| Minimum Water Depth (LAT) | 133.6 m | Maximum Water Depth (LAT) | 201.4 m |
| Area Covered: | 1177 km ² | Survey Line Kilometres: | 2866 km |
| Operational Time: | 75.7 % | Weather Standby: | 0 % |
| Ground Truthing Stations: | 0 | Wrecks | 6 |
| H525 forms issues (wrecks) | 6 | H102 forms issued (shoals) | 0 |
| Survey Track Lines | | MBES Bathymetry Overview | |
|  | |  | |

Survey Images

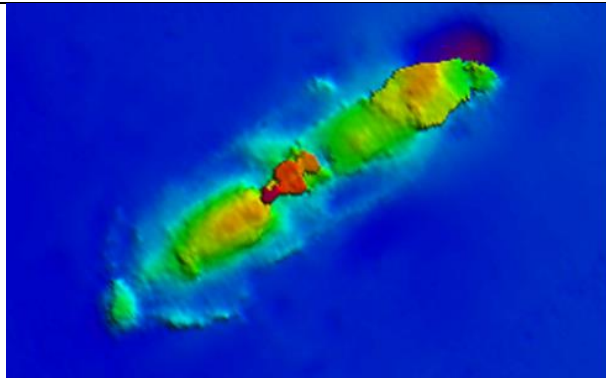
MBES Backscatter



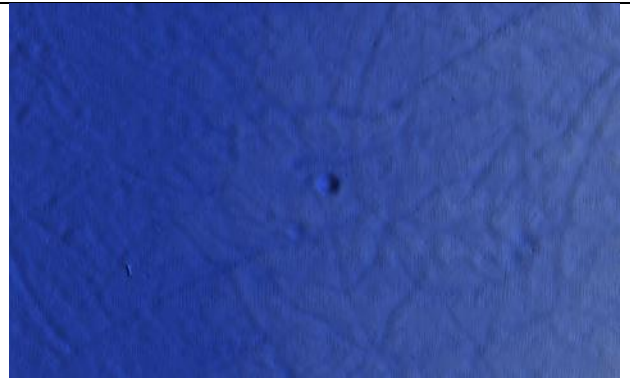
MBES Shaded Relief



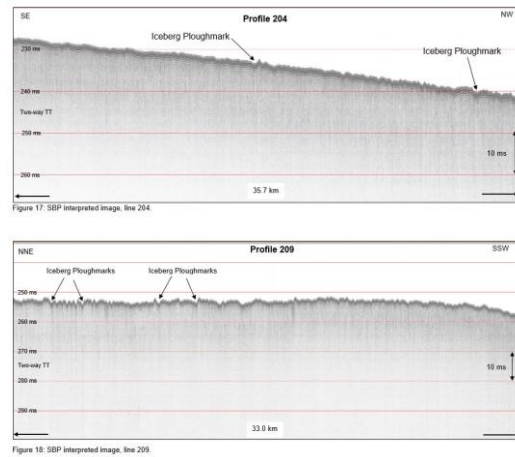
Wreck Number 3



Iceberg Scars and Depression Feature



Chirp Profiles



Survey Statistics

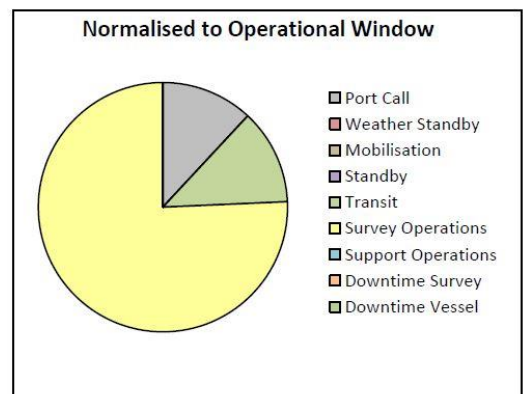


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List of Acronyms Used Within This Report

| Acronym | Full Name |
|----------------|--|
| AML | AML Oceanographic |
| CUBE | Combined Uncertainty and Bathymetry Estimator |
| DECC | Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications |
| DGNSS | Differential Global Navigation Satellite Systems |
| DPR | Daily Progress Report |
| FMGT | Fledermaus Geocoder Tool |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GNSS | Global Navigation Satellite Systems |
| GSI | Geological Survey Ireland |
| HVF | Hips Vessel File |
| IHO | International Hydrographic Organisation |
| IMO | International Maritime Organisation |
| IMU | Inertial Measurement Unit |
| INFOMAR | INtegrated Mapping FOR the Sustainable Development of Irelands MARine Resource |
| INSS | Irish National Seabed Survey |
| ITRF | International Terrestrial Reference Frame 2014 (ITRF2014) |
| LAT | Lowest Astronomical Tide |
| MVP | Moving Vessel Profiler |
| MBES | Multibeam Echo-Sounder |
| MI | Marine Institute |
| MGC | Motion Gyro Compass |
| MRU | Motion Reference Unit |
| NPWS | National Parks & Wildlife Service |
| PPE | Personal Protective Equipment |
| PPS | Pulse per Second |
| PPP | Precise Point Positioning |
| QINSy | Quality Integrated Navigation System |
| RTG | Real Time Gypsy |
| RV | Research Vessel |
| SBP | Sub Bottom Profiler |
| SIS | Seafloor Information System |
| SVP | Sound Velocity Profiler |
| TPU | Total Propagated Uncertainty |
| UKHO | UK Hydrographic Office |
| UTC | Coordinated Universal Time |
| VORF | Vertical Offshore Reference Frame |
| WGS | World Geodetic System |

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Overview and Objectives

Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) and Marine Institute (MI) conducted seabed mapping between 2003 and 2005 under the auspices of the Irish National Seabed Survey (INSS) and mapping continued from 2006 to present day under the INtegrated mapping FOre the sustainable development of Irelands MARine Resource (INFOMAR) programme. INSS, which commenced in 1999 under the GSI was one of the largest marine mapping programmes ever undertaken globally, with a focus on deep water mapping. INFOMAR is a joint venture between the GSI and the MI and is funded by the Irish GovernMent through the Department of the EnviroNment, Climate and Communications (DECC).

INFOMAR Phase 1, 2006 to 2015 focused on mapping 26 priority bays and 3 priority areas around Ireland and creating a range of integrated mapping products of the physical, chemical and biological features of the seabed in those areas. INFOMAR Phase 2, 2016 to 2026 intends to map the remainder of Ireland's entire seabed. Figure 1 shows the extent of the continental shelf mapped area under INSS and INFOMAR and the outstanding areas as of January 2022. Grey areas have already been mapped and blue coloured areas are unmapped. Coloured hatched areas are designated for mapping in 2022

In 2018, the remaining survey area was split at the 30 nautical mile (NM) limit. The inshore survey fleet, managed by GSI is responsible for mapping inshore of the 30 NM limit and the MI vessels are responsible for mapping the offshore. Survey areas are defined into gridded survey units known as INFOMAR Survey Units (ISUs). ISUs are all 1000 km² in size and are uniquely identifiable by a letter on the x-axis and number on the y-axis. Each ISU are coloured in a shade of blue, which indicates the modal water depth within that ISU. Colour scales are used, to denote the three depth bands; 50 to 100m, 100 to 150m and 150m plus.

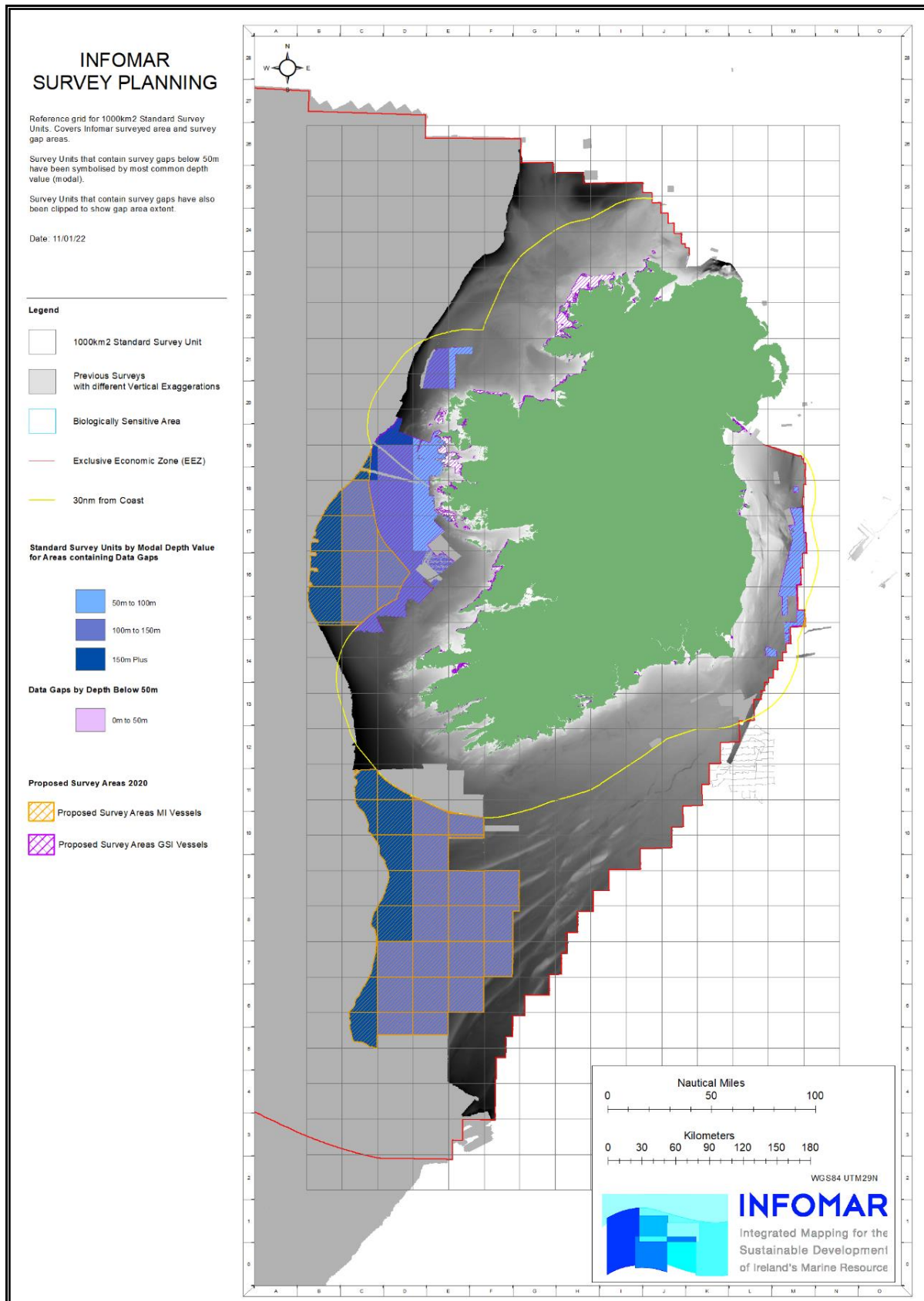


Figure 1: Survey coverage and 2022 designated operations areas.

MI supplied the research vessel RV *Tom Crean* and experienced personnel for the survey.

The scientific aims of the survey were to:

(i) Undertake a Multibeam Echo Sounder (MBES) hydrographic survey to a minimum standard of International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) Order 1A in water depths less than 100 metres and Order 2 in water depths greater than 100 metres.

(ii) Produce bathymetry, shaded relief and backscatter mosaic products to provide depth, seabed features and seabed hardness/roughness information.

(iii) Acquire Sub Bottom Profiler (SBP) data of the shallow sub-seabed to determine the existence of buried objects and ascertain the sub-seabed character.

(iv) Acquire magnetometer data to investigate the sub-seabed geology and provide information on man-made seafloor debris.

(v) Map in detail and provide hydrographic wreck reports for all encountered wrecks.

1.2 Proposed Survey Area

The 2022 INFOMAR Operations Plan was agreed between MI and GSI at the start of the year, circulated to stakeholders and published online at <https://www.infomar.ie>.

Figure 2 shows the designated Celtic Sea mapping area, bounded to the north by the 30 NM limit. Predicted survey coverage for the RV *Tom Crean* survey season was 1792 km² based on the number of charter days (26) and from analysis of historical survey statistics in this part of the Celtic Sea.

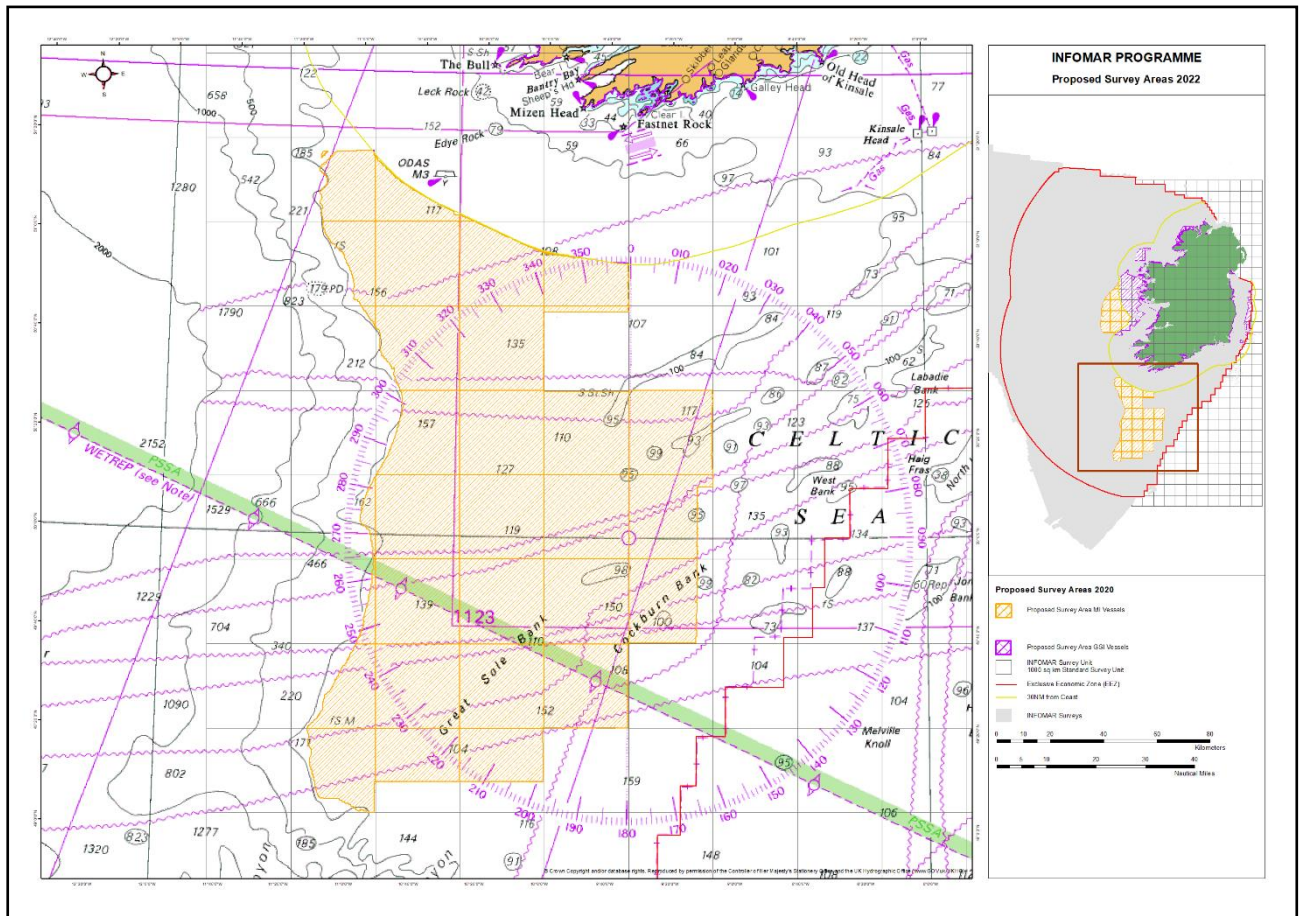


Figure 2: Proposed RV *Tom Crean* 2022 survey area in the Celtic Sea.

2. Operations & Survey Setup

Mobilisation took place in Galway on 12th September. Hydrographic and geophysical survey acquisition too place between 13th and 21st September. Kevin Sheehan of the MI acted as Party Chief. The survey team comprised skilled personnel from the MI and a research student from University College Cork (UCC).

2.1 Survey Track Lines

The final survey track lines image in Figure 3 is produced in ArcGIS software, after export of an initial shapefile from Teledyne Caris HIPS & SIPS™ software. Data acquisition occurred in one contiguous area of the Celtic Sea. Main lines were acquired on East-West reciprocal headings.

