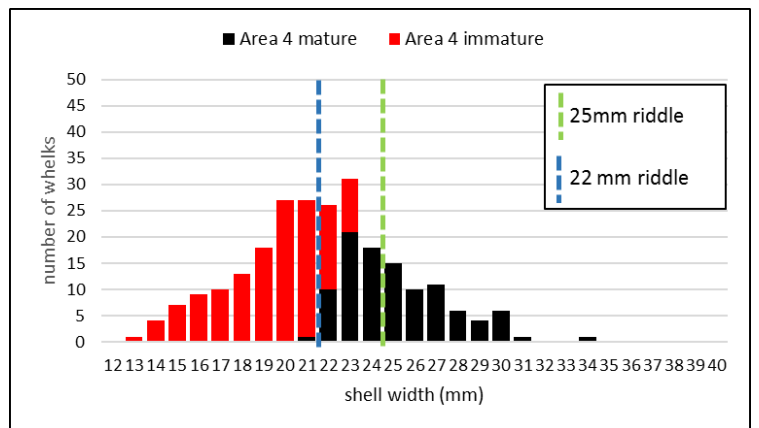
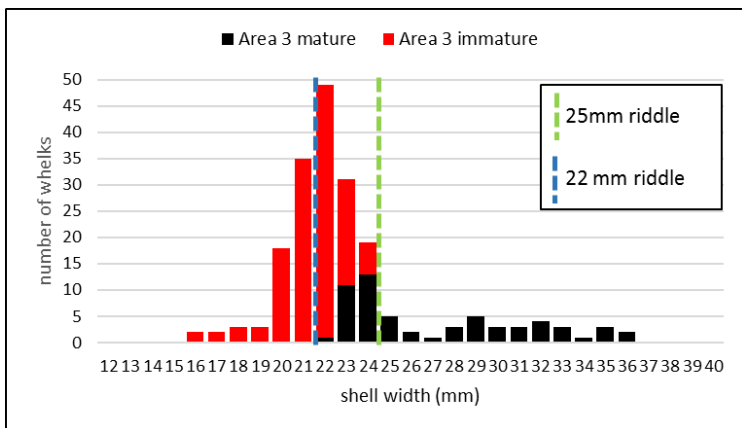
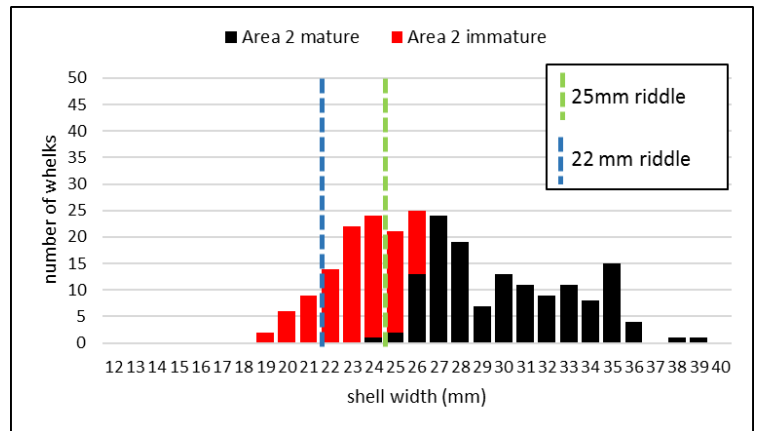
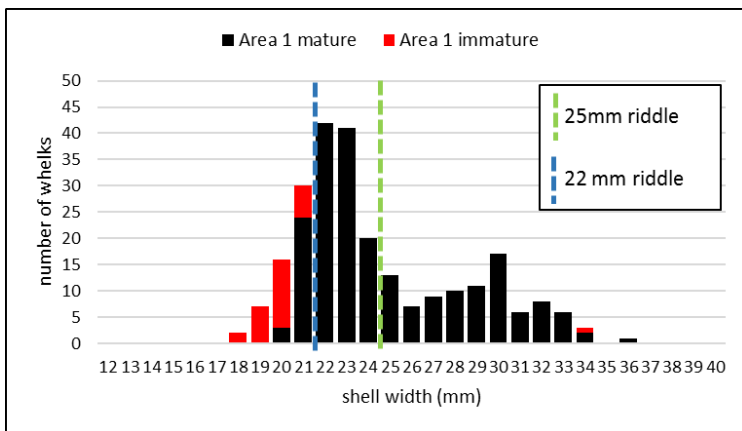
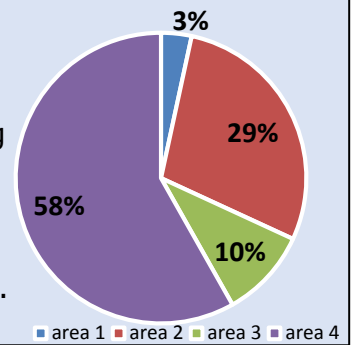
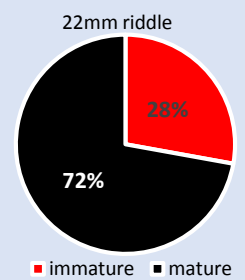
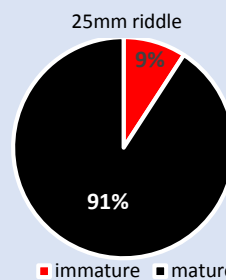




Results – the graphs below show the total number of whelks collected from each of the 4 areas and their size distribution in 1mm increments. The mature whelks are represented by black bars and the immature ones by red bars. However, more research is required to determine a breeding size, not just a maturity size. Due to their limited breeding season, **just because a whelk has reached maturity size does not mean that it has bred**. In the bar charts below, everything to the right of the green dotted line would be retained by a 25mm riddle. The section between the blue and green dotted lines would be retained by a 22mm riddle but rejected by a 25mm riddle. These results indicate that in areas 2, 3 and 4 significant numbers of immature whelks are being protected from fishing mortality by the increase in riddle size. In area 1, where we know that whelks are smaller, the change in riddle size does not affect immature stocks. However, area 1 accounts for just 3% of the whelk fishing effort from April-September 2017, as shown in the pie chart.



Summary – based on these sample results 91% of the whelks that a 25mm would retain would be mature, compared to 72% if a 22mm riddle were used. A better design of riddle, used correctly, would ensure that only the larger, mature whelks which had bred at least once would be landed, thus ensuring a sustainable whelk fishery in our district.



What next – whelk management, project results and riddle improvements will be reviewed at the next Authority meeting which will be held on 30th November 2017.

If you wish to comment on this document, please email info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk by 10th Nov 2017.