



Marine Notice No. 11 of 2022

Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers, Yachtsmen and Seafarers

INFOMAR Survey Plan for 2022 Celtic Sea, Atlantic Ocean and Irish Sea

1. Notice of Activity

The Department of Transport has been advised by Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) and the Marine Institute that hydrographic and geophysical survey operations will be undertaken by INFOMAR in the Celtic Sea, Atlantic Ocean, western coastal areas and Irish Sea areas between **March 2022** and **November 2022**, as follows:

Survey Vessel	Current Schedule	Location
RV's Keary, Geo, Lir, Galtee and Mallet (Geological Survey Ireland)	March - November	Atlantic Ocean, Western Coastal areas and Irish Sea
RV Celtic Voyager (Marine Institute)	28 March 2022 – 9 April 2022 (13 days)	Celtic Sea
	1 May 2022 – 3 June 2022 (34 days)	Celtic Sea and Atlantic Ocean
RV Tom Crean or RV Celtic Explorer (Marine Institute)	15 July 2022 – 7 August 2022 (24 days)	Celtic Sea and Atlantic Ocean
	17 September 2022 – 2 October 2022 (16 days)	Celtic Sea and Atlantic Ocean

Figure 1 below depicts the overview of the 2022 INFOMAR survey areas.

2. Location of planned operations

Generic coordinates of where survey operations are expected to take place are provided below. Detailed coordinates of each survey polygon can be provided on request.

RV's Keary, Geo, Mallet, Galtee and Lir are expected to carry out survey operations in three areas, as follows:

- In the **Atlantic Ocean**, West of Counties Kerry, Clare, Galway and Mayo (Fig. 2).
- An offshore area **NW of Belmullet**, County Mayo and **western coastal areas** stretching from Galway Bay to Malin Head, County Donegal (Fig. 3).
- It is anticipated that these vessels will also survey in the **Irish Sea** adjacent to the Ireland/UK border from East of County Dublin to East of County Wexford and in coastal areas of County Dublin (Fig. 4).

The **Atlantic Ocean site** east of the 30 Nm limit is denoted by the purple-coloured hatched area in **Figure 2**. The survey area NE (near Achill Island) and SW (west of Kerry Head) coordinates are as follows:

NE Corner	54° 00.635'N	-010° 12.816'W
SW Corner	52° 23.646'N	-011° 17.830'W

The area **NW of Belmullet**, County Mayo, denoted in purple hatching in **Figure 3** and bounded by coordinates:

NE Corner	54° 41.337'N	-009° 46.761'W
SE Corner	54° 21.197'N	-010° 00.419'W
NW Corner	54° 40.266'N	-010° 18.804'W
SW Corner	54° 20.967'N	-010° 29.170'W

Inshore survey operations will potentially take place **anywhere along the coast** between NW County Mayo and Malin Head, County Donegal. Detailed coordinates of these areas can be provided if necessary.

The offshore **Irish Sea area** is denoted in purple hatching in **Figure 4** and bounded by Coordinates:

NE Corner	53° 20.848'N	-005° 20.170'W
SE Corner	52° 24.172'N	-005° 24.901'W
NW Corner	53° 31.340'N	-005° 26.513'W
SW Corner	52° 10.926'N	-005° 55.970'W

Coastal survey operations may take place around **County Dublin** and detailed coordinates can be provided if necessary.

RV's Celtic Voyager and Tom Crean or Celtic Explorer are expected to carry out survey operations in the **Celtic Sea**, south of the 30 Nm limit and potentially in the **Atlantic Ocean** west of Counties Kerry, Clare and Galway, west of the 30 Nm limit during the dates outlined above.