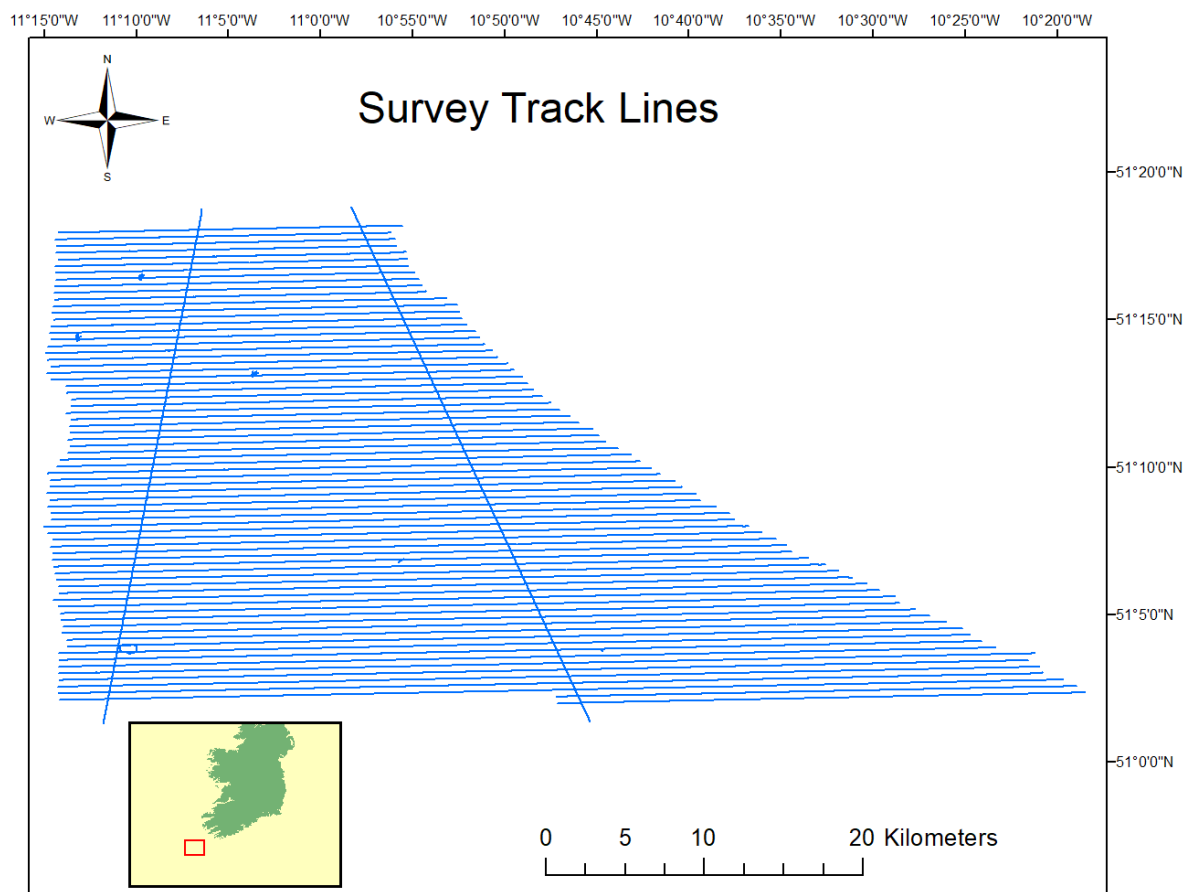


Figure 3: Survey track line plot produced in Caris and ArcGIS software.

2.2 Summary of Events

A summary of the key events is presented in Table 1. Times are in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Daily Progress Reports (DPRs) were distributed to management and INFOMAR personnel on a daily basis.

| Date and time | Activity |
|------------------|---|
| 12/09/2022 00:00 | Mobilisation Galway Docks |
| 12/09/2022 17:30 | Departed Galway. Transit to site 60 km SW of Dursey Island. |
| 13/09/2022 11:10 | Commenced Survey Operations |
| 21/09/2022 19:00 | Finished Survey Operations and commenced Transit to Cork. |
| 22/09/2022 10:00 | Alongside Cork. |
| 22/09/2022 23:59 | Demobilisation Complete. |

Table 1: Summary of survey events.

2.3 Survey Personnel

Survey personnel, their affiliation and roles are listed in Table 2.

| Name | Affiliation | Dates | Role |
|-----------------|-------------|--|----------------|
| Kevin Sheehan | MI | 12 th - 22 nd Sept | Party Chief |
| Fabio Sacchetti | MI | 12 th - 22 nd Sept | Surveyor |
| Oisin McManus | MI | 12 th - 22 nd Sept | Data Processor |
| Thomas Furey | MI | 12 th - 22 nd Sept | INFOMAR Rep |
| Felix Butschek | UCC | 12 th - 22 nd Sept | Surveyor |

Table 2: Survey personnel details.

2.4 Health, Safety and Environment

All personnel joining the vessel were given a safety induction tour, which was recorded by the Second Mate. Medical and Personal Sea Survival certifications for all personnel were checked for validity prior to departure. A number of ship policy forms were signed by all personnel. A Muster drill was held within 24 hours of departure from port. Magnetometer and Moving Vessel Profiler (MVP) operations were performed by vessel crew and without incident, with personnel wearing correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

2.5 Marine Mammal Observations

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) published a *Code of Practice for the Protection of Marine Mammals during Acoustic Seafloor Surveys in Irish Waters* in 2007. An updated document titled "Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters" was published in January 2014. Full details of both documents are published on the NPWS website: <https://www.npws.ie/>. The code and guidance are applicable to all SBP (pinger or chirp), MBES and sidescan sonar surveys in bays, inlets or estuaries and within 1500 m of the entrance of enclosed bays/inlets/estuaries. All operations were outside of the areas covered under the above guidelines. No Sightings were observed during the survey.

2.6 General Survey Information

A summary of key survey statistics is contained in Table 3.

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Total Line Length (km) | 2866 |
| Area Covered (km ²) | 1177 |
| Operational (%) | 75.7 |
| Transit (%) | 12.4 |
| Port Call (%) | 11.9 |
| Weather Standby (%) | 0 |

Table 3: Key survey statistics.

The pie chart in Figure 4 illustrates the cumulative survey activity statistics taken from the final DPR. Survey data acquisition accounts for approximately 76% of the time.

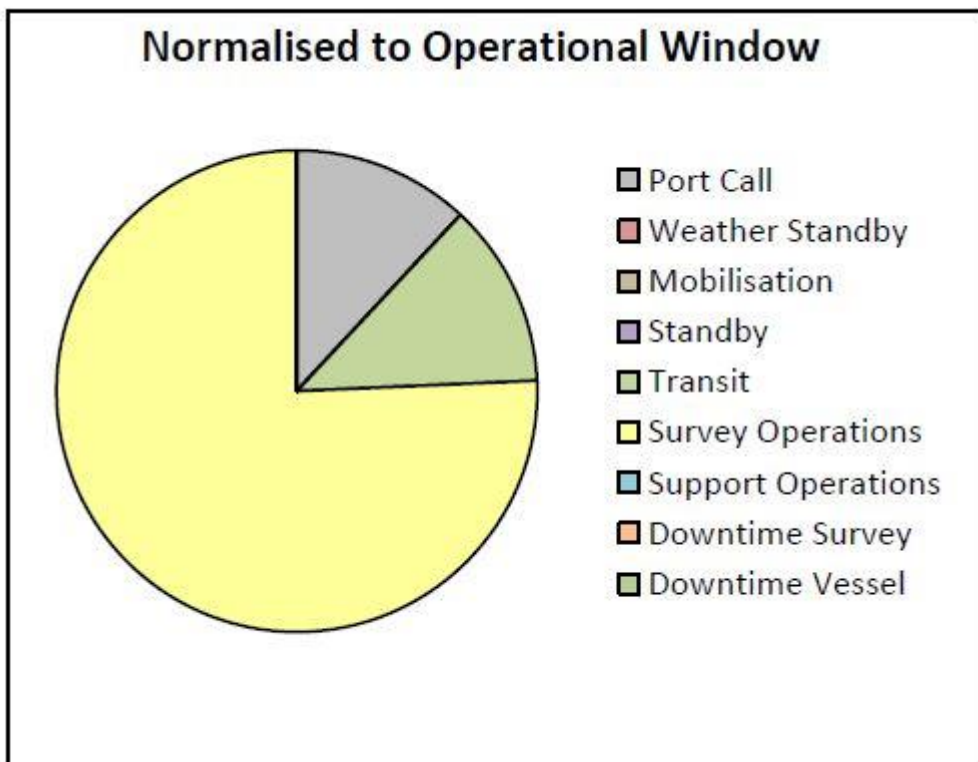


Figure 4: Survey statistics pie chart.

3 Survey Vessel Offsets, Equipment and Data Acquisition

The RV *Tom Crean* (Figure 5) is a multipurpose research vessel owned by MI and managed by P&O Maritime. The vessel has wet, dry and chemical laboratories, which are permanently fitted with standard scientific equipment and can accommodate 13 scientists with a maximum endurance of 21 days. It has a high resolution dual head EM2040D MKII MBES system fitted on a retractable pole, hull-mounted chirp source SBP, two C-NAV Differential Global Navigation Satellite Systems (DGNSS) units as primary navigation and a Seapath 380-R as secondary navigation. The vessel has two Motion Gyro Compasses (MGC) used within the Seapath 380-R as Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) and as stand-alone International Maritime Organisation (IMO) type approved gyrocompass. All necessary geophysical and DGPS positioning equipment were pre-installed, calibrated and tested prior to commencement of survey activities.



Figure 5: The RV *Tom Crean*.

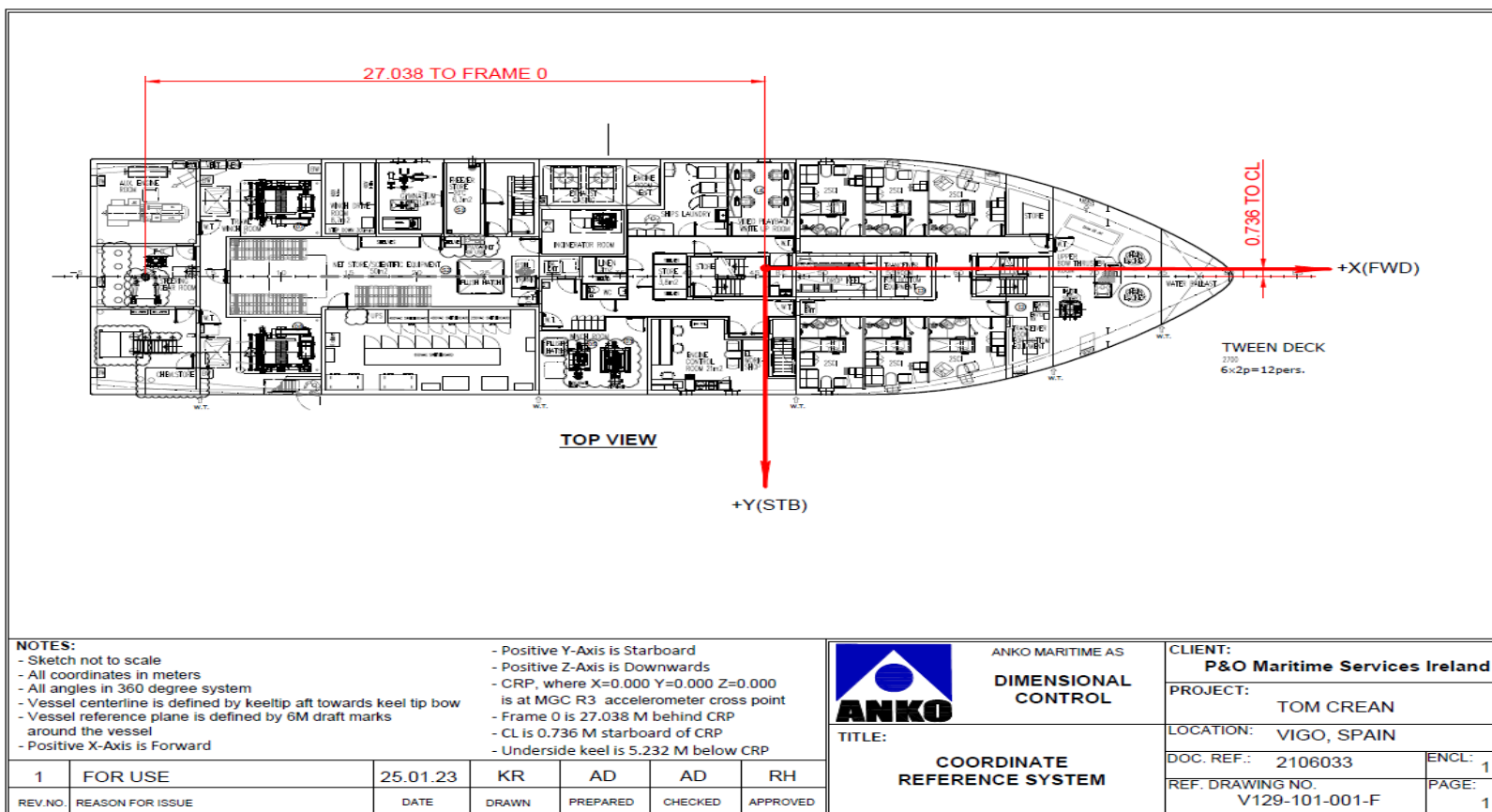
Detailed vessel information is contained in Table 4.

| Parameter | Numeric |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Length | 52.8 m |
| Beam | 14.0 m |
| Draught | 5.2 m |
| Power Generation | 2 x 1350 kw, 1 x 400 kw |
| Main Propulsion Motor | 2000 kw |
| Speed | 10 knots |
| Max Scientists | 13 |
| Crew | 12 |
| Endurance | 21 Days |
| Other | DP1 Dynamic Positioning |

Table 4: RV *Tom Crean* vessel information.

3.1 Vessel Offsets

Anko Maritime AS performed an offset survey of the RV *Tom Crean* in May 2022 while in dry dock in Vigo, Spain. The coordinate reference system is shown in Figure 6.



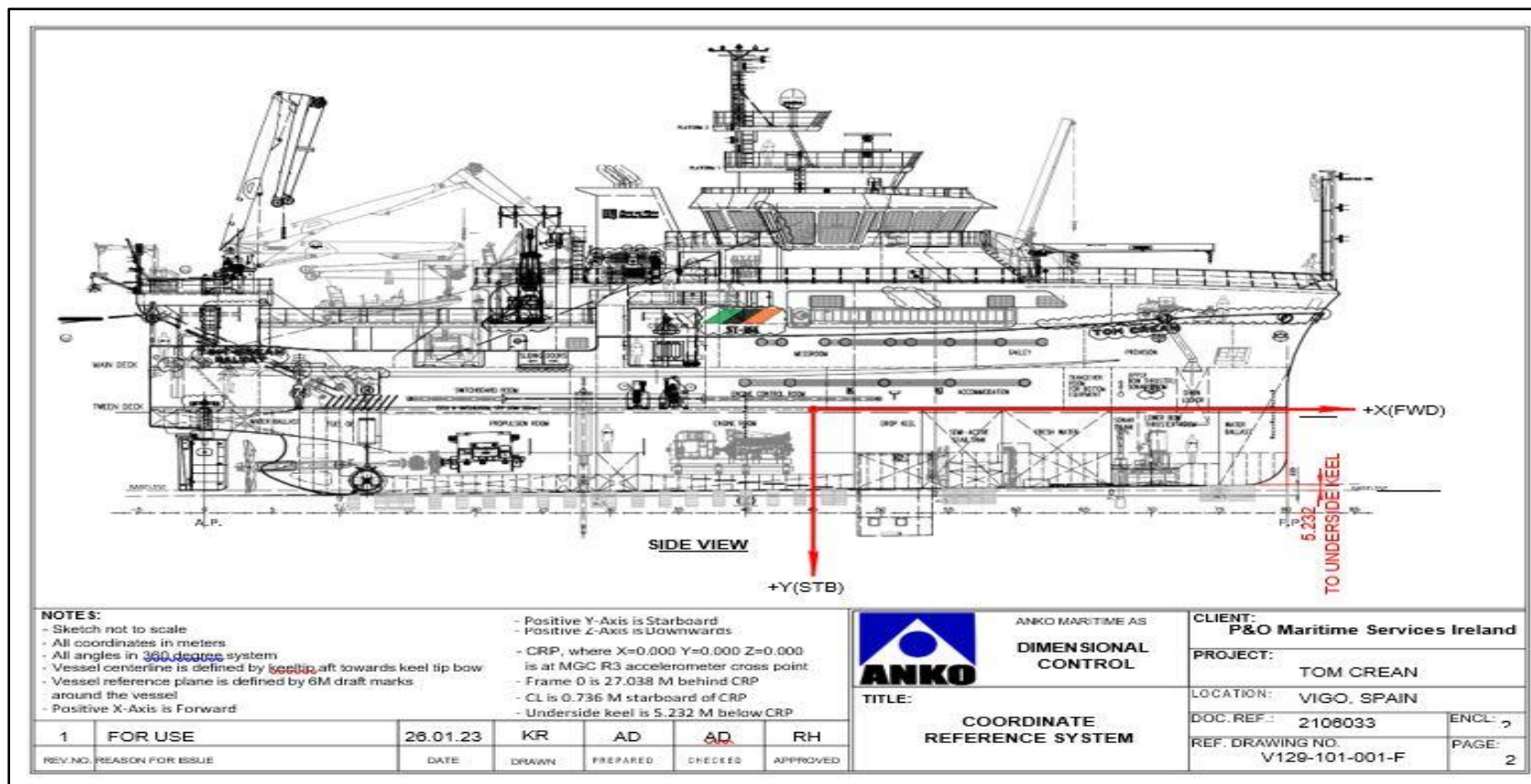


Figure 6: Coordinate Reference System.

