

Fishery Management Plan for Razor Clams in Killary_Bofin_Turk CPA 2020

This management plan was drafted by Oliver Tully (Marine Institute) following a survey of Inisbofin and Killary razor clam beds in August 2020. It adopts the voluntary rules that applied to the fishery in 2019 as agreed by the industry at that time. The TAC is updated according to 2020 survey data

Background

Razor clam (*Ensis magnus* and *Ensis siliqua*) beds in the approaches to Killary, Inisbofin and Inisturk (Co. Galway, Mayo) are included in a single microbiologically classified production area (CPA). Consistent with the protocols outlined by the Inshore Management Group (DAFM and Marine Agencies) the measures outlined below seek to manage the sustainable exploitation of the stock of razor clams in the CPA.

Area

Razor clams (*Ensis magnus*) occur off the south shore of Inisbofin in clean well sorted sand. The main stock (*Ensis magnus* and *Ensis siliqua*) in the approaches to Killary are on the north shore at the harbour entrance and west of this area in clean sand or compacted mixed sediments. A separate bed at Inisturk was partially surveyed in 2019. Estimates for Inisturk are not included here.

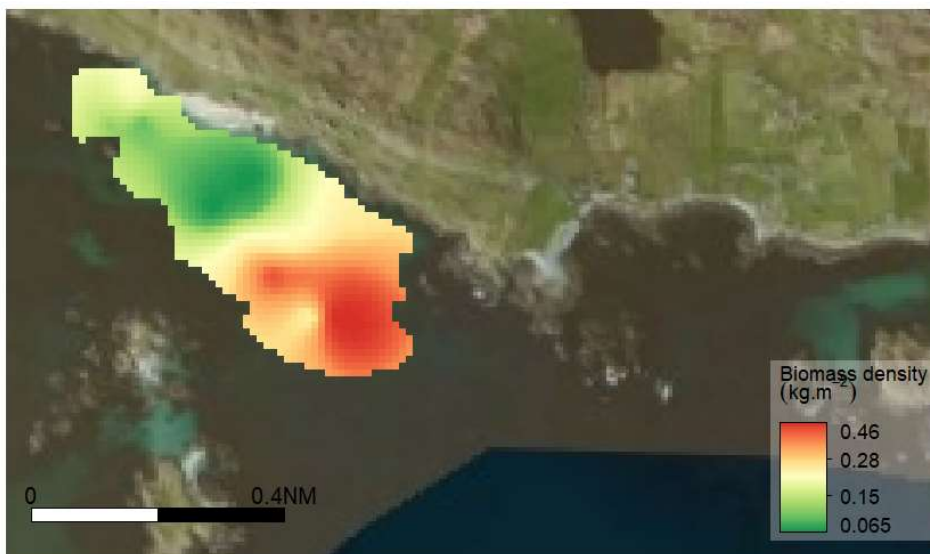


Figure 1. Distribution of razor clams at Inisbofin in August 2020

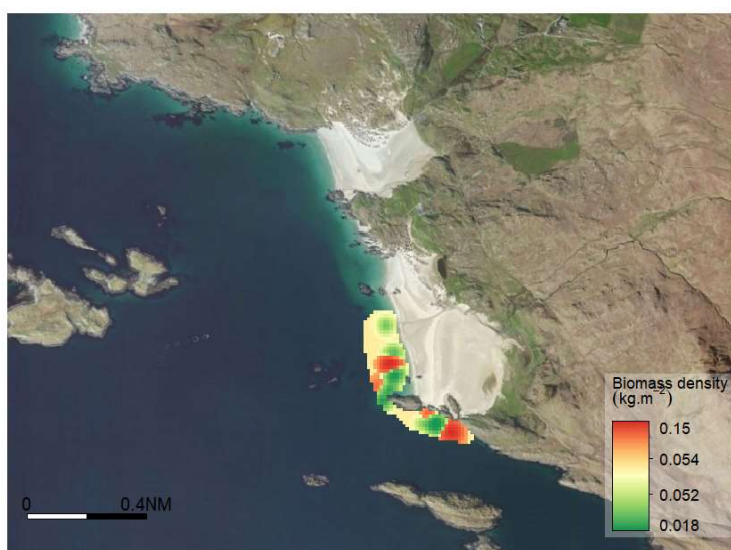


Figure 2. Distribution of razor clams (*E. magnus*) at the approaches to Killary. The area surveyed in 2020, does not include the deeper and northern areas sampled during the combined survey in 2016/2018

Catch advice for 2020

Inisbofin: Biomass of *Ensis magnus* at Inisbofin was estimated to be 73 tonnes in Sept 2016, 105 tonnes in Aug 2018 and 97 tonnes in August 2020. TAC advice from Oct 2020-Sept 2021 is **10 tonnes**.