Specifically, the RV's Celtic Voyager and Tom Crean or Celtic Explorer are expected to carry out survey operations in the Celtic Sea, within the yellow hatched area of **Figure 5** below, bounded by coordinates:

NE Corner	50° 29.988'N	-009° 07.037'W
SE Corner	49° 02.646'N	-009° 21.053'W
NW Corner	51° 16.745'N	-011° 13.687'W
SW Corner	49° 05.506'N	-011° 09.936'W

The RV's Celtic Voyager and Tom Crean or Celtic Explorer will also potentially carry out survey operations in the Atlantic Ocean, within the orange hatched area of **Figure 6**, bounded by coordinates:

North Apex	53° 51.598'N	-011° 08.414'W
East Apex	52° 52.554'N	-010° 34.084'W
SE Corner	52° 26.648'N	-011° 13.615'W
SW Corner	52° 25.804'N	-011° 44.963'W
West 1	52° 44.407'N	-011° 54.036'W
West 2	53° 08.051'N	-011° 52.864'W

3. Details of Survey Vessels

The Marine Institute will operate the following three vessels:

- RV Celtic Voyager (call sign **EIQN**),
- RV Tom Crean (call sign **EIYX3**) and
- RV Celtic Explorer (call sign **EIGB**).

These vessels will display appropriate lights and markers. They will be listening on channel 16 throughout the course of the survey. The vessels will be towing a **magnetometer sensor** with a single cable of up to 200 metres in length and a **Moving Vessel Profiler cable** of variable length up to a maximum of 200 metres.

Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) will operate five vessels:

- RV Keary (call sign **EI-GO-9**),
- RV Geo (call sign **EI-DK-6**),
- RV Mallet (call sign **EI-SN-9**),
- RV Lir (call sign **EI-HI-2**) and
- RV Galtee (call sign **EI-2F-G**).

The vessels will display appropriate lights and markers. The vessels will be listening on channel 16 throughout the course of the survey.

4. Purpose of survey

The INFOMAR Programme (Integrated Mapping for the Sustainable Development of Ireland's Marine Resource), is a jointly managed seabed mapping initiative between Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) and the Marine Institute, funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Expanding upon its operational predecessor, the Irish National Seabed Survey, it has a focus on three sub-programme areas, namely:

- Data Acquisition, Management and Interpretation
- Data Exchange and Integration
- Value Added Exploitation

Covering some 125,000 square kilometres of underwater territory, INFOMAR will produce integrated mapping products covering the physical, chemical and biological features of the seabed.

During the current year of the second phase of INFOMAR (2016-2026), operations are planned to take place within the bays, harbours and offshore areas detailed in the Figures above.

5. Additional information

INFOMAR Charts and information on a bay basis can be found on the website at: <http://www.infomar.ie>. Images, Bathymetry, Backscatter, Shaded Relief, Classification .pdfs are available.

INFOMAR offshore & Geological Survey Ireland onshore digital data can be downloaded via <https://jetstream.gsi.ie/iwdds/index.html>

6. Contact Details

Enquiries or supporting information in relation to the above programme should be directed by email to info@infomar.ie, or by phone to Marine Institute +353 91 387200 or Geological Survey Ireland +353 1 6782896.

Note:

All mariners are reminded of their responsibilities under the International Collision Regulations and are reminded of [Marine Notice No. 17 of 2007](#), which gives general advice in relation to the activities of vessels engaged in survey work for hydrographic, seismic, fishing research and underwater operations.

The International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) are implemented in Irish law by the *Merchant Shipping (Collision Regulations) (Ships and Water Craft on the Water) Order 2012* [S.I. No. 507 of 2012], and the *Signals of Distress (Ships) Rules 2012* [S.I. No.170 of 2012]. [See Marine Notice No. 06 of 2013.](#) These Statutory Instruments may be purchased by mail order from Government Publications, Office of Public Works, 52 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 6476834/1890-213434. They are also available online at: www.irishstatutebook.ie.

Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

17/02/2022

Encl: Appendix Figure 1-6

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport

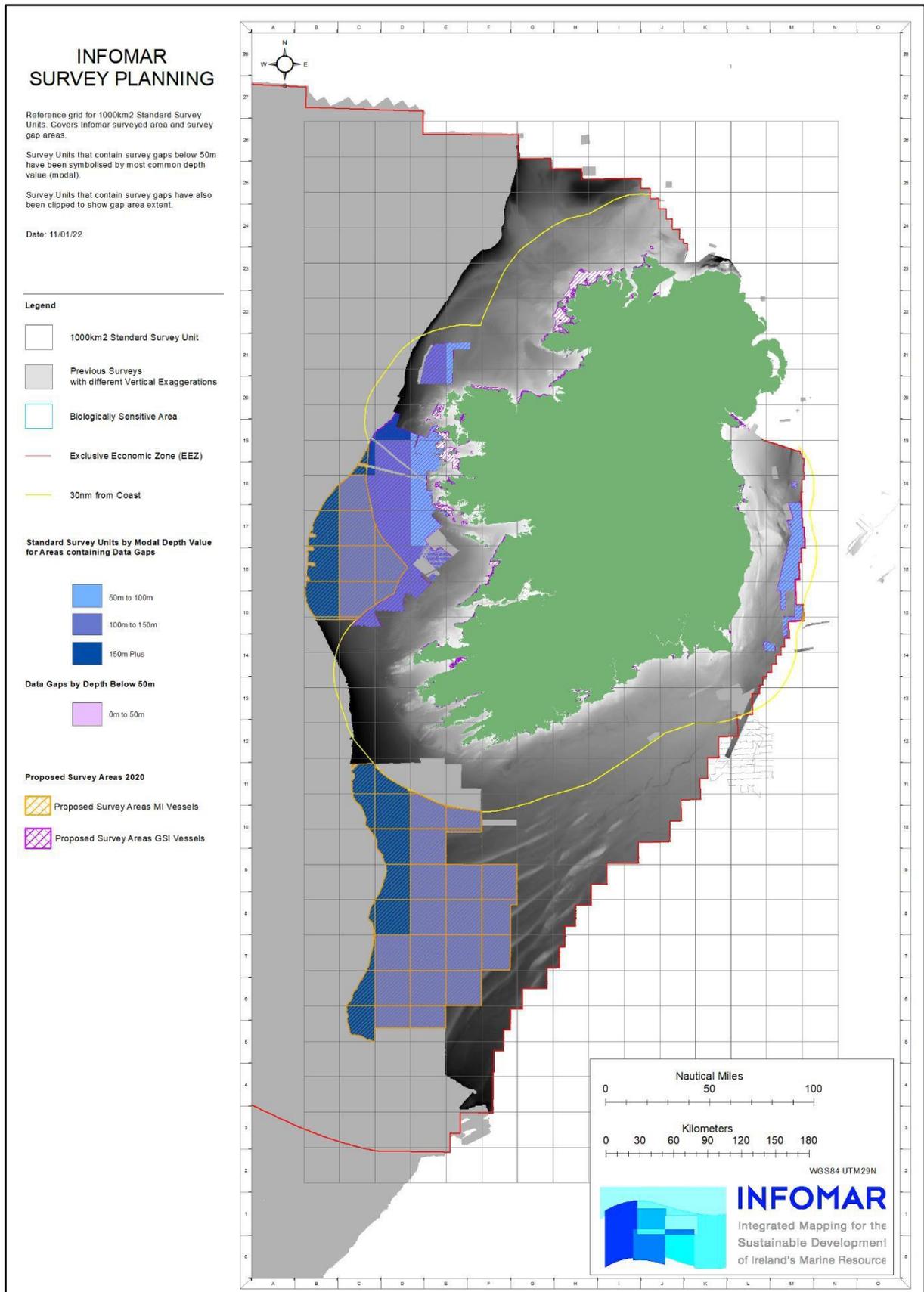


Figure 1: Overview of 2022 INFOMAR survey areas.