Vessel offsets are presented in Table 5 below.

| Item | Y (+ Stb) | X (+ Fwd) | Z (+ Down) | Description |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| MGC R3 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | Accelerometer Cross Point |
| MGC R2 | 0.492 | -0.008 | 0.000 | Accelerometer Cross Point |
| Seapath Aft | 0.717 | -4.229 | -23.313 | Geometrical Centre |
| Seapath Fwd | 0.734 | -1.729 | -23.301 | Geometrical Centre |
| CNAV Port No. 1 | -0.144 | -3.019 | -23.462 | Geometrical Centre |
| CNAV Stb No. 2 | 1.604 | -2.975 | -23.458 | Geometrical Centre |
| Wind Sensor Stb | 8.415 | -0.355 | -16.813 | Geometrical Centre |
| Wind Sensor Port | -6.942 | -0.396 | -16.803 | Geometrical Centre |
| 2040 TX | 0.728 | 8.654 | 6.343 | Centre Face |
| 2040 RX STB | 1.077 | 8.776 | 6.177 | Centre Face |
| 2040 RX Port | 0.388 | 8.798 | 6.177 | Centre Face |
| TX Frame | 0.520 | 3.298 | 5.131 | Centre Face |
| RX Frame | 0.821 | 3.405 | 5.128 | Centre Face |
| Test Hole aft | 0.249 | 5.141 | 5.254 | Centre Face |
| ES38 | 0.748 | 4.863 | 5.259 | Centre Face |
| Empty Hole Drop Keel | 0.473 | 4.612 | 5.258 | Centre Face |
| ES333 | 0.432 | 4.408 | 5.260 | Centre Face |
| ES120 | 0.662 | 4.469 | 5.259 | Centre Face |
| ES70 | 0.980 | 4.471 | 5.260 | Centre Face |
| ES18 | 0.746 | 3.999 | 5.262 | Centre Face |
| Net Hydrophone port | 0.291 | 3.743 | 5.230 | Centre Face |
| Net Hydrophone stb | 1.207 | 3.737 | 5.232 | Centre Face |
| ADCP | 0.731 | 2.669 | 5.252 | Centre Face |
| Sensor Bow Square | 1.015 | 16.303 | 5.235 | Centre Face |
| Sensor Bow Round | 0.425 | 16.259 | 5.236 | Centre Face |
| Hole Bow | 0.583 | 16.495 | 5.238 | Centre Face |
| Ranger2 | 0.425 | -10.340 | 8.060 | Fully Extended |
| SU92 | 2.033 | 13.471 | 6.629 | Fully extended |
| SubBottom profiler | 1.043 | 9.707 | 5.248 | Centre Face |
| SubBottom Sensor 1 | 0.332 | 9.502 | 5.247 | Centre Face |
| SubBottom Sensor 2 | 0.534 | 9.503 | 5.247 | Centre Face |
| SubBottom Sensor 3 | 0.738 | 9.501 | 5.248 | Centre Face |
| SubBottom Sensor 4 | 0.333 | 9.707 | 5.248 | Centre Face |
| SubBottom Sensor 5 | 0.536 | 9.709 | 5.248 | Centre Face |
| SubBottom Sensor 6 | 0.740 | 9.707 | 5.248 | Centre Face |
| SubBottom Sensor 7 | 0.333 | 9.907 | 5.248 | Centre Face |
| SubBottom Sensor 8 | 0.535 | 9.908 | 5.248 | Centre Face |
| SubBottom Sensor 9 | 0.740 | 9.910 | 5.248 | Centre Face |
| TX712 | 0.737 | 12.125 | 5.227 | Centre Face |
| RX712 | 0.732 | 10.704 | 5.231 | Centre Face |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Draft Sensor Aft/Port | -1.764 | -28.520 | 0.789 | Centre Face |
| Draft Sensor Aft/Stb | 3.225 | -28.530 | 0.789 | Centre Face |
| Draft Sensor Fwd/Stb | 2.423 | 17.800 | 3.333 | Centre Face |
| Draft Sensor Fwd/Port | -0.948 | 17.798 | 3.335 | Centre Face |
| A-Frame Pad Eye Stb | 2.127 | -19.195 | -8.195 | Centre Hole |
| A-Frame Pad Eye Mid | 0.731 | -19.196 | -8.191 | Centre Hole |
| A-Frame Pad Eye Port | -0.662 | -19.191 | -8.189 | Centre Hole |
| T-Bar Pad Eye Aft | 6.839 | -13.742 | -10.997 | Centre Hole |
| T-Bar Pad Eye Mid Aft | 6.842 | -13.080 | -10.981 | Centre Hole |
| T-Bar Pad Eye Mid Fwd | 6.850 | -11.797 | -10.965 | Centre Hole |
| T-Bar Pad Eye Fwd | 6.847 | -11.148 | -10.957 | Centre Hole |
| CTD Derek Pad Eye Aft | 6.054 | -7.648 | -6.053 | Centre Hole |
| CTD Derek Pad Eye Fwd | 6.088 | -6.452 | -5.840 | Centre Hole |

Table 5: Vessel offsets.

Vessel inclinations are listed in Table 6 below.

| Item | Roll | Pitch | Yaw |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|
| MGC R3 | -0.27 | -0.61 | 0.57 |
| MGC R2 | 0.72 | -0.25 | 0.35 |
| Seapath | N/A | N/A | 0.40 |
| TX 2040 | -0.02 | -0.37 | 1.70 |
| RX 2040 STB | -39.96 | -1.82 | 1.68 |
| RX 2040 Port | 39.94 | 1.14 | 1.98 |
| ES38 | -0.17 | 0.52 | 0.45 |
| ES333 | 0.13 | 0.44 | -0.05 |
| ES120 | -0.16 | 0.79 | -0.12 |
| ES70 | -0.14 | 0.33 | -0.05 |
| ES18 | -0.11 | 0.18 | -0.19 |
| ADCP | -0.07 | 1.07 | 1.66 |
| Ranger2 | 0.06 | -0.69 | -0.08 |
| SU92 | -0.10 | -0.96 | 289.06 |

Table 6: Vessel inclinations.

3.1.1 Multibeam Patch Test

Offsets calculated during a patch test on the 22nd of July 2022 were utilised on this survey.

Figure 7 shows the angular offsets after the patch test.

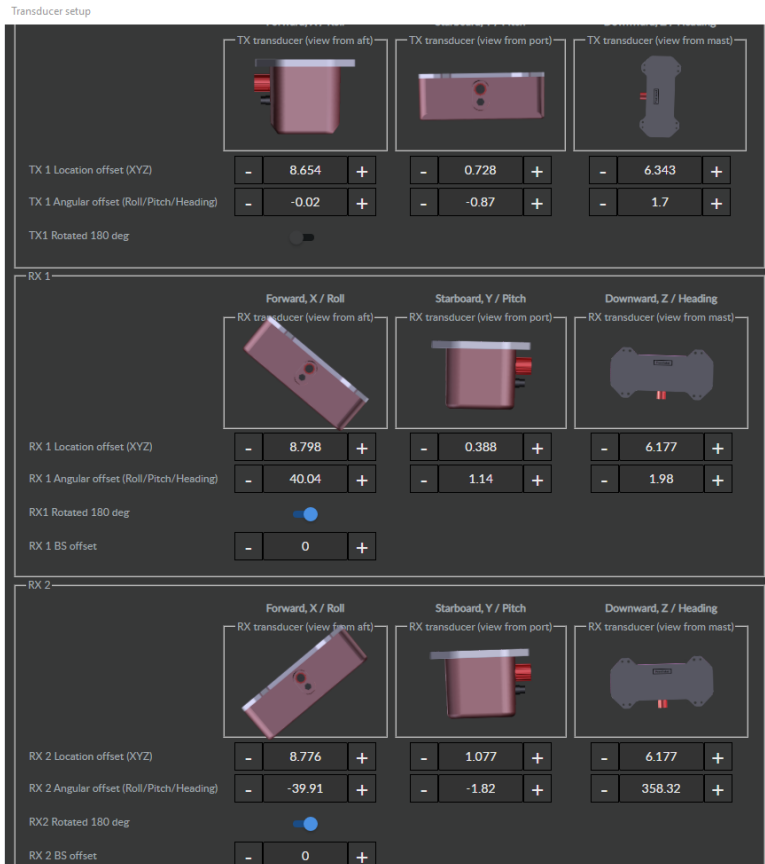


Figure 7: Angular offsets in SIS after patch test.

3.2 Survey Equipment

Table 7 contains information on the survey equipment both permanently installed and available for mobilisation on board the RV *Tom Crean*.

| System | Type | Comment |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Multibeam Echo-Sounder | Kongsberg EM2040D MKII | 200, 300 & 400 kHz |
| Sub-Bottom Profiler | Knudsen Chirp 3260 | 3.5 and 12 kHz |
| Sidescan Sonar | Edgetech 4200 | 100 and 500 kHz |
| Positioning | C-Nav DGNSS (two units) | Seapath 380-R secondary |
| Motion Gyro Compass | Seapath 380-R | 2 nd MGC as backup |
| USBL | Sonardyne Ranger 2 | |
| Sound Velocity Profiler | Valeport SVP Mini | Valeport Midas as backup |
| Moving Velocity Profiler | AML MVP30-350 | Sound Velocity |
| Realtime Sound Velocity | Valeport or AML | Sound Velocity |
| Magnetometers | SEASPY | Overhauser Effect |

Table 7: RV *Tom Crean* available survey equipment.

3.2.1 Technical Issues

SIS Survey Grid

Survey grid stopped building every couple of hours due to a memory issue. Kongsberg sent a patch to and this resolved the issue once installed.

SIS Geotiff Projections

Background geotiffs used for planning purposes were not importing into the correct location. A SIS update is required post survey in order to solve this issue.

SIS Crashes

“Bottom Depths not found” error appeared twice during the survey. Several Numerical display indicators stopped updating after acknowledging the error, necessitating a SIS restart on both occasions. No data were lost although minor time was lost while turning the vessel to reshoot the relevant sections.

Chirp Heave

The heave feed was rewired so that the Chirp receives a dedicated heave correction for its own lever arms. This resolved the residual heave issues.

MVP

The MVP stopped recovering during casts on several occasions. The software operator had to hit “Recover” each time in order to recover the probe to its normal towing location.

Deck crew were required to reset the winch several times during the survey as the cable stopped recovering and attempts at software recoveries did not work. The delay time in the software, where the cable is changing from paying out to recovering was switched from 1 to 2 seconds and this appeared to resolve the issue.

3.3 Data Acquisition

3.3.1 Geodetic Parameters

Table 8 contains the geodetic parameters used.

| Local Datum Geodetic Parameters | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Datum | ITRF2014 |
| Spheroid | World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS-84) |
| Semi-Major Axis (a) | 6378137.000 m |
| Semi-Minor Axis (b) | 6356752.314 m |
| First Eccentricity Squared (e^2) | 0.0066943800 |
| Inverse Flattening (1/f) | 298.257223563 |
| Projection Parameters | |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Grid Projection | Universal Transverse Mercator |
| Central Meridian Zone 29 (CM) | 009° West |
| Origin Latitude (False Lat.) | 00.0° |
| Hemisphere | North |
| False Easting (FE) | 500000.0 m |
| False Northing (FN) | 0.0 m |
| Scale Factor on CM | 0.999600 |
| Units | M |

Table 8: Geodetic parameters.

3.3.2 Survey Datum, GNSS Tides and VORF Model

Table 8 above provides details of the vertical and horizontal datum applied during operations. Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) tides do not require to account for vessel draft or vessel squat values, as recorded depths are related directly to the World Geodetic System (WGS) 84 Ellipsoid. These values were reduced to Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) using GNSS tidal measurements and by then applying the Vertical Offshore Reference Frame (VORF) model (Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)/WGS84 separation) as illustrated in Figure 8 below.

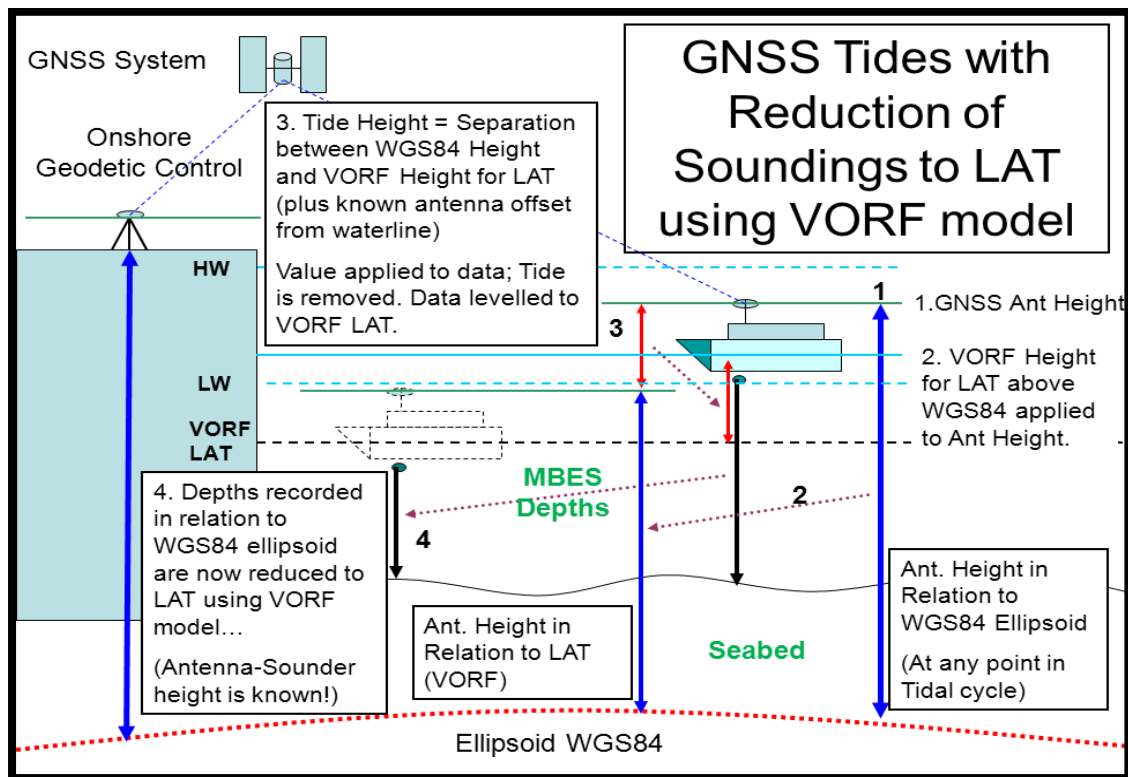


Figure 8: GNSS tides to LAT using VORF model.

3.3.3 Vessel Draft

A constant value of 0.35 was entered for the waterline in the installation parameters in SIS. This value was calculated from the dimensional survey during dry dock.

3.3.4 Acoustic Systems

A Kongsberg EM2040 MKII high resolution MBES mounted on a retractable pole was used for swath acoustic acquisition. First bottom returns from the MBES produce highly accurate bathymetric data. Additionally, backscatter acquired by MBES sonars contains important information about the seafloor and its physical properties. Backscatter provides valuable data to aid in seafloor classification and important auxiliary information for a bathymetric survey.

The configuration consists of dual RX transducers and a single TX transducer 1.5° beamwidth each when operating at 200 kHz frequency and 0.7° beamwidth each when operating at 400 kHz. The system operates at frequency ranges of 200, 300 or 400 kHz with 800 soundings per ping and allows coverage of up to 10 times water depth on a flat bottom. It has a maximum ping rate of 50 Hz. The 200 kHz frequency was used for this survey. Primary positioning was provided by C-Nav 5000 DGNS. Seapath 380-R provided secondary positioning. Kongsberg Motion Gyro Compass (MGC) R3 provided real time heading, heave, pitch, roll and velocity to the MBES system.

MBES data was recorded in *.kmall format using Kongsberg's Seafloor Information Software. Raw files were continuously backed up on the vessel server at EOL. Table 9 contains MBES metadata.

| Descriptor | Metadata |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Survey lines | Mainlines, Crosslines and Wrecks |
| Data Files | 239 |
| Date Created | 13-09-2022 to 21-09-2022 |
| Dataset Size | 131.3 GB |
| File Formats | .kmall |

Table 9: MBES metadata.

