

## Annex B – Solway Sub-tidal Mussel Survey Report November 2016

The first survey sampled 65 stations using a two minute tow with a small mussel dredge from a grid 500m apart covering an area that from historic data has contained a fishable stock of mussel. Results identified an area containing clean seed mussel. A return survey was conducted using a day grab from a 150m grid to give a more accurate indication of the coverage of mussel. Fifty-four stations were surveyed and a further ten survey stations were added. The broad substrate type, amount of mussel, size of mussel and other species present were recorded.

Six samples from full grabs and a range of survey stations and mussel size classes were taken for further analysis. The survey stations closer inshore had a smaller shell length, ranging between 20-30mm compared to the outer survey stations which had a shell length ranging between 30-45mm. The total mussel weight in each grab for the samples analysed varied between 468g and 822g for a 0.1m<sup>2</sup> grab. Estimates of total biomass have been calculated using the lower value of 468g for full samples and 234g for half full samples, samples where mussel was present but in low densities have been excluded from the total biomass estimates.

Total mussel area as indicated on the map

0.768 sq. km.

Total estimated biomass of mussel

3264.3 tonnes