Figure 2

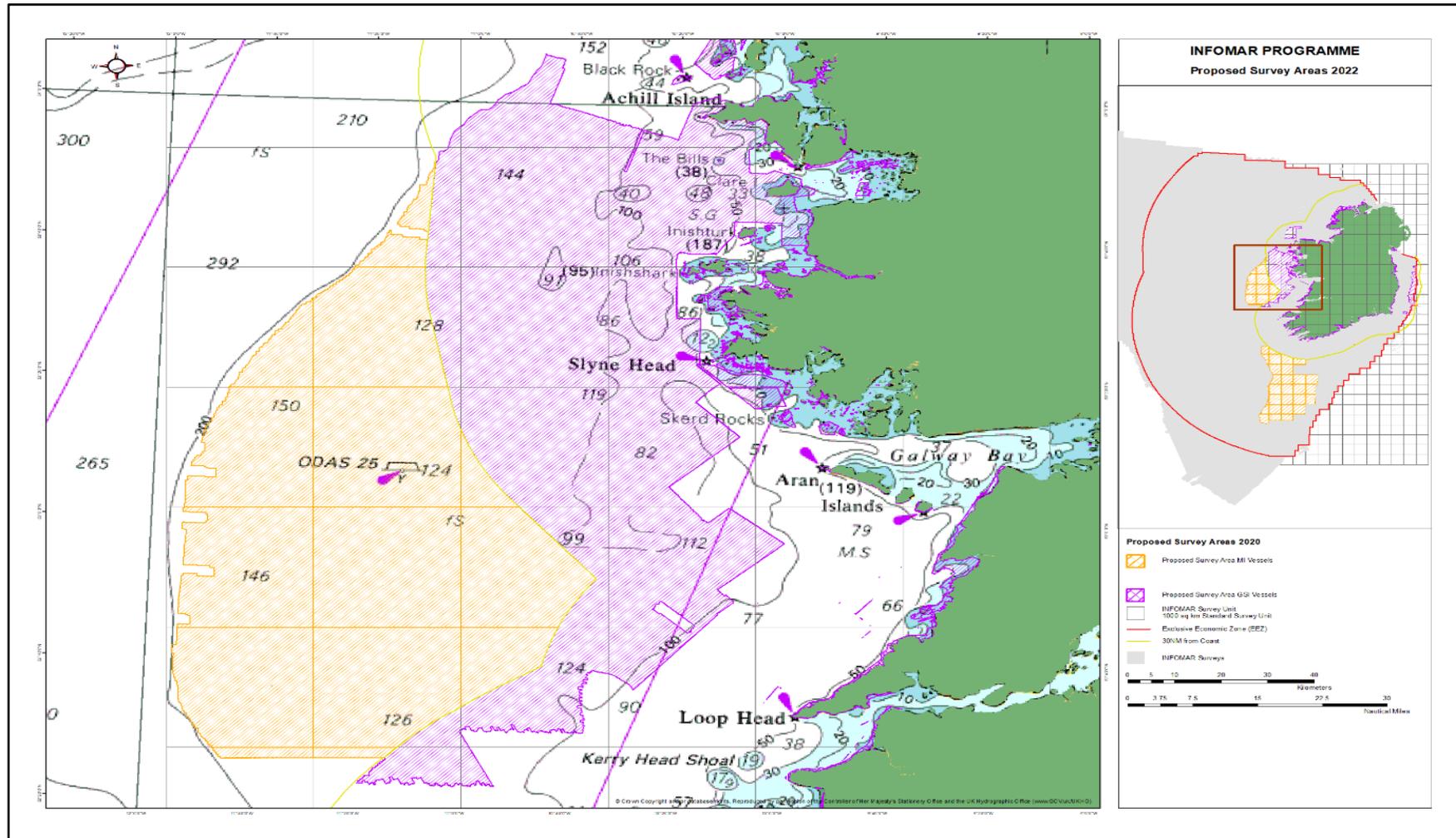


Figure 2: RV's Keary, Geo, Mallet, Galtee and Lir Atlantic Ocean survey areas (Purple).