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) guidelines were implemented when carrying out wreck investigations. Three survey lines along the wreck's primary axis with high overlap and one or more lines across its secondary axis to ensure full wreck coverage along both axes were acquired. Water column data logging functionality in SIS was used throughout the investigation. Beam angles, survey speed, operational frequency and pulse length were configured for maximum resolution. Wrecks were reported to the UKHO using the standard UKHO "H-Forms". A total of six wrecks were surveyed in detail.

A Knudsen hull-mounted chirp source SBP operating at 3.5 kHz was used for sub-bottom profiler data acquisition. The range and phase settings were varied appropriately with water depth to maximise ping rate and resolution. The chirp source is most effective in high resolution investigations of the top 20 or 30 m sub-seabed and where sediments are fine and medium grained. The signal does not penetrate bedrock. The Chirp 3260 is a blackbox system that interfaces to a standard PC via a USB connection. SounderSuite Windows application software controls data acquisition. Raw data were recorded in native Knudsen format along with industry standard SEG Y data. Positioning and MRU data were fed directly from the Seapath 380-R. QC was maintained by the online surveyors, with reference to the digital display; with power, range, gains, filter parameters and transmit pulse adjusted as required for optimal imaging. All data were backed up to the vessel server. Table 10 contains SBP metadata.

| Descriptor | Metadata |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Survey lines | All |
| Data Files | 444 |
| Date Created | 14-09-2022 to 21-09-2022 |
| Dataset Size | 18.1 GB |
| File Formats | .kea, .keb & .sgy |

Table 10: SBP metadata.

3.3.5 Magnetometer

A Marine Magnetics Corporation SeaSPY towed Overhauser Magnetometer was used to acquire magnetic field data. The system comprises a towfish, tow cable, deck lead and transceiver interfaced to a standard Windows based PC. Acquisition parameters and QC were controlled via Marine Magnetics BOB™ software.

The magnetometer was towed 100 m behind the vessel at a depth of less than 5 m beneath sea surface. Magnetometer data from the towfish and GPS data from Seapath were input to the control PC via separate serial ports and synchronised. Initial QC was performed via real-time graphing of the magnetic field trace and by monitoring real-time GPS data. Magnetometer data were recorded in a database using BOB and output in proprietary BOB format as a .mms file. The data were also output in text format. Metadata is contained in Table 11.

| Descriptor | Metadata |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Survey lines | NA |
| Data Files | 2 |
| Date Created | 14-09-2022 to 21-09-2022 |
| Dataset Size | 742 MB |

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| File Formats | .mms, .txt |
|--------------|------------|

Table 11: Magnetometer metadata.

3.3.6 DGPS Systems

C-Nav DGNSS provided the primary navigation. The C-Nav 5000 is a dynamic DGNSS Precise Point Positioning (PPP) system providing accuracy of 5 cm horizontally and 8 cm vertically. It provides 252 channel tracking, including multi-constellation support for GPS and GLONASS. C-Nav provided the primary navigation feed for the MBES and SBP. C-Nav also provided a reliable GPS tide correction.

C-Nav has a range of QC output displays that were monitored in real-time including number of satellites in use, satellite attitude and angles, vertical accuracy, vessel speed, heading and precise position. GPS signal was always very good and the system never lost the Real Time Gypsy (RTG) solution. Navigation data were recorded in *.cnav5000 format using C-Nav software. One file per day was created.

Seapath 380-R provided the secondary navigation for the MBES and primary navigation for the magnetometer. Seapath and C-Nav data were monitored continuously in Quality Integrated Navigation System (QINSy) software to ensure data integrity and comparison between the primary and secondary navigation systems remained within tolerance. DGPS metadata information is contained in Table 12.

| Descriptor | Metadata |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Survey lines | All |
| Data Files | 10 |
| Date Created | 13-09-2022 to 22-09-2022 |
| Dataset Size | 0.84 GB |
| File Formats | .cnav5000 |

Table 12: CNAV metadata.

3.3.7 Online Navigation

QINSy software was used for navigation acquisition and QC. QINSy performs visual and QA data-feeds from the key acquisition systems. A project template database was created containing all survey configuration parameters relevant to the project. The project template contains the datum, projections, vessel shape, administrative information, as well as vessel offsets and I/O parameters. QINSy uses a sophisticated timing routine based on the Pulse Per Second (PPS) option from the GNSS receiver. All incoming and outgoing data are accurately stamped with a UTC time label. Survey line positioning and MVP location data

were recorded in QINSy software in .db and .txt format. QINSy file metadata is provided in Table 13.

| Descriptor | Metadata |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Survey lines | All |
| Data Files | 296 |
| Date Created | 12-09-2022 to 22-09-2022 |
| Dataset Size | 63.2 GB |
| File Formats | Various |

Table 13: QINSy navigation metadata.

3.3.8 Sound Velocity

An AML Oceanographic MVP 30-350 was the primary instrument for acquiring sound velocity profile data and a Valeport Mini Sound Velocity Profiler (SVP) instrument was used as backup. Both instruments are equipped with sound velocity sensors that directly measure sound velocity. The dual benefit of the MVP is uninterrupted survey and greater frequency of casts. Fresh sound profiles were input to the MBES as required. A Valeport SVS sensor provided real-time sound velocity data at the MBES transducers.

MVP deployment was controlled from the vessel Dry Lab using Rolls Royce MVP software. The probe was continually towed in the water at between 2 and 6 metres depth and deployed to a maximum of c. 80 metres depth during casts. Sound velocity profiles in *.asvp format were sent to SIS where they were checked and extended for import into the MBES. Metadata is contained in Table 14.

| Descriptor | Metadata |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Survey lines | NA |
| Data Files | 76 |
| Date Created | 13-09-2022 to 21-09-2022 |
| Dataset Size | 1.08 MB |
| File Formats | .asvp, |

Table 14: Sound velocity metadata.

4 Online QC, Data Processing, Results and Interpretation

The hydrographic survey was performed to IHO survey standards. Rigorous standards for position, depth accuracy, feature search, feature detection and bathymetric coverage were achieved during data acquisition and processing. IHO Order 1a and Order 2 requirements are presented in Table 15.

| | Order 1a (S-44) | Order 2 (S-44) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Description of Areas | Areas where underkeel clearance is considered not to be critical but features of concern to shipping may exist. | Areas generally where a general description of the sea floor is considered adequate. |
| Max THU allowable (95%C) | Total Horizontal Uncertainty (THU) 5m+5% of depth | Total Horizontal Uncertainty (THU) 20 m+10% of depth |
| Max TVU allowable (95%C) | Total Vertical Uncertainty (TVU) $a = 0.5$ metre $b = 0.013 \pm \sqrt{a^2 + (bxd)^2}$ | Total Vertical Uncertainty (TVU) $a = 1.0$ metre $b = 0.023 \pm \sqrt{a^2 + (bxd)^2}$ |
| Feature Search | 100% | Recommended but not required |
| Feature Detection | Cubic Features > 2m (Depths < 40m) 10% depth > 40m | Not specified |
| Bathymetric Coverage | ≤100% | 5% |

Table 15: IHO standards for hydrographic surveys

4.1 MBES Online Quality Control

4.1.1 Acquisition Parameters

Most of the important acquisition parameters are set in the Runtime module of SIS. Figure 9 shows the Runtime settings used. Max angle and max coverage parameters were maintained constant as depth, sea state, sound velocity conditions and seafloor character differences were within a low range. Pulse type was set to FM. Frequency was set to 200 kHz, which maintained good signal to noise ratio.

Max coverage, sector mode, detector mode, vessel speed and frequency were adjusted to attain maximum resolution for wreck inspections. Water Column data were acquired for all survey lines.

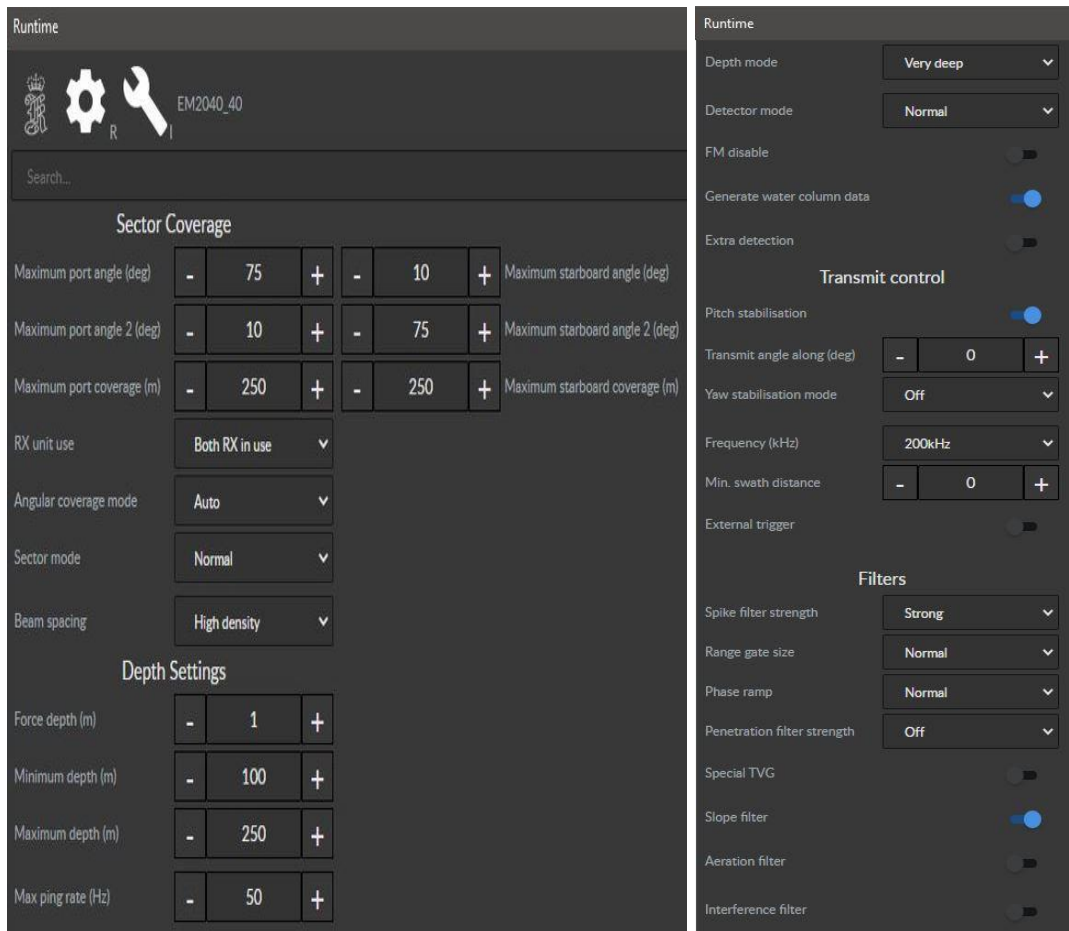


Figure 9: Runtime parameters window in SIS.

4.1.2 Cross Line Versus Main Line Statistics

Crossline data were acquired for QC of depth soundings. A total of two cross lines were acquired for statistical analysis in Caris Hips™. Cross line data were compared with main line data. All cross line data indicated that the soundings exceeded the 95% certainty required for Order 1a specification. Results from the statistical analyses are presented in Tables 16 and 17, where the 800 beams have been divided into subsets of 20.

| Beam Number | Count | Max (+) | Min (-) | Mean | Std Dev | Special Order (%) | Order 1a (%) | Order 2 (%) |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1-21 | 305,186 | 0.933 | 1.359 | -0.015 | 0.228 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 21 - 41 | 305,585 | 0.88 | 0.948 | 0.014 | 0.203 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 41 - 61 | 305,602 | 0.97 | 1.034 | 0.043 | 0.184 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 61 - 81 | 305,819 | 1.132 | 0.759 | 0.059 | 0.171 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 81 - 101 | 306,210 | 0.907 | 0.89 | 0.057 | 0.168 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 101 - 121 | 306,281 | 0.92 | 0.819 | 0.051 | 0.168 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 121 - 141 | 306,432 | 0.864 | 0.755 | 0.054 | 0.157 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 141 - 161 | 306,716 | 0.785 | 0.86 | 0.058 | 0.147 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 161 - 181 | 306,725 | 0.947 | 0.722 | 0.055 | 0.144 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 181 - 201 | 306,779 | 0.826 | 0.786 | 0.045 | 0.142 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 201 - 221 | 306,719 | 0.791 | 0.866 | 0.047 | 0.138 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 221 - 241 | 306,760 | 0.896 | 0.8 | 0.047 | 0.136 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 241 - 261 | 306,761 | 0.873 | 0.744 | 0.046 | 0.136 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 261 - 281 | 306,765 | 0.826 | 0.708 | 0.041 | 0.135 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 281 - 301 | 306,751 | 0.875 | 0.832 | 0.041 | 0.137 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 301 - 321 | 306,660 | 0.982 | 0.848 | 0.04 | 0.14 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 321 - 341 | 306,045 | 1.222 | 1.012 | 0.045 | 0.169 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 341 - 361 | 304,872 | 1.36 | 0.837 | 0.053 | 0.158 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 361 - 381 | 305,985 | 1.08 | 0.98 | 0.05 | 0.168 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 381 - 401 | 306,655 | 0.92 | 0.864 | 0.028 | 0.143 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 401 - 421 | 300,069 | 0.748 | 0.767 | 0.04 | 0.138 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 421 - 441 | 299,688 | 1.064 | 1.123 | 0.047 | 0.164 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 441 - 461 | 297,772 | 1.267 | 0.873 | 0.056 | 0.16 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 461 - 481 | 296,681 | 1.239 | 0.911 | 0.063 | 0.176 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 481 - 501 | 299,110 | 1.177 | 1.047 | 0.05 | 0.146 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 501 - 521 | 299,947 | 0.856 | 0.763 | 0.048 | 0.14 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 521 - 541 | 299,929 | 0.92 | 0.732 | 0.05 | 0.142 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 541 - 561 | 300,031 | 0.847 | 0.713 | 0.057 | 0.144 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 561 - 581 | 300,043 | 0.916 | 0.736 | 0.063 | 0.147 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 581 - 601 | 300,066 | 0.943 | 0.791 | 0.053 | 0.15 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 601 - 621 | 300,044 | 0.951 | 0.741 | 0.052 | 0.157 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 621 - 641 | 300,056 | 1.057 | 0.834 | 0.032 | 0.161 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 641 - 661 | 299,999 | 0.931 | 0.916 | 0.01 | 0.164 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 661 - 681 | 299,870 | 1.091 | 0.99 | 0.012 | 0.175 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 681 - 701 | 299,652 | 1.066 | 0.859 | 0.036 | 0.201 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 701 - 721 | 299,728 | 1.028 | 1.033 | -0.026 | 0.194 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 721 - 741 | 299,755 | 1.025 | 0.953 | -0.019 | 0.191 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 741 - 761 | 299,644 | 1.076 | 1.074 | -0.036 | 0.199 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 761 - 781 | 299,601 | 0.869 | 1.161 | -0.026 | 0.213 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 781 - 800 | 284,197 | 1.141 | 1.195 | -0.02 | 0.233 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Table 16: Combined MBES statistics for cross lines 204, 205, 206, 207 and 208.

| Beam Number | Count | Max (+) | Min (-) | Mean | Std Dev | Special Order (%) | Order 1a (%) | Order 2 (%) |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|------|---------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 01-21 | 273,437 | 1.267 | 1.263 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 21 - 41 | 274,869 | 1.174 | 1.203 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 41 - 61 | 275,233 | 1.122 | 1.085 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 61 - 81 | 275,242 | 1.01 | 0.992 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 81 - 101 | 275,197 | 1 | 0.845 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 101 - 121 | 274,943 | 0.982 | 0.773 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 121 - 141 | 275,030 | 0.886 | 0.747 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 141 - 161 | 275,245 | 0.812 | 0.736 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 161 - 181 | 275,213 | 0.765 | 0.71 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 181 - 201 | 275,282 | 0.736 | 0.638 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 201 - 221 | 275,325 | 0.673 | 0.608 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 221 - 241 | 275,381 | 0.718 | 0.578 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 241 - 261 | 275,370 | 0.717 | 0.626 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 261 - 281 | 275,418 | 0.95 | 0.669 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 281 - 301 | 275,366 | 0.778 | 0.763 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 301 - 321 | 274,586 | 0.921 | 0.96 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 321 - 341 | 266,291 | 0.757 | 0.697 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 341 - 361 | 264,328 | 0.831 | 1.044 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 361 - 381 | 267,754 | 0.933 | 1.007 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 381 - 401 | 274,954 | 0.845 | 0.811 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 401 - 421 | 271,522 | 0.691 | 0.649 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 421 - 441 | 264,762 | 0.7 | 0.708 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 441 - 461 | 258,613 | 0.802 | 1.005 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 461 - 481 | 257,011 | 0.747 | 1.049 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 481 - 501 | 268,515 | 0.713 | 0.723 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 501 - 521 | 271,465 | 0.691 | 0.904 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 521 - 541 | 271,629 | 0.743 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 541 - 561 | 271,554 | 0.7 | 0.72 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 561 - 581 | 271,544 | 0.765 | 0.669 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 581 - 601 | 271,490 | 0.777 | 0.851 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 601 - 621 | 271,204 | 0.789 | 0.86 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 621 - 641 | 271,118 | 0.825 | 0.788 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 641 - 661 | 271,062 | 0.764 | 0.88 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 661 - 681 | 270,177 | 0.821 | 0.959 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 681 - 701 | 266,746 | 0.973 | 1.006 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 701 - 721 | 268,244 | 0.951 | 1.01 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 721 - 741 | 270,888 | 0.976 | 1.068 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 741 - 761 | 271,427 | 1.123 | 1.116 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 761 - 781 | 271,387 | 1.075 | 1.266 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 781 - 800 | 257,056 | 1.229 | 1.413 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Table 17: Combined MBES statistics for cross lines 209, 210, 211 and 212.

