

## South America Mussel Inspection (Quad) 07-07-23

LW: 09:35 1.0m (Liverpool tides)

An inspection of South America was completed to assess the condition of the mussel previously inspected in April. This year there is a limited number of big spring tides with a sufficient ebb to access the bed, although a 1m tide is not ideal this was the biggest ebb. Due to the size of the tide and the weather it was not possible to cross the channel onto the main bed. An inspection was carried out on the new area of mussel as previously report and highlighted in Figure 1.

Only a small area of was inspected due to the tide. The density of mussel varies across the area as shown in figures 2 to 4. The mussel is approximately 15mm in length (figure 5). Most of the seed mussel is loose and on a soft muddy /sandy substrate. There was not visible hard substrate.

A further survey will need to be conducted on better tides to fully access the area and mussel.

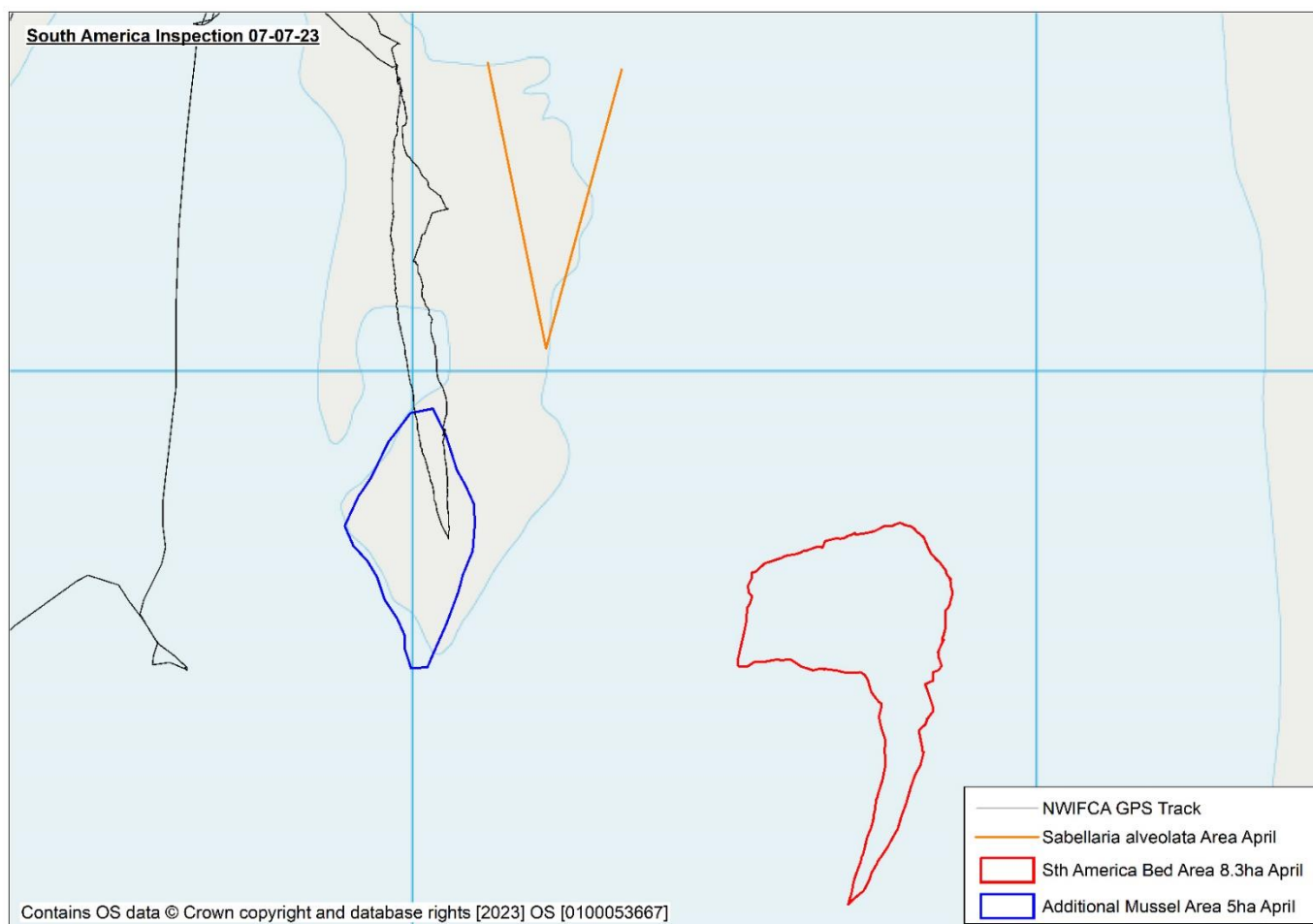


Fig. 1 NWIFCA track data and an overview of South America from April 23



Fig. 2 Low density area of 2023 seed mussel – July 2023



Figure 3. Higher density area of 2023 seed mussel – July 2023



Figure 4. 2023 seed mussel – July 2023

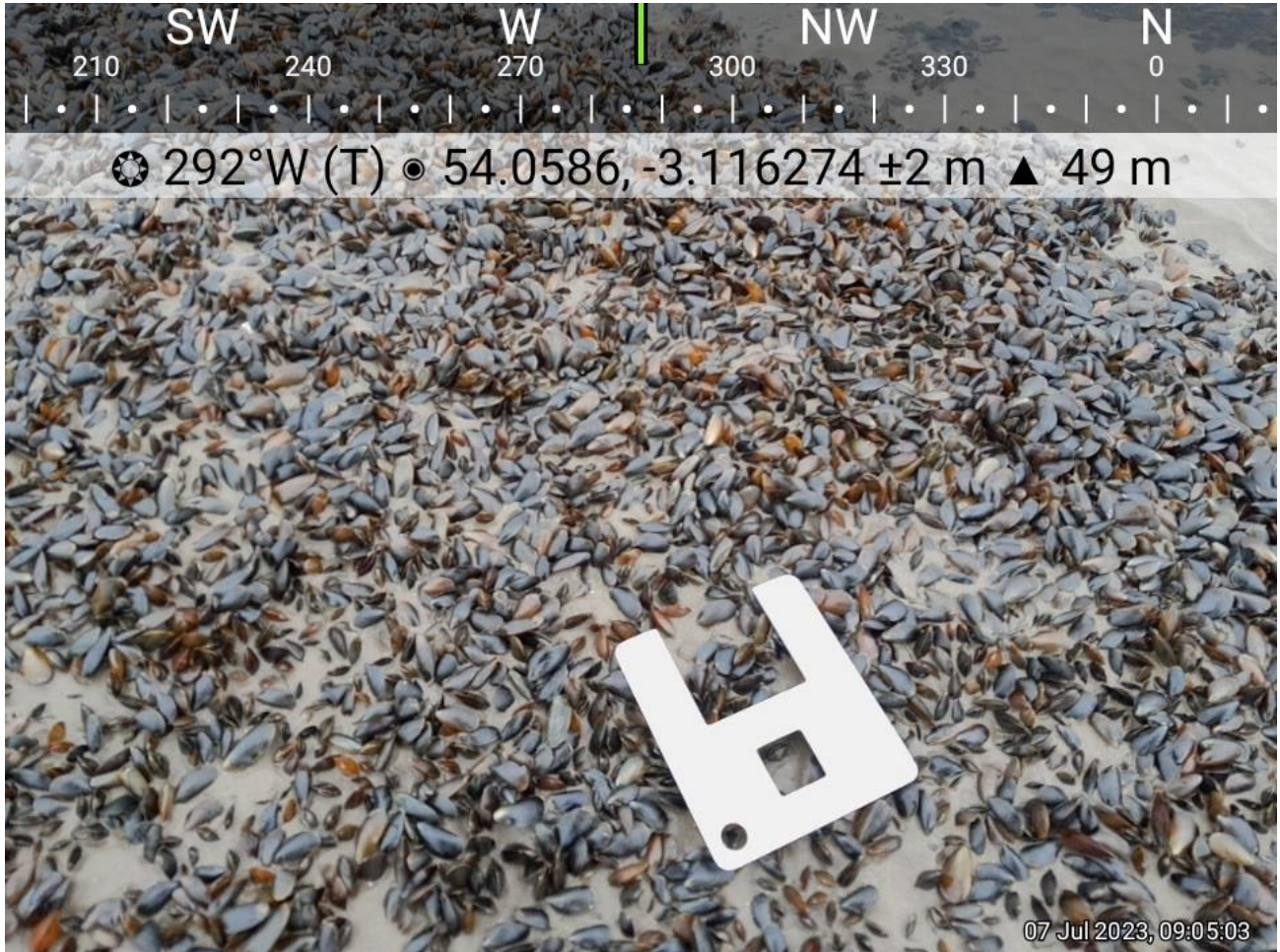


Figure 5. 2023 seed mussel, ~15mm in length – July 2023