

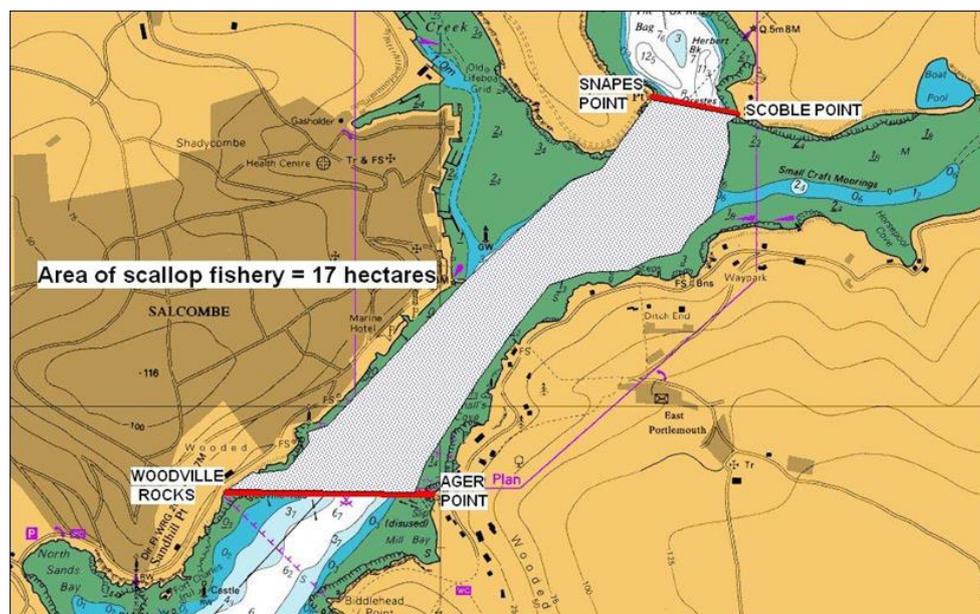
## Salcombe Scallop Stock Assessment Survey Methodology

### Equipment

Waterproofs + wellies/riggers  
 Life jackets  
 Handheld GPS, plus spare batteries  
 Scallop measuring board  
 Survey forms  
 Weather writer  
 Pencil

### Rationale

This survey is carried out on board one of the permitted scallop vessels within the Salcombe Estuary. The Salcombe Estuary scallop fishery is open from 15<sup>th</sup> December to 15<sup>th</sup> March. During this time dredging for scallops is authorised to permit holders, where permits are issued by D&S IFCA. Dredging can only take place in an area between a line drawn across the estuary from Snapes Point to Scoble Point and a line drawn across the estuary from Woodville Rocks to Ager Point (Figure 1), avoiding areas of eelgrass bed. Permit holders can use non-toothed dredges, no wider than one metre, and can use two dredges at any one time. Dredges must be hand hauled, and fishing can only take place between 0900hrs and 1600hrs on weekdays, but not during public holidays.



**Figure 1 – Salcombe scallop fishery area.**

The objective of the survey is to carry out a stock assessment on the scallop fishery, and to compare the stock over seasons. This will help inform the future management of the scallop fishery in Salcombe Estuary.

### Logistics and Practicalities

The survey is carried out on board small fishing vessels, with one of the local fishers. Dates and times of the survey should be agreed with the fisher, and their safety advice should always be followed whilst on board the vessel.

The survey takes place during the winter, when the fishery is open, and therefore appropriate clothing should be worn for long days on an open boat.

If a pre- or post-fishery survey is undertaken, outside the dates when the fishery is open then the Harbour Master should be informed beforehand.

### **Survey Methodology**

The survey is carried out from on board a chartered fishing vessel. A number of tows are undertaken throughout the permitted scallop fishery area of the estuary – the tows should be representative of the area commonly fished.

Each tow uses two 1m wide, hand-hauled, non-toothed dredges operate by the fisher. The start and end coordinates are recorded for each tow. All scallops that come up from each tow are counted and their sizes recorded on a standard survey form. This process is repeated for each tow until all areas of the estuary have been covered.

It is not possible to replicate the exact location of each tow between surveys, due to different tidal conditions and boats being present on different moorings etc., so the aim is to ensure there is the same level of coverage in equivalent areas.

The tows for all surveys are mapped using MapInfo GIS software, and the scallop numbers and measurements are used to estimate scallop density within the estuary and CPUE for the fishery.

### **Relevant Documents**

Tow Survey Form



Survey form  
template.xlsx

2013 Stock Report



Salcombe Scallop  
Fishery Stock Assessr