4.1.3 Feature Detection

The minimum standard for feature detection for an Order 1a survey are cubic features > 2 metres in depths up to 40 metres and cubic features >10% of depth beyond 40 metres. In 40 metres water depth 9 soundings are required in a 2 m² bin and in 100 metres water depth 9 soundings are required in a 10 m² bin. Feature detection criteria are not specified in the IHO standards for Order 2 surveys. A data density traffic light plot and associated statistics were produced for the area.

Water depths range from 137 to 201 m. The data were analysed for feature detection assuming a minimum water depth of 100 m, i.e. a more stringent bin size than would be required for the actual minimum depth of 137 m. The minimum sized cubic features that require detection are 10 m, i.e. 10% of the 100 m theoretical minimum water depth. A minimum of 9 soundings per 10 m² bins are required in order to attain the feature detection criteria. A bin size of 10 m² was selected to QC the data density and the results are shown in Figure 10. Green indicates where 9 soundings per bin were achieved, i.e. almost everywhere, and red where the 9 soundings were not attained. Red areas are sporadic and limited to the outer fringes of coverage where adjacent data from other surveys has not been included in the data density calculations.

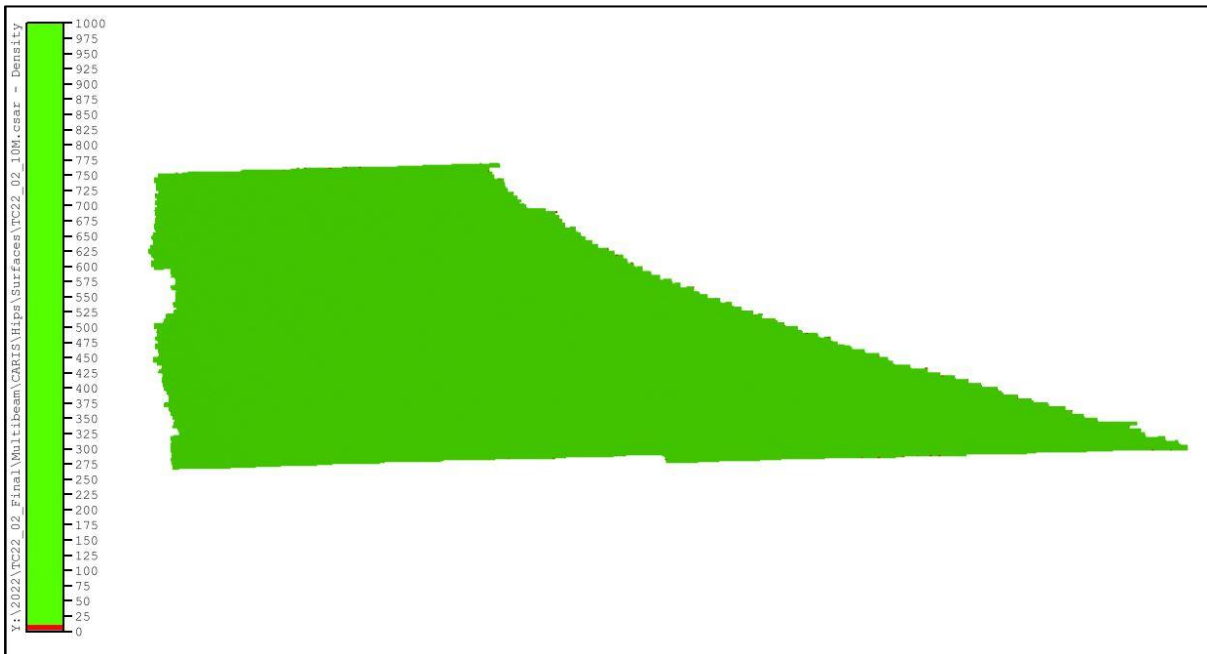


Figure 10: Sounding density traffic light plot.

Number of sounding per bin varied from 1 to 3305 with a mean of 184 soundings. The mean number of soundings per bin easily exceeded the 9 soundings required per bin. Full statistics are presented in Figure 11.

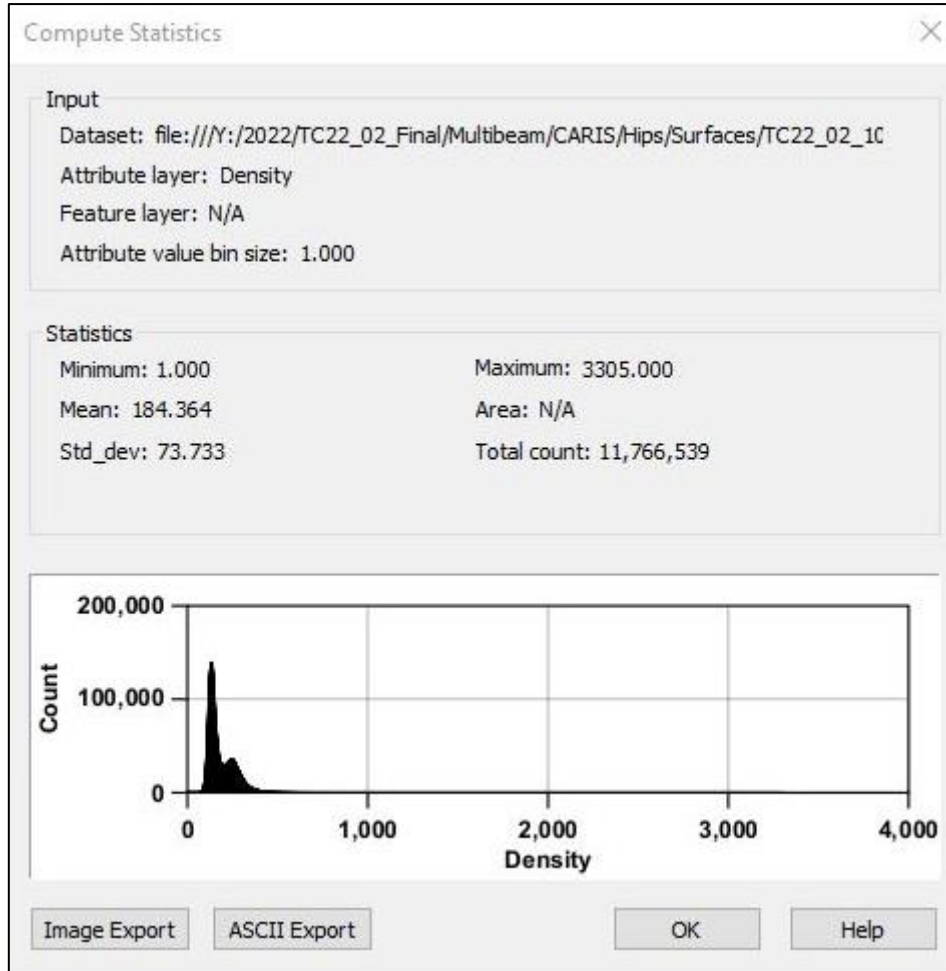


Figure 11: Sounding density statistics.

4.1.4 Error Budget and Uncertainty Model

Manufacturer values for positioning and sounding errors were factored into the vessel error budget. Vessel offsets were established through an onshore dimensional control survey (see section 3.1). In addition; uncertainty levels over positions of soundings were improved through good sound velocity control while surveying. Calibration of the MBES through a standard patch test, combined with good online quality control, ensured that the vessel's error budget fell within IHO 1a specifications.

Table 18 below details standard deviation values applied in the calculation of the vessel's Total Propagated Uncertainty (TPU) model. TPU is an estimate of the uncertainty of any individual sounding, taking into account the uncertainty estimates of the component

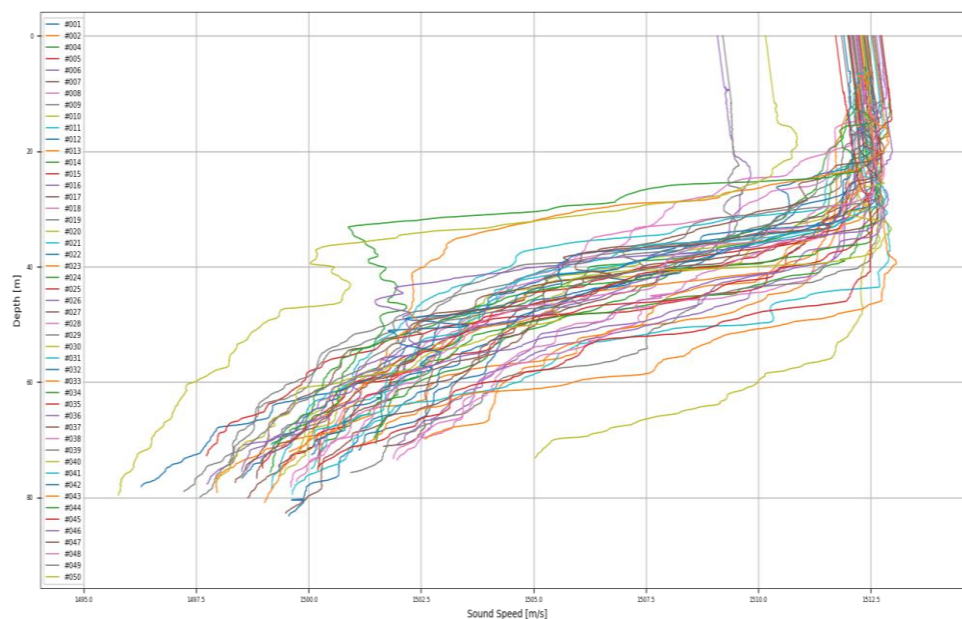
measurements (tide, sound speed, draft, range measurement, angle measurement, attitude, offsets etc). TPU is expressed as a separate value in horizontal and vertical planes. The uncertainty of each sensor was entered in the HIPS Vessel File (HVF) and the TPU calculated.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Heading Accuracy | 0.02° |
| Heave | 5 cm or 5 % Amplitude |
| Roll | 0.01° |
| Pitch | 0.01° |
| Pitch Stabilised | 0.01° |
| Position Navigation | 0.1 m |
| Timing Transducer | 0.00 s |
| Timing Navigation | 0.00 s |
| Timing Gyro | 0.00 s |
| Timing Heave / Pitch / Roll | 0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00 s |
| Sound Velocity Measured | 0.1 m/s |
| Sound Velocity Surface | 0.1 m/s |
| Offsets X / Y / Z | X=0.01 / Y=0.01 / Z=0.01 |
| MRU Alignment | Gyro=0.1 / Pitch=0.1 / Roll=0.1 |
| Vessel Speed | 0.1 |
| Vessel Loading | 0.00 |
| Vessel Draft | 0.00 (Use of GPS tides) |
| Delta Draft | 0.00 |

Table 18: Standard deviation values used in TPU calculation.

4.1.5 Sound Velocity Control

MBES data processors continuously monitored the effect of sound velocity variations on the processed MBES data and advised on the frequency and geographical distribution of MVP casts based on this analysis. Sound velocity variations were also monitored by QC of the SIS Crosstrack window. Figure 12 shows the MVP composite plots.



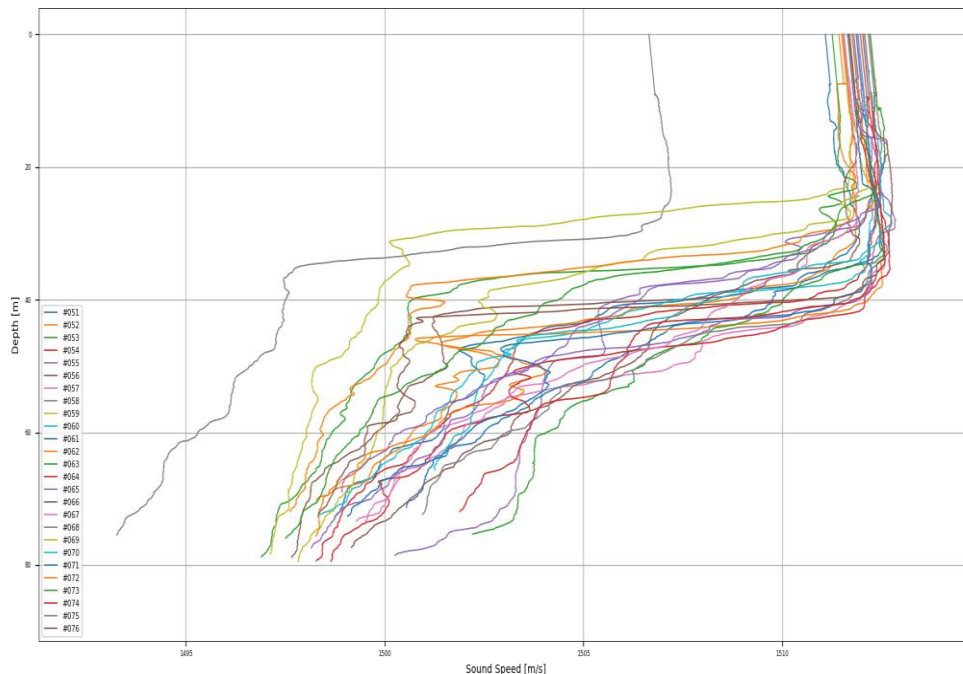


Figure 12: MVP composite plots.

Sound velocity ranges from ~ 1493 m/s to ~ 1513 m/s. The near surface waters down to 25 metres are very well mixed and show near constant velocity on most profiles. There is a thermocline between ~ 25 metres depth down to between 50 and 70 metres where sound velocity rapidly decreases. The weight of the MVP coupled with constraints on shooting and recovery speeds due to the load on the winch and limits within the software meant that the sensor was unable to go deeper than ~ 80 metres.

4.2 Post Processing Methods

4.2.1 Navigation

Navigation data were logged in standard C-Nav format. Real-time positioning data quality from C-Nav was of sufficient quality to exceed IHO Order 1a standard requirements. Vertical errors on the GPS heights were low (± 20 cm) and provide a robust solution for computation of GPS tide.

Navigation data and in particular GPS heights were de-spiked and smoothed in Caris HIPS. GPS tide was computed using the separation model between International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) datum and VORF LAT.

4.2.2 Depth Soundings Data Processing

Soundings were edited in Caris HIPS software against an existing chart background. Combinations of automated and manual processing procedures were applied by experienced data processors to remove systematic errors and obvious outliers. Uncertainty results were examined to ensure soundings fell within IHO specifications for Order 1a and Order 2 surveys. Processed and cleaned data were subject to final validation by an experienced and qualified hydrographer. The following is a simplified list of steps undertaken during sounding data processing:

1. Navigation data were checked and spikes removed.
2. GPS tides were computed using the UKHO's VORF model. This reduced the MBES depth soundings to LAT. GPS tide results were then checked for quality and consistency.
3. TPU values were calculated.
4. SVP data were applied to correct for refraction errors caused by water column heterogeneity. A range of SV algorithms were used to determine the most suitable method of applying SV corrections, for example: nearest in distance versus nearest in time.
5. Subset Editing was performed in CARIS to clean large "noise" spikes from the data. Additional delta draft and refraction corrections were applied in order to correct residual issues.
6. A CARIS Combined Uncertainty and Bathymetry Estimator (CUBE) base surface was created to allow CUBE automatic filtering.
7. Final verification of sounding consistency and absence of spikes was done using subset editing.
8. Bathymetry data were then exported as gridded data at multiple spatial resolutions (*.asc, *.xyz, *.bag, *.Geotiff) and as survey line pointclouds. Ancillary exports included trackline shapefile and XL QC reports.

4.2.3 Backscatter Mosaic Generation

Backscatter is a function of the hardness and roughness of the seafloor. Raw MBES data was put through the Geocoder engine in QPS Fledermaus™ (FMGT) to produce backscatter mosaics at 2 and 5 m resolutions.

4.3 Survey Results and Data Interpretation

A preliminary interpretation of MBES data was used to assess bathymetry, seabed texture and seabed features. SBP data was used to assess the shallow geology.

4.3.1 MBES Images

MBES bathymetry grids and shaded relief geotiff images at both 5 and 10 m respectively were created in Teledyne Caris HIPS & SIPS™ software. Backscatter mosaics were created at 2 and 5 m in QPS FMGT™. Geotiffs, mosaics and grids were imported into ArcGIS™ and images (Figures 13 to 15) output for this report.