Figure 3

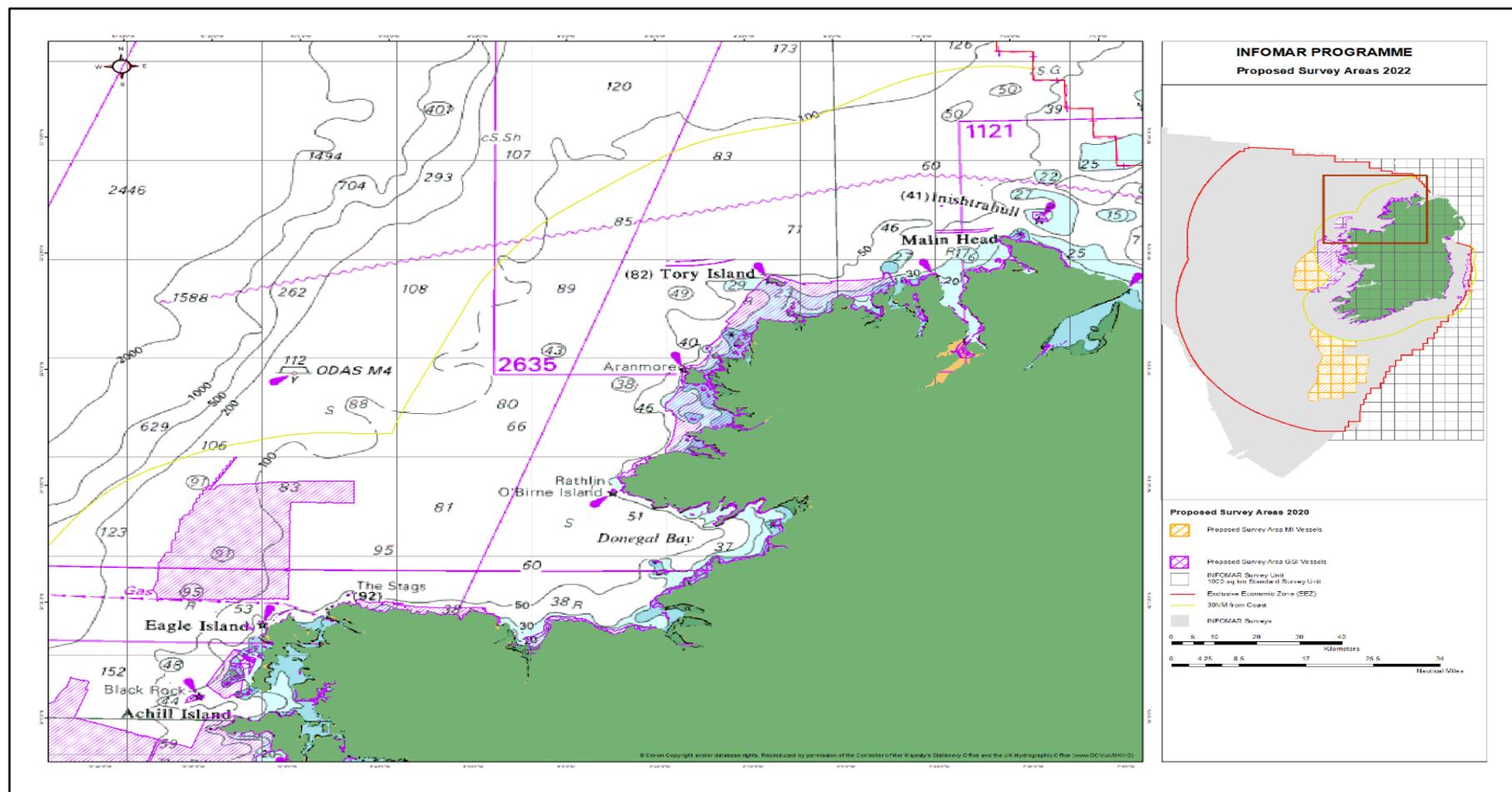


Figure 3: RV's Keary, Geo, Mallet, Galtee and Lir Atlantic Ocean North survey areas (Purple).

