

4. SURVEY METHODS AND PROCEDURES (Cont'd)

4.5 Analogue Systems (Cont'd)

4.5.2 Side-scan Sonar (Cont'd)

The strength of the echoes (and thus the darkness of the record) will depend on the grainsize of the seabed material (coarse sediments reflect a higher proportion of the incident energy), and the attitude to the sonar beam of any object protruding above the surrounding level. Thus, targets such as wrecks or rock outcrops will typically appear as very dark markings on the paper, with an acoustic shadow (light area) behind them.

The records are reduced by first identifying zones of contrasting reflectivity (i.e. sediment type), and anomalous features such as scours, pipelines, craters, outcrops etc., then plotting these results on either side of the fish track, after adjustment of the slant ranges to true horizontal ranges.

A photocopy of the sonar record running SW-NE through the location is presented as Figure 7. The results are discussed in Section 5.3.