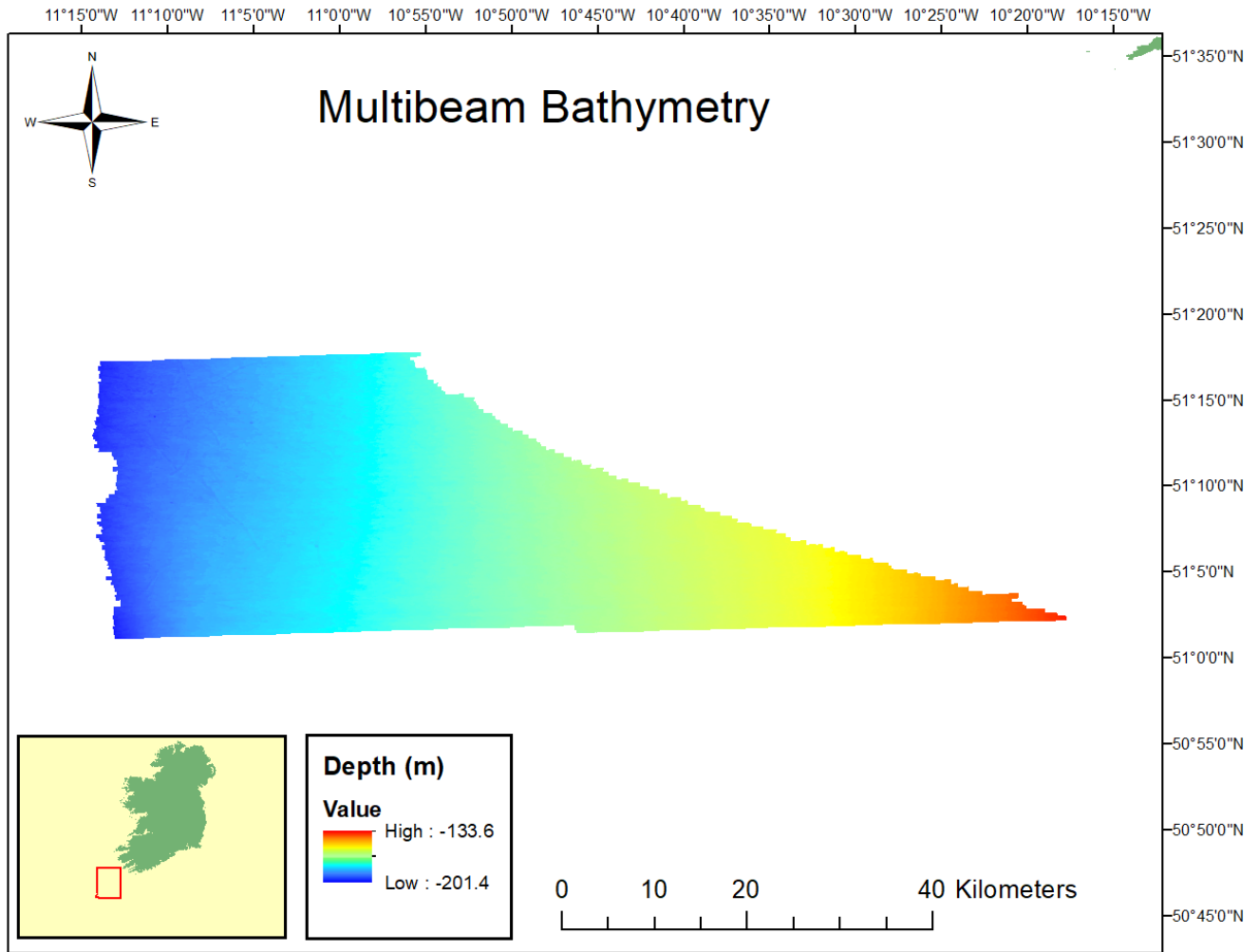


Figure 13: MBES bathymetry.

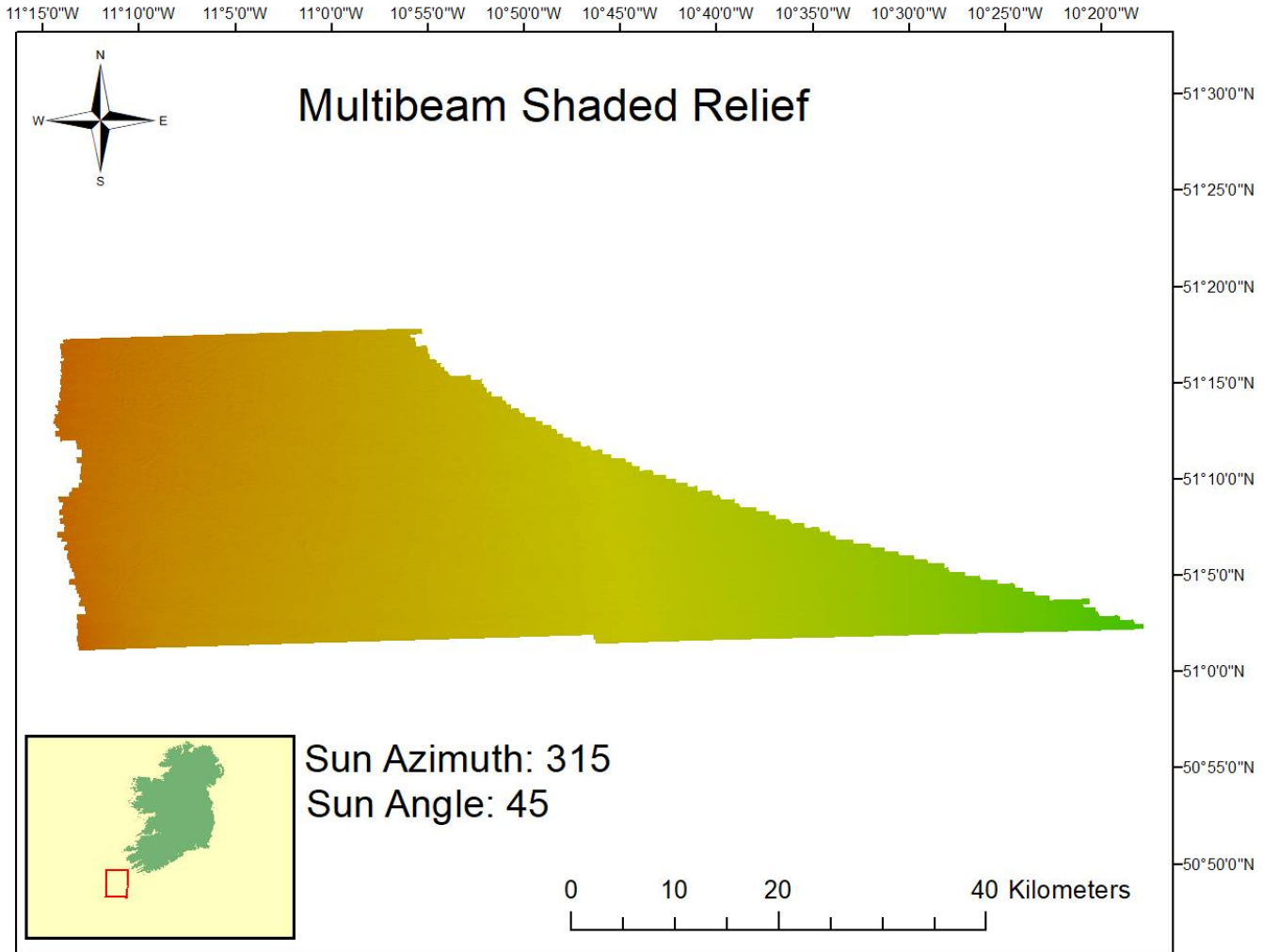


Figure 14: MBES shaded relief.

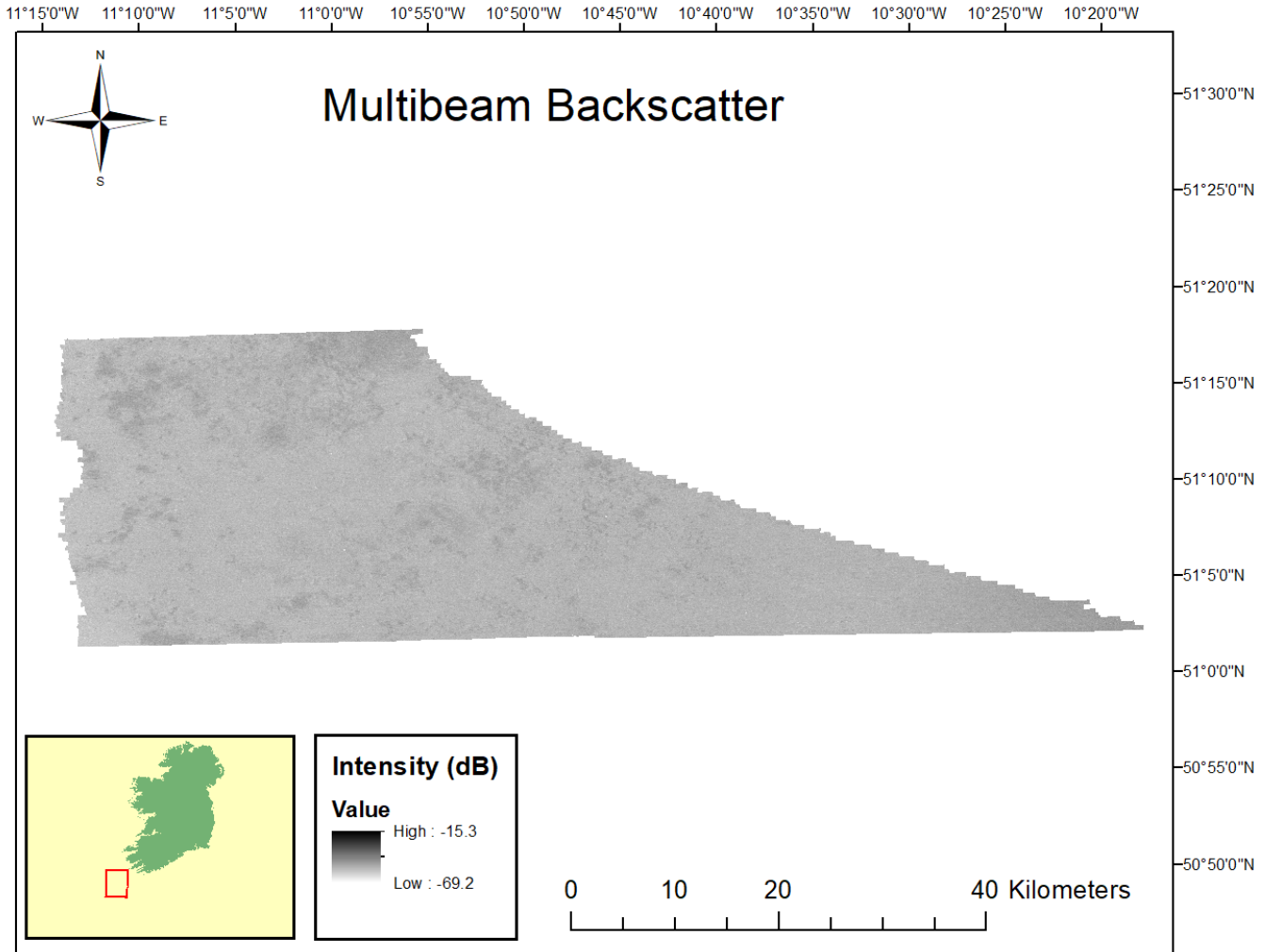


Figure 15: MBES backscatter mosaic.

4.3.2 Shallow Geology Analysis

Chirp SBP data quality and penetration varied due to environmental factors relating to sea state and sub-bottom conditions. There were also issues with the heave compensation, residual heave and navigation on certain profiles. Survey speed (4-9 knots) was dictated by the ability of the MBES to meet its data density and data quality requirements. This is usually faster than the optimal maximum speed of 4 knots for high quality SBP data acquisition. Sea state varied significantly during the survey. Taking all of the above into account the overall data quality was poor.

Knudsen SounderSuite™ software recorded sub-bottom data in proprietary Knudsen kea and keb formats and sgy format. SGY data were converted to coda format using Coda File Utilities™ software. These Coda format files were replayed in Coda GeoSurvey™ software, where TVG and bandpass filtering were applied and tiff images created. Cross line profiles 204 and 209 are selected for discussion here. Their geographical locations are shown in the track line plot in Figure 16.

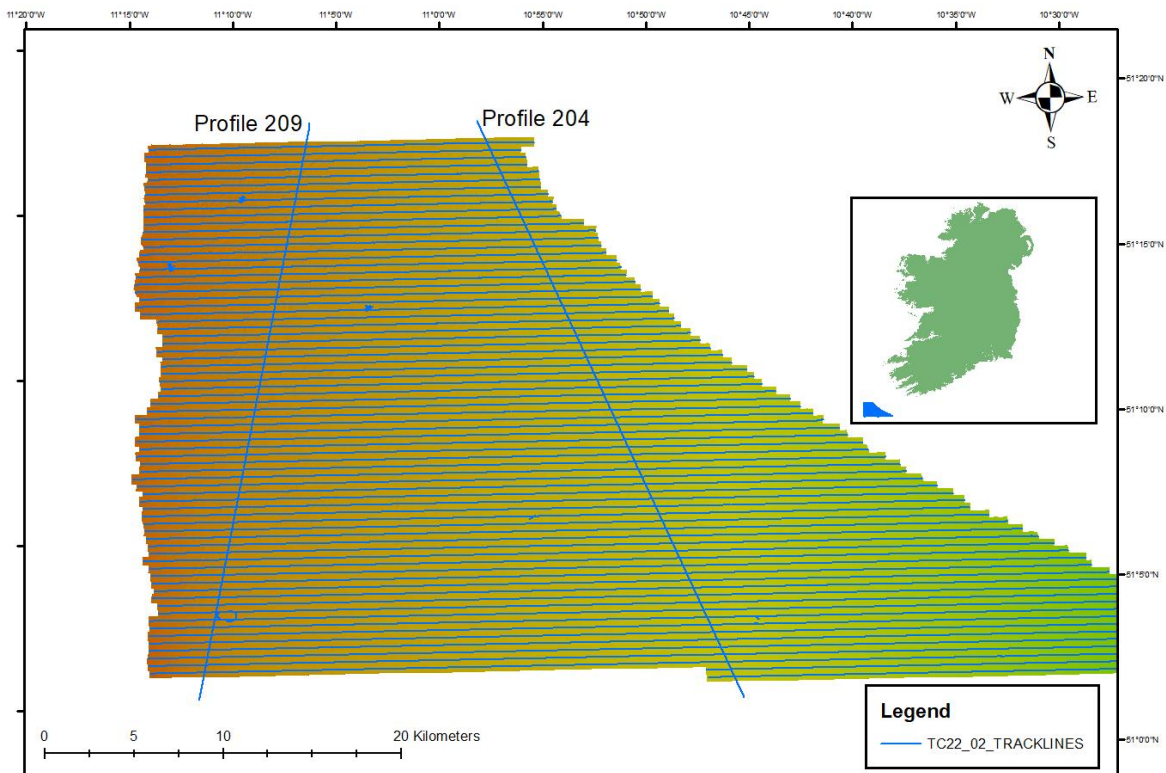


Figure 16: SBP lines 204 & 209 extents.

Interpreted SBP tiff images of profiles 204 and 209 are shown in Figures 17 and 18 respectively. A bandpass filter with low cut 1.5 kHz and high cut 4.7 kHz was applied in processing. Heave compensation is applied to the images although some residual heave remains. Horizontal scale lines are at 8 m (10 ms) intervals. Note that the vertical scale is greatly exaggerated.

Profile 204 in Figure 17 is 35.7 km in length. The profile was acquired from SE to NW. Data quality is good. Signal penetration is very poor due to the hard substrate. No sub bottom reflectors are observed. The seabed is mostly smooth with occasional furrows associated with iceberg ploughmarks. These ploughmarks are clearly evident on MBES data also.

Profile 209 in Figure 18 is 33.0 km in length. The profile was acquired from NNE to SSW as a QC cross line. Data quality is good. Signal penetration is very poor due to the hard substrate. The topography of this profile is gently sloping. Numerous iceberg ploughmarks are observed on the seabed. Ploughmarks are up to 2 m depth and over 300 m in width.