Figure 4

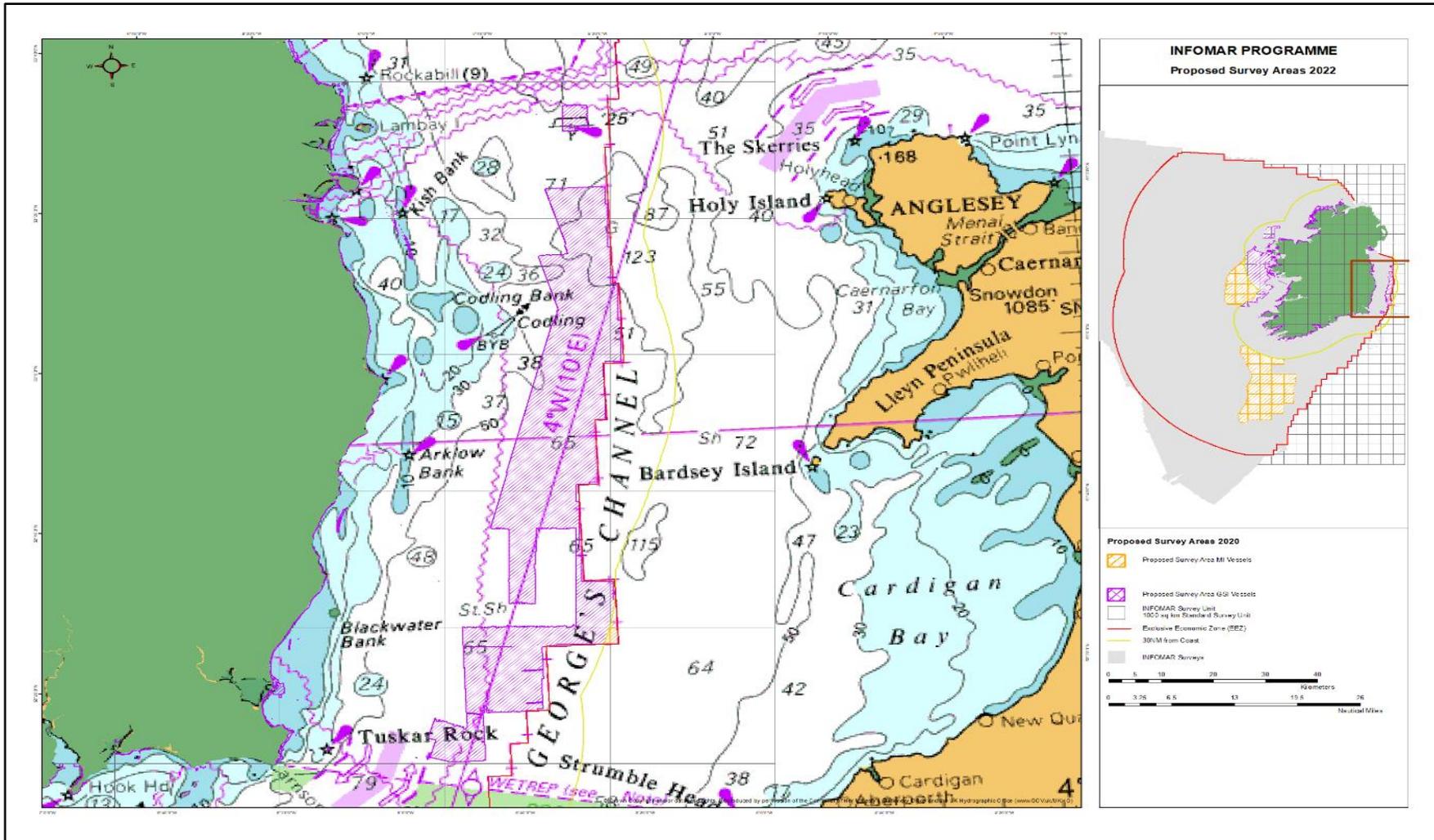


Figure 4: RV's Keary, Geo, Mallet, Galtee and Lir Irish Sea survey areas (Purple).

