Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 5, 26th Jan - 1st Feb 2026

Biotoxin report:

PSP toxins: Four samples were analysed this week. No toxins were detected.

DSP toxins: Five samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

ASP toxins: Four samples were analysed this week. No toxins were detected.

AZA toxins: Five samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

YTX toxins: Five samples were analysed this week. No toxins were detected.

Harmful algae report:

Alexandrium: One sample was analysed this week. *Alexandrium* was not detected.

Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima: One sample was analysed this week. *P. delicatissima* was detected in low numbers in East of Linga.

Pseudo-nitzschia seriata: One sample was analysed this week. *P. seriata* was not detected.

Dinophysis: One sample was analysed this week. *Dinophysis* was not detected.

Prorocentrum lima: One sample was analysed this week. *P. lima* was not detected.

Karenia mikimotoi: One sample was analysed this week. *Karenia* was not detected.

Shetland: trends and forecast

***Alexandrium*/PSP:** No toxins were detected. Given the time of year, it is extremely unlikely there will be a toxic bloom this week.

***Dinophysis*/DSP:** No toxins were detected . Given the time of year, it is unlikely there will be a toxic bloom this week.

***Pseudo-nitzschia*/ASP:** No toxins were detected. Given the time of year, it is extremely unlikely that there will be a toxic bloom this week.

AZA and **YTX**: No toxins were detected. It is extremely unlikely that there will be a toxic bloom this week.

Risk for **PSP: Low**

Risk for **DSP: Low**

Risk for **ASP: Low**

Risk for **YTX: Low**

Risk for **AZA: Low**

While this bulletin is based on our expert opinion , SAMS cannot accept responsibility for harvesting or husbandry decisions. Those remain the responsibility of the industry.

SAMS

SeafoodShetland

Toxin concentrations provided courtesy of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science Cefas

Funding for these bulletins is kindly provided by Seafood Shetland

Primary data for biotoxins and biotoxin producing phytoplankton available at: http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/shellfish/algaltoxin/#.UY0TkcqTQ6O

Warning/Threshold Levels

Alexandrium (PSP causative)	Warning 20 cells/l Threshold 40 cells/l
Pseudo nitzschia (ASP causative)	Warning: 40,000 cells/l Threshold: 50,000 cells/l
Dinophysis (DSP causative)	Warning : 80 cells/l Threshold:100 cells/l
Prorocentrum lima (DSP causative)	Warning: 80 cells/l Threshold: 100 cells/l

The maximum permitted levels of biotoxins in shellfish are:

PSP: 800 µg/kg

ASP: 20 mg/kg

Lipophilic toxins (tested by LC-MS):