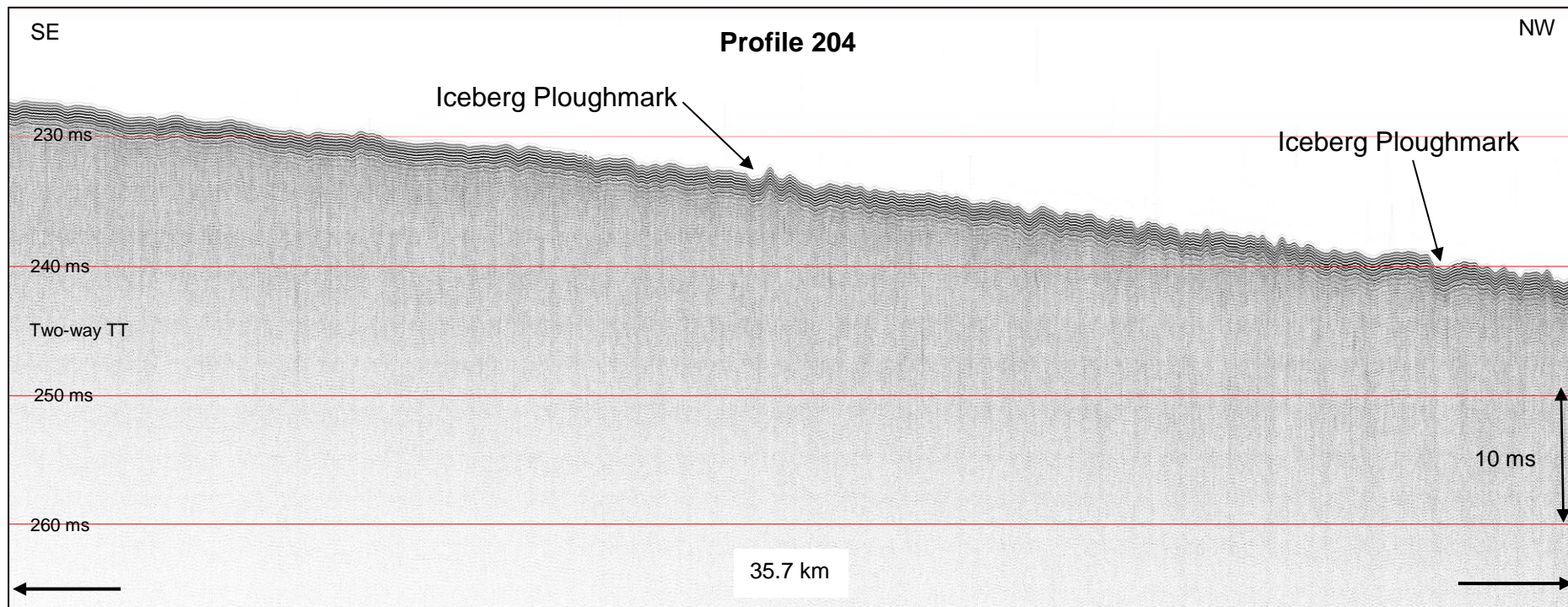


Figure 17: SBP interpreted image, line 204.

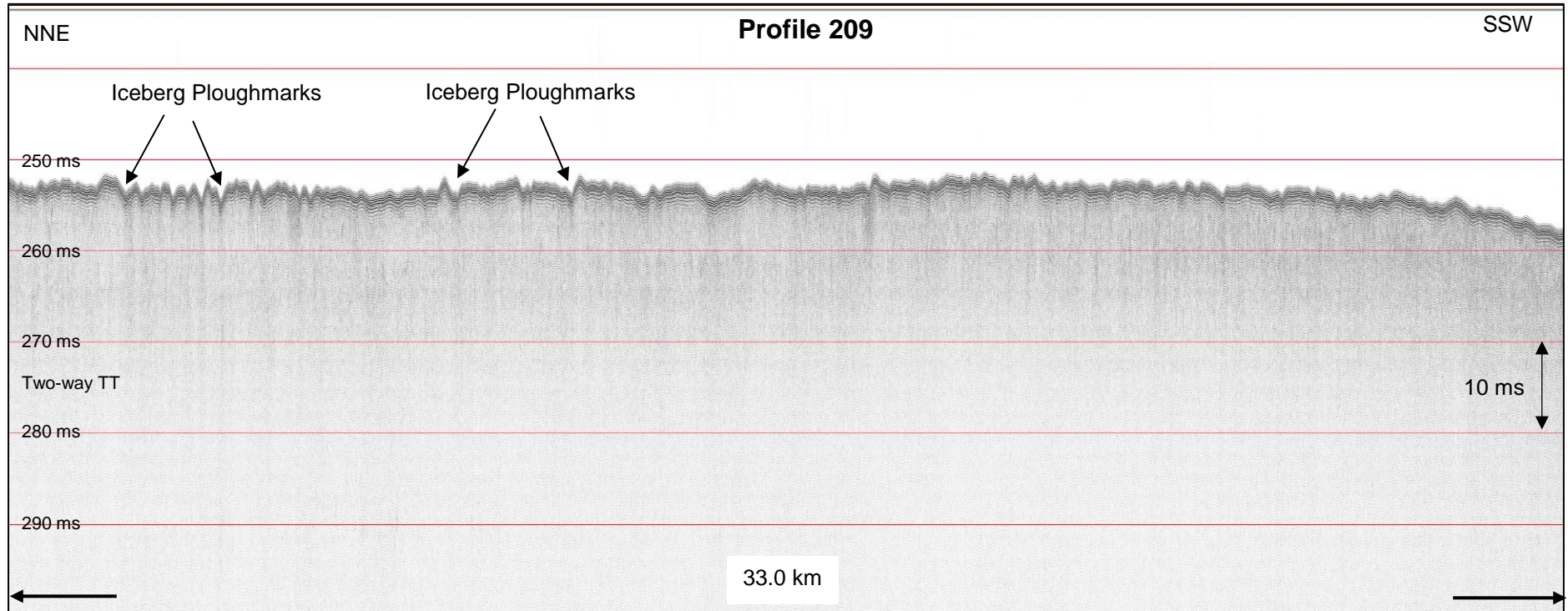


Figure 18: SBP interpreted image, line 209.

4.3.3 Bathymetry

Figure 19 is a colour coded MBES bathymetry image. Water depth varies from 112.8 to 201.3 m. Depth increases from east to west. The western edge of the survey coverage denotes the shelf edge. Seabed gradients are gentle throughout.

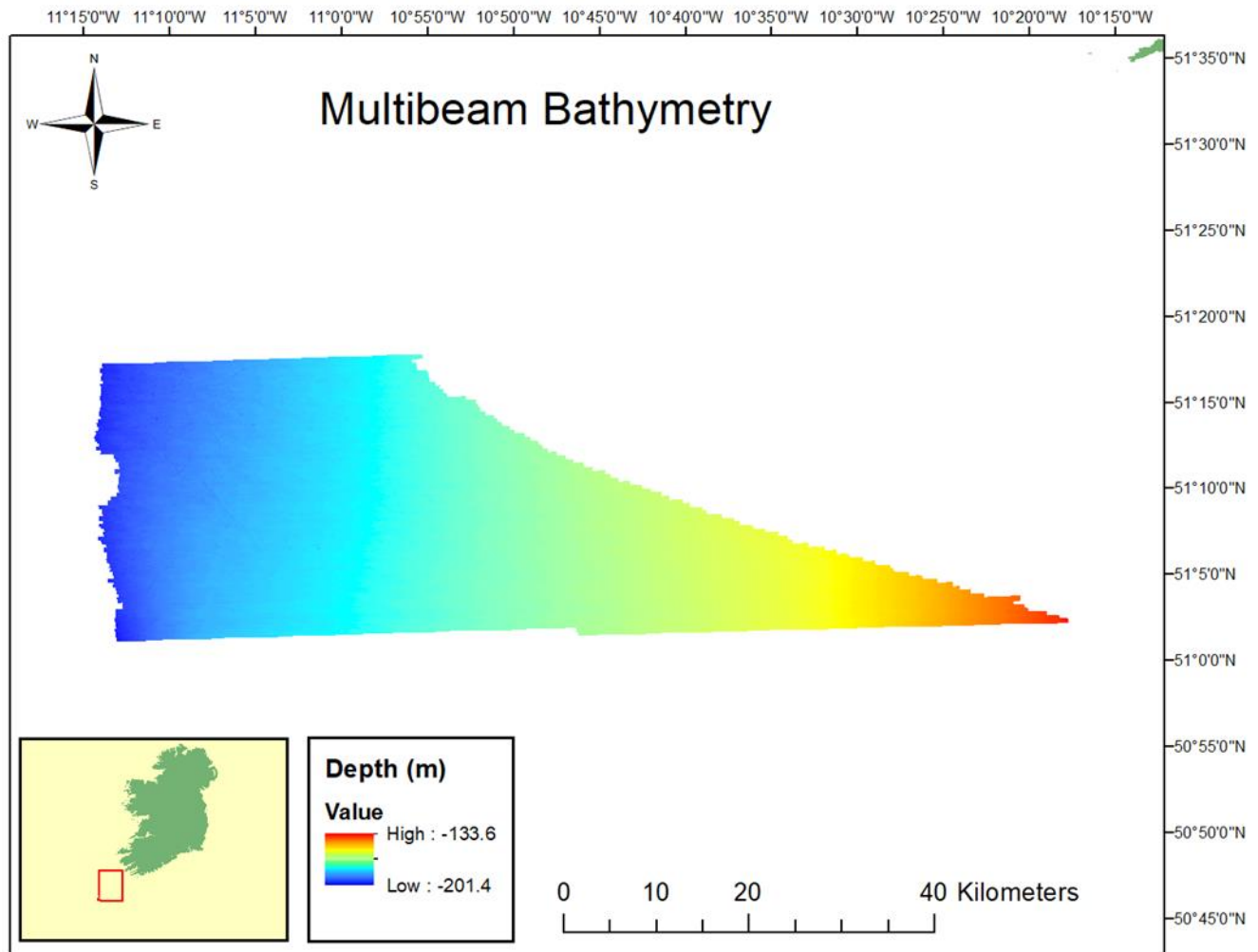


Figure 19: MBES bathymetry overview.

4.3.4 Seabed Texture

MBES backscatter is the strength of acoustic energy received by the sonar after a complex interaction with the seafloor. By analysing the amplitude of the returning sound waves, it is possible to extract information about bottom structure and hardness, allowing for identification of bottom types. Seabed reflectivity properties depend on the hardness and roughness of the seafloor surface. In simple terms, a strong return signal indicates a hard and/or rough surface and a weak return signal indicates a soft and/or smooth surface.

Backscatter values referenced in this report are relative intensities and not absolute. The convention used in this report is that dark coloured areas represent relatively higher backscatter intensity than light coloured areas. Backscatter intensity values vary from - 15.3 to - 69.2 db.

The backscatter mosaic, gridded at 2 m is shown in Figure 20. Two broad backscatter intensity categories are identified. Low backscatter intensity dominates. Higher backscatter seabed is found mostly in the north and sporadically in the centre. The SE is homogeneously low backscatter.

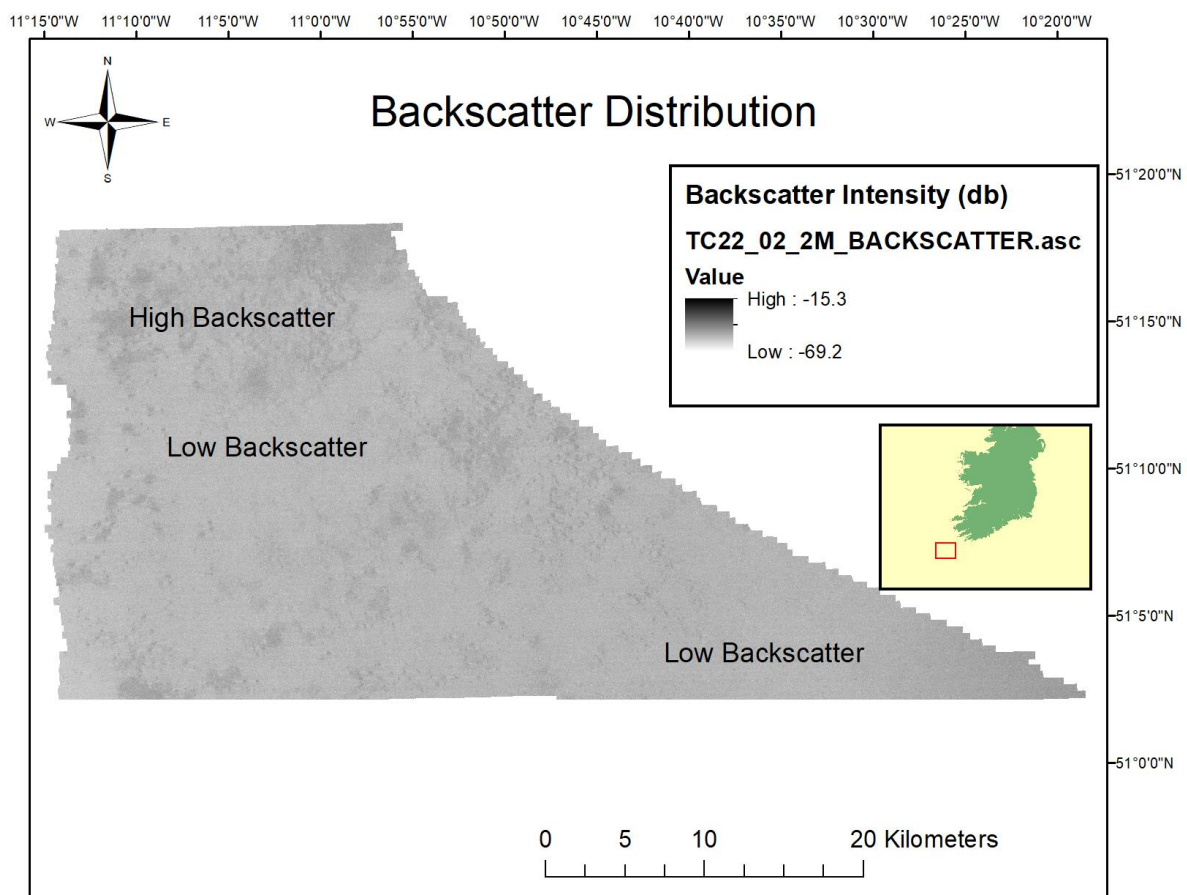


Figure 20: Relative backscatter intensity distribution.

Figure 21 illustrates a section of seabed where high intensity backscatter is prominent. The high intensity backscatter is often associated with iceberg ploughmarks, which are typically less than 100 m in width and C. 2 m in relief. The higher backscatter areas correlate with the bathymetric lows.

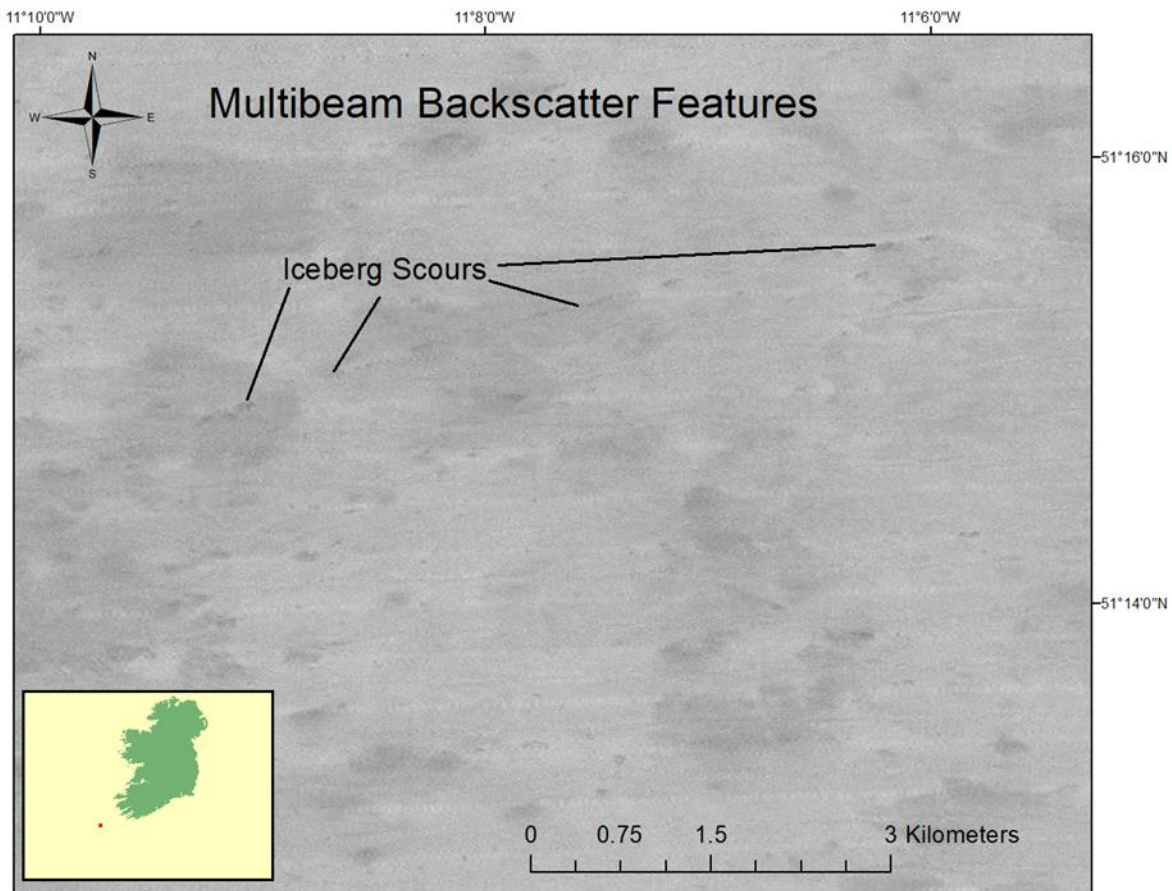


Figure 21: High backscatter intensity channel features.