Figure 5

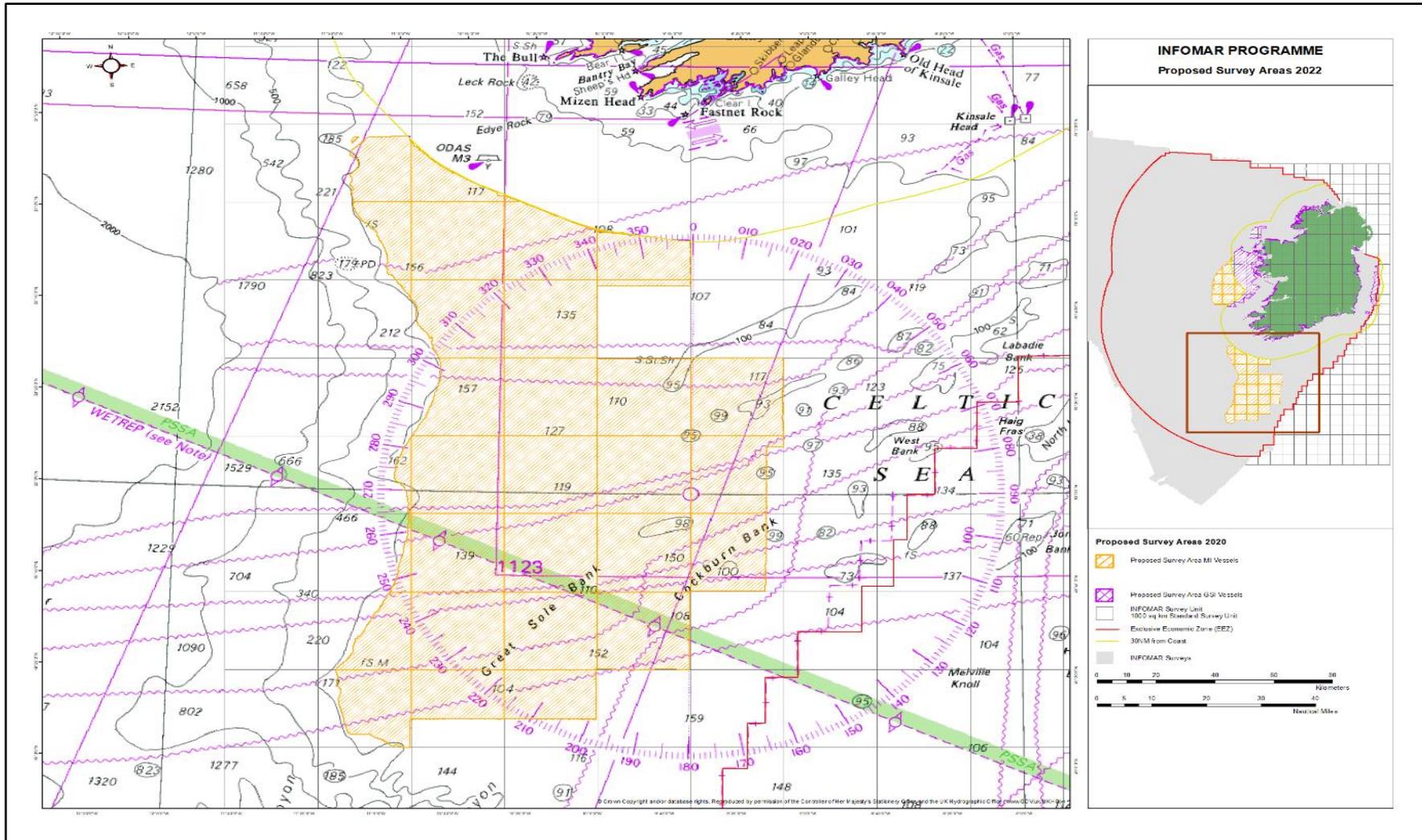


Figure 5: RV's Celtic Voyager & Tom Crean or Celtic Explorer, Celtic Sea survey area (Orange).