OA/DTXs/PTXs: 160 ug/kg of Okadaic acid equivalents

YTXs: 3.75 milligram of yessotoxin equivalent/kilogram

AZAs: 160 micrograms of azaspiracids equivalents/kilogram

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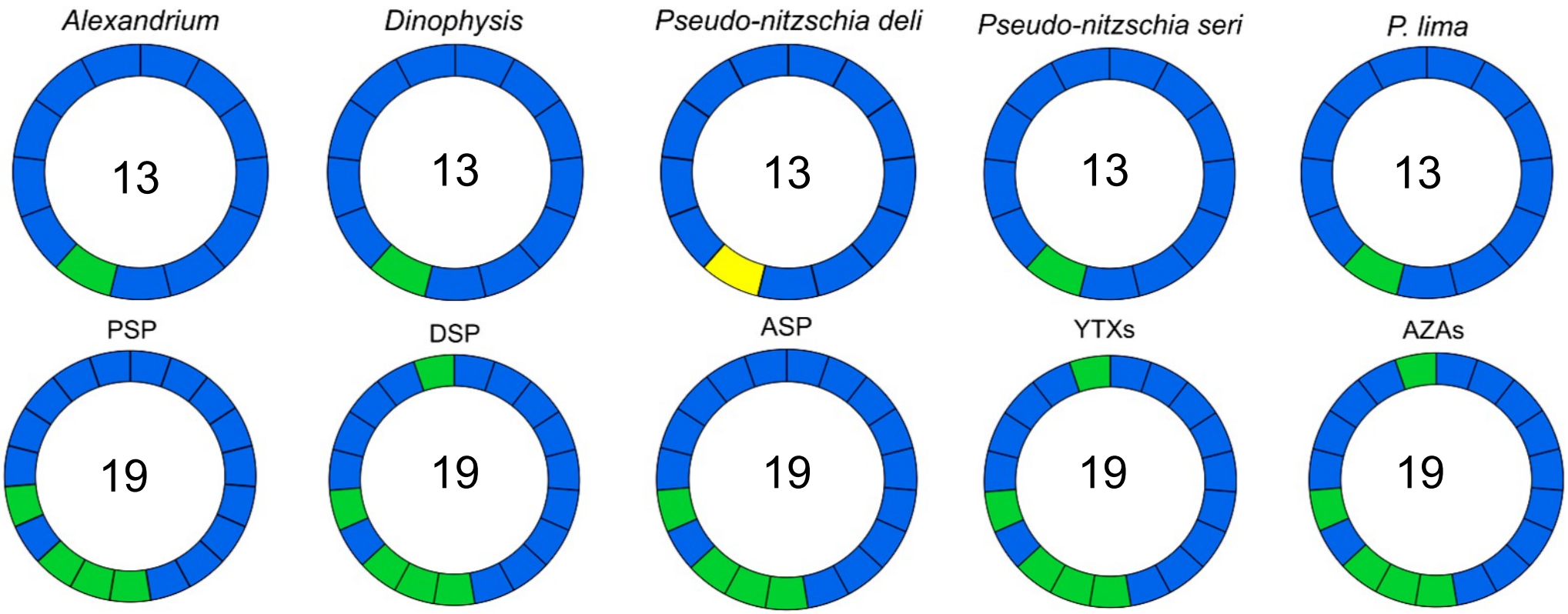
Status of biotoxins & harmful algae present in Shetland



Segments - no of individual sites, Colours: Green, red, amber and yellow as per key. Blue - not analysed. Coloured segment indicates approximate position of site in Shetland

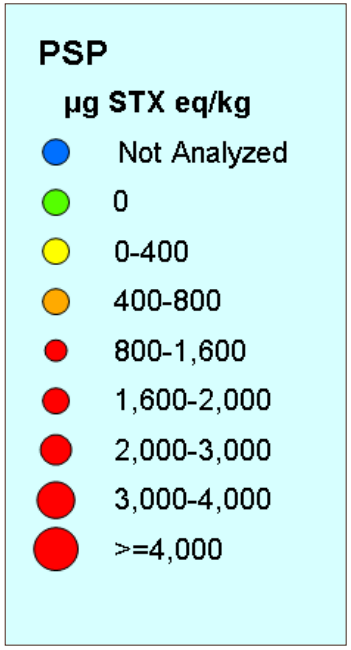
Biotoxin & Species					
PSP	<RL	RL - 399 µg/kg	400 - 800 µg/kg	>800 µg/kg	Not analysed
OA/DTX/PTX	<RL	1 - 79 µg/kg	80 - 160 µg/kg	>160 µg/kg	Not analysed
ASP	<LOQ	LOQ - 9.9 mg/kg	10 - 20 mg/kg	>20 mg/kg	Not analysed
YTX	<RL	1 - 1.7 mg/kg	1.8 - 3.75 mg/kg	>3.75 mg/kg	Not analysed
AZA	<RL	1 - 79 µg/kg	80 -160 µg/kg	>160 µg/kg	Not analysed
Alexandrium	<20 cells/l	n/a	20 cells/l	≥ 40 cells/l	Not sampled
Dinophysis	<20 cells/l	20 - 79 cells/l	80 - 99 cells/l	≥100 cells/l	Not sampled
Pseudo nitzschia	<20 cells/l	20 - 39,999 cells/l	40,000 - 49,999 cells/l	≥50,000 cells/l	Not sampled
Prorocentrum lima	<20 cells/l	20 - 79 cells/l	80 - 99 cells/l	≥100 cells/l	Not sampled