4.3.5 Seabed Features

Description of seabed features are based on analysis of bathymetric, shaded relief and backscatter data. It is possible to make valid inferences on seabed character and composition by correlating these datasets. Shaded relief data are used to illustrate the features discussed in this section. Shaded relief imagery is produced in Teledyne Caris HIPS & SIPS™ software by shining an imaginary sun at 45° angle over the depth colour coded MBES bathymetry dataset. Data illustrated below are gridded at 5 m and with sun illumination from the NW.

Figure 22 is a MBES shaded relief image illustrating a large circular depression discovered in the NW. It is circa 5 m deep and 200 m in diameter. Similar scale depression found in the Pacific have been attributed to gas escaping from sub surface and disturbing the seabed sediments. Extensive iceberg ploughmarks and a wreck are also located in the image.

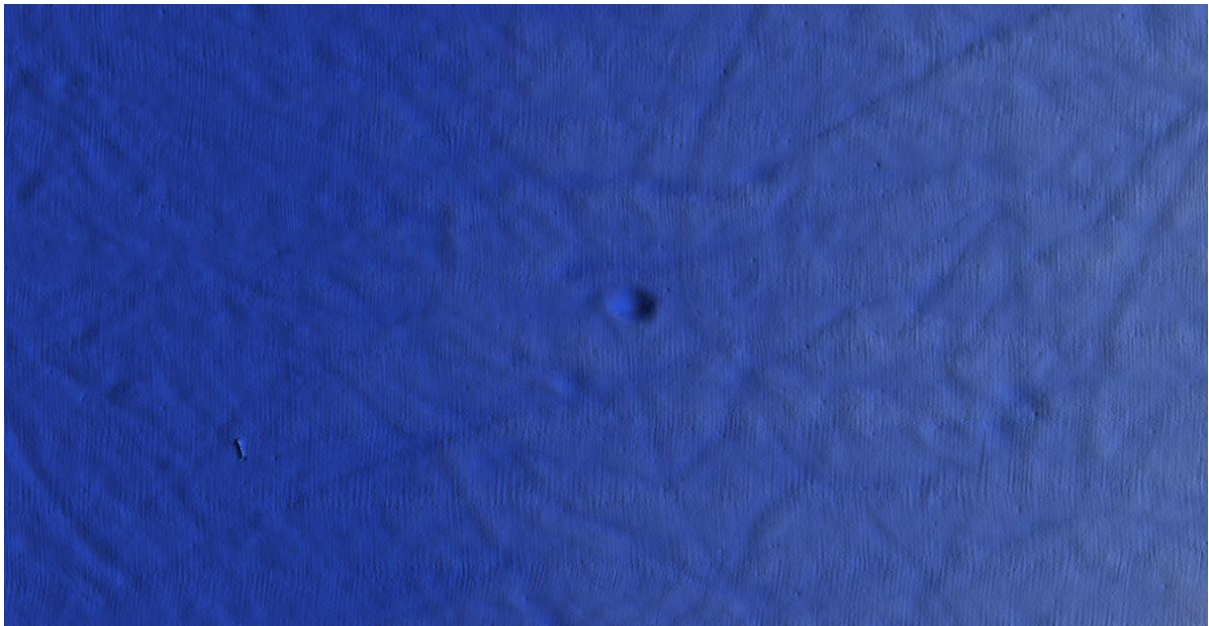


Figure 22: MBES shaded relief image illustrating circular depression.

Figure 23 is a shaded relief image illustrating iceberg ploughmarks. Some ploughmarks are over 200 m in width, up to 1.5 m deep and extend for over 8 km. Largest ploughmarks have NW-SE and NE-SW orientations. Two pockmarks are also evident in the image below.

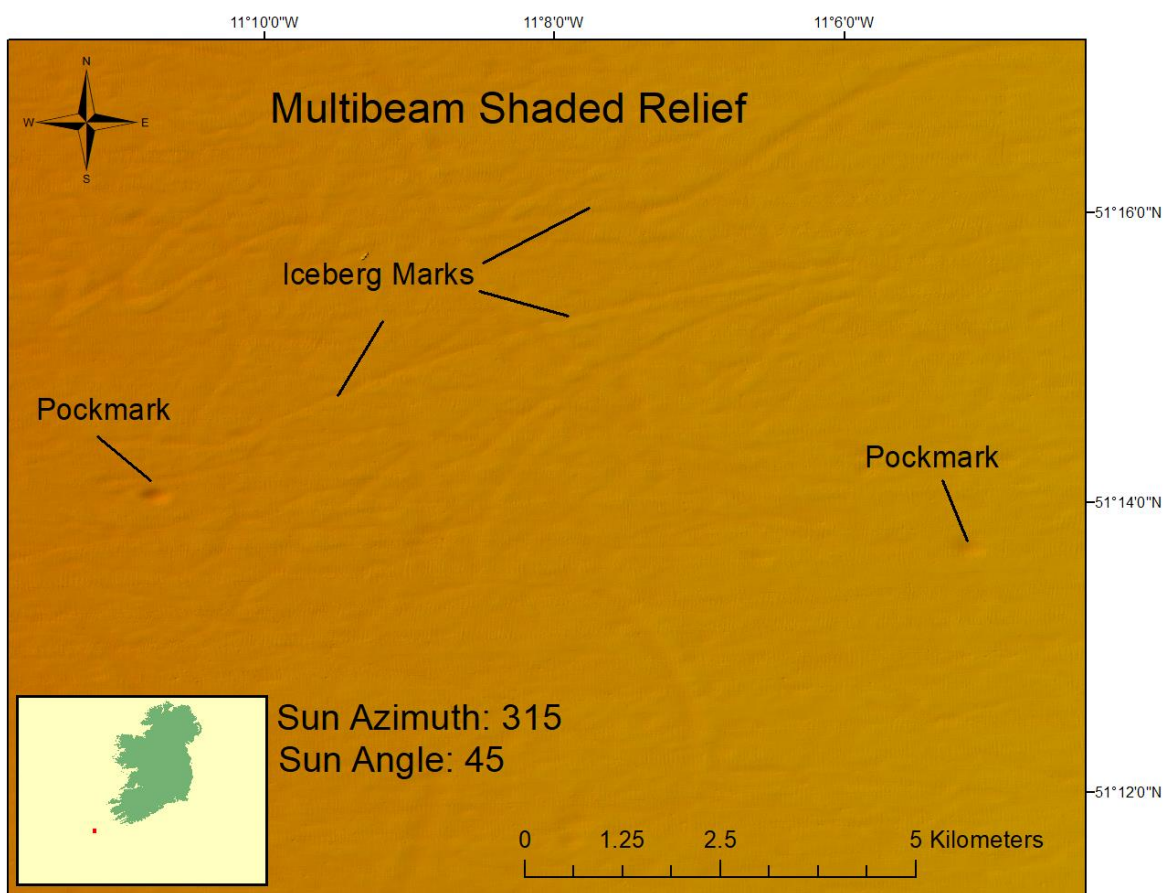


Figure 23: MBES shaded relief image illustrating seabed features.

4.4 Ground Truthing

Ground truthing will be performed at a later date.

4.5 Wrecks

Six wrecks was located and then mapped in detail. A H525 form was completed and sent to the UKHO. Admiralty charts will be updated in due course. Table 19 provides the wreck location and basic information.

| Number | Latitude | Longitude | Length | Date |
|--------|---------------|-----------------|--------|------------|
| 1 | 51° 15.6986 N | -011° 09.3045 W | 114 m | 14/09/2022 |
| 2 | 51° 13.5675 N | -011° 12.6585 W | 116 m | 15/09/2022 |
| 3 | 51° 12.5140 N | -011° 03.0625 W | 115 m | 15/09/2022 |
| 4 | 51° 14.8296 N | -010° 57.8028 W | 31 m | 14/09/2022 |
| 5 | 51° 06.3173 N | -010° 54.8749 W | 84 m | 18/09/2022 |
| 6 | 51° 03.4448 N | -010° 43.9229 W | 90.5 m | 20/09/2022 |

Table 19: Wreck investigation metadata.

Figure 24 shows the location of the mapped wreck overlain on shaded relief data.

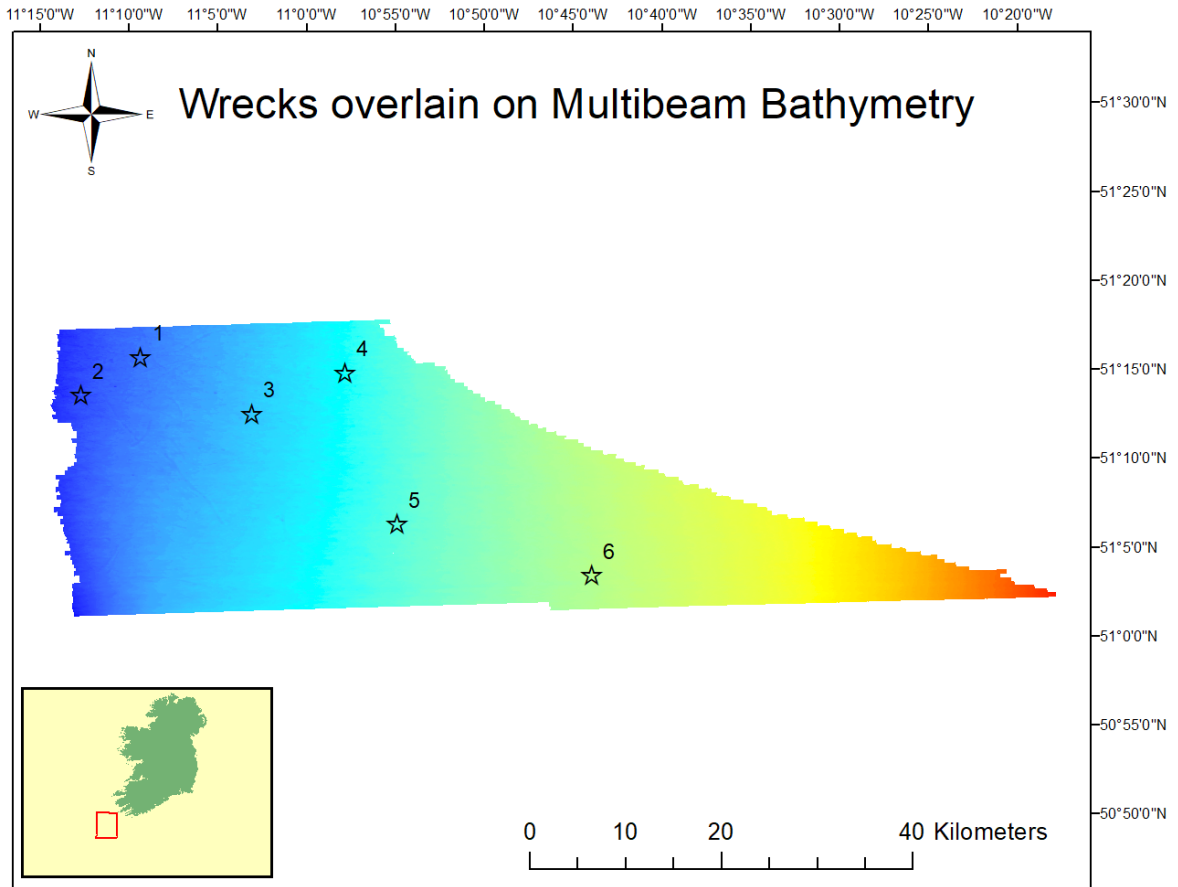
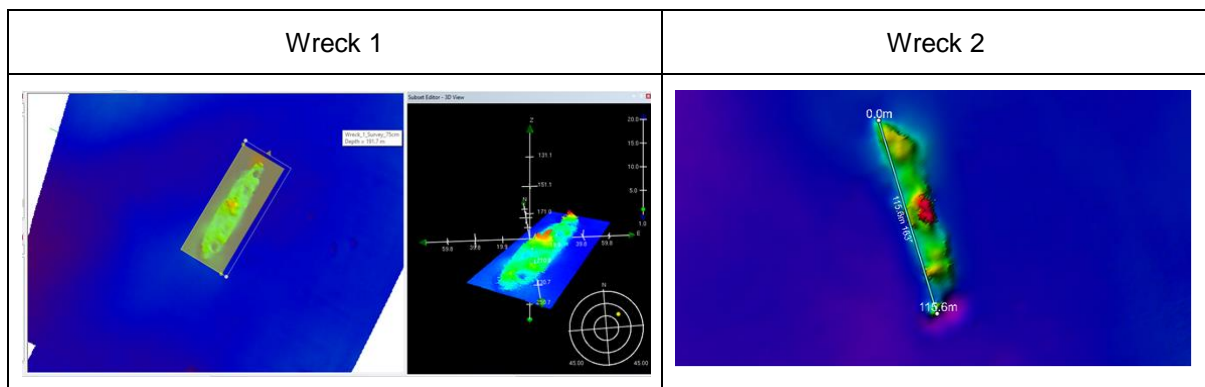


Figure 24: Mapped wreck location plot.

Figure 25 shows a MBES data image of the mapped wrecks.



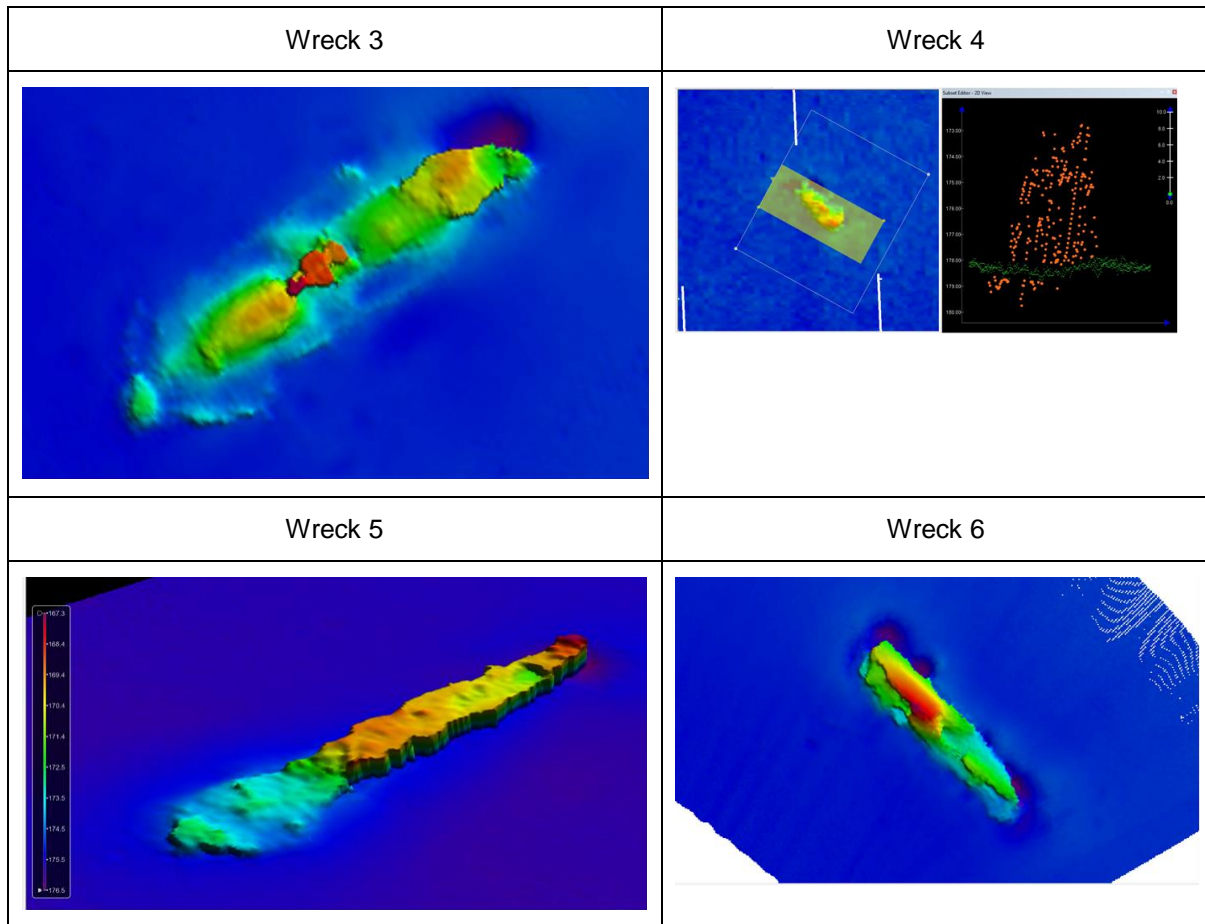


Figure 25: MBES wreck images.