Figure 6

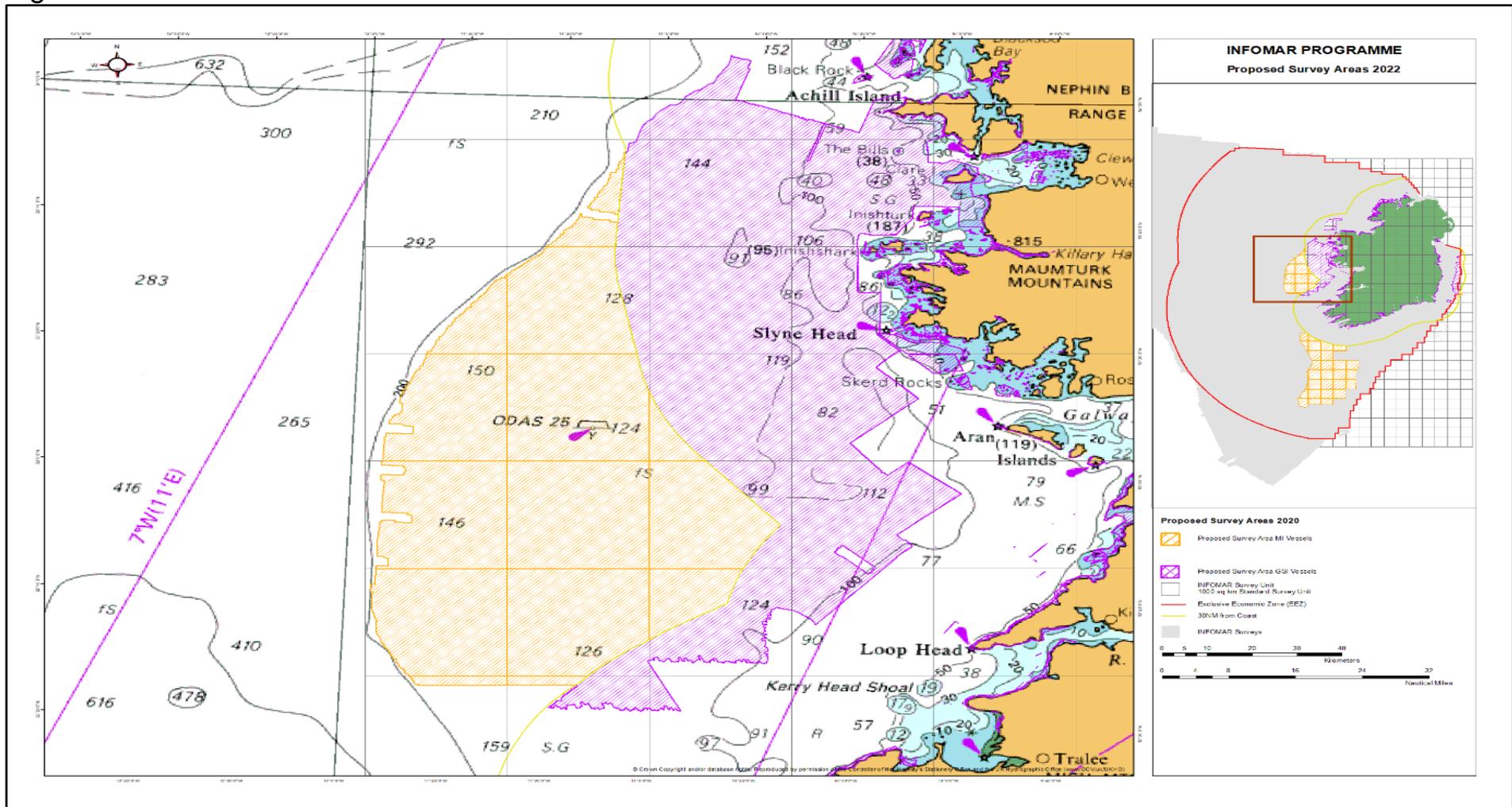


Figure 6: RV's Celtic Voyager & Tom Crean or Celtic Explorer, Atlantic Ocean survey area (Orange)