Killary: Biomass of *Ensis magnus* at Killary was 24 tonnes in 2018 compared to 46 tonnes in 2016. The areas surveyed in 2020 was smaller and provided an estimate of 10 tonnes. Biomass of *Ensis siliqua* was 60 tonnes in 2016, 70 tonnes in 2018 and 20 tonnes in the limited survey area in 2020. TAC advice for both species is based on the 2020 survey are only, is conservative and is **1 tonne** for *E. magnus* and **2 tonnes** for *E. siliqua* (Table 1).

Table 1. Biomass estimates from surveys in 2016, 2018 and 2020 at Inisbofin and Killary.

| Year | Month | Species | Stock Unit | Survey Area (km ²) | Biomass (Tonnes) Mean | 95% CL |
|------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2016 | September | <i>Ensis magnus</i> | Inisbofin | 0.26 | 72.4 | 39.8 |
| 2016 | September | <i>Ensis siliqua</i> | Inisbofin | 0.26 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| 2018 | August | <i>Ensis magnus</i> | Inisbofin | | 105.0 | 67.0 |
| 2018 | August | <i>Ensis siliqua</i> | Inisbofin | | - | - |
| 2020 | August | <i>Ensis magnus</i> | Inisbofin | 0.43 | 97 | 70 |
| 2020 | August | <i>Ensis siliqua</i> | Inisbofin | 0.43 | - | - |
| 2016 | November | <i>Ensis magnus</i> | Killary Approaches | 0.86 | 46.9 | 17.7 |
| 2016 | November | <i>Ensis siliqua</i> | Killary Approaches | 1.35 | 60.0 | 13.8 |
| 2018 | August | <i>Ensis magnus</i> | Killary Approaches | | 24.0 | 38.0 |
| 2018 | August | <i>Ensis siliqua</i> | Killary Approaches | | 70.0 | |
| 2020 | August | <i>Ensis magnus</i> | Killary Approaches | 0.18 | | |

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|------|--------|----------------------|--------------------|------|--|--|
| 2020 | August | <i>Ensis siliqua</i> | Killary Approaches | 0.18 | | |
|------|--------|----------------------|--------------------|------|--|--|

Risk factors

1. There are 2 vessels active in west Galway that are likely to access these stocks. Local voluntarily agreed management plans by vessels have recently been implemented in Ballinakill and Clifden Bays. The risk of significant escalation in the number of participating boats is low.
2. There are no Natura issues.

Measures

1. Total Allowable Catch (tonnes) for the CPA for 2020 advised by the Marine Institute is 10% of biomass or **13 tonnes**. Future TACs may need to be adjusted in response to changes in size structure and recruitment. Higher exploitation rates of 15% were advised in 2019. Biomass estimates in Killary in 2020 are low even if the survey area was restricted.
2. All vessels in the fishery will report position (using GPS trackers) irrespective of the activity of the vessel to show presence and absence of vessels in the fishery
3. A vessel will only fish for razor clams in one classified production area (CPA) per week and in the case of the Killary CPA will only fish one location (Killary, Inisbofin) in a given week
4. The minimum landing size will be 130mm shell length.
5. Hours of fishing will be from 07:00 to 19:00hrs Mon-Fri. If weather prevents fishing in week days fishing may occur on Sat and Sun with prior agreement of the SFPA.
6. Each vessel will fish with 1 dredge only. The dredge will not exceed 1m in width
7. Total landings for all vessels combined will not exceed 2 tonnes per week from Killary or Inisbofin separately.
8. All operators will report landings data in the form of logbook or gatherers sheets to the SFPA within 48hrs of landing (regulated)
9. Sampling to maintain the microbiological classification (Razor samples), water samples for phytoplankton and Shellfish samples for BioToxins will be taken in consultation with SFPA (Bernard Whelan is the designated sampler).
10. There should be no discarding of Razors over 130mm.
11. Buyers and sellers of razor clams must comply with SI 260/2007 Sea Fisheries (First Marketing of Fish) Regulations.
12. The measures above, where not already regulated, will be implemented on a voluntary basis.