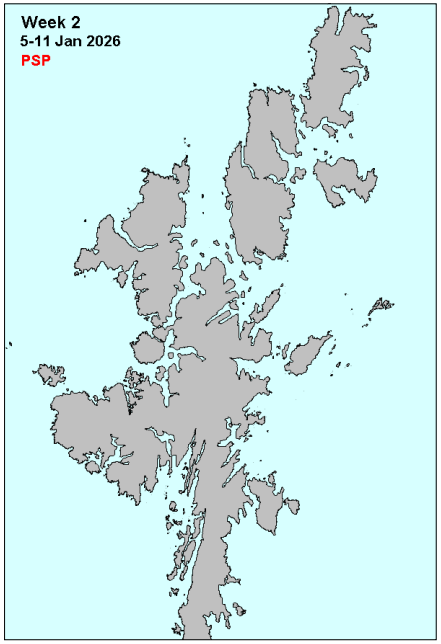
NOTE:

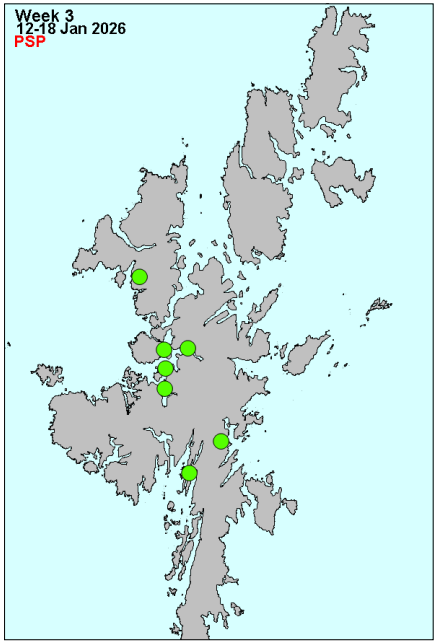
This page is intended as a quick overview of the situation in the Shetland Islands. If the status for a particular species or biotoxin is amber or red please check the relevant pages in the bulletin for more details and specific locations.
RL- reporting limit;
LOQ – Limit of quantification

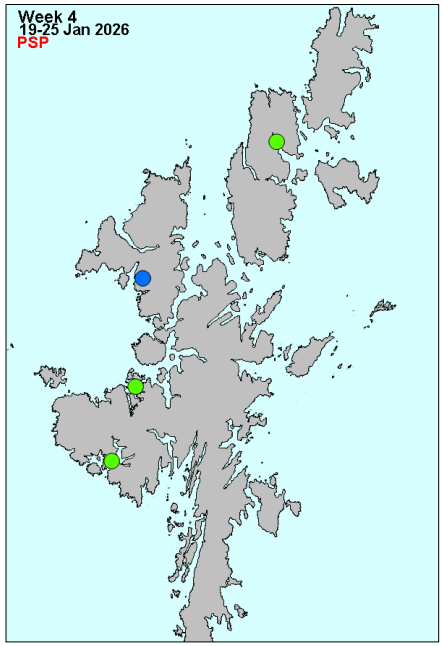
Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 5, 26th Jan - 1st Feb 2026

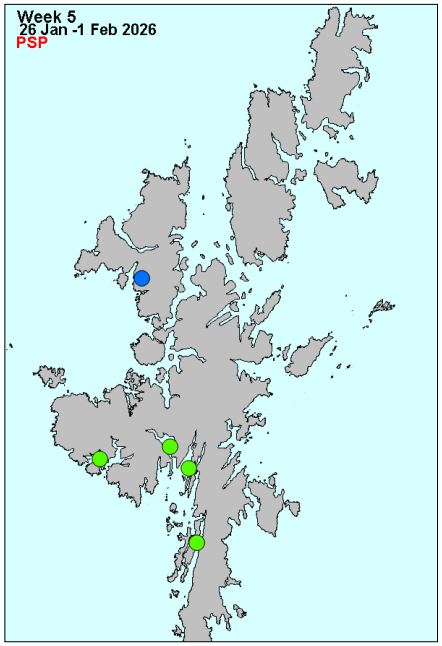
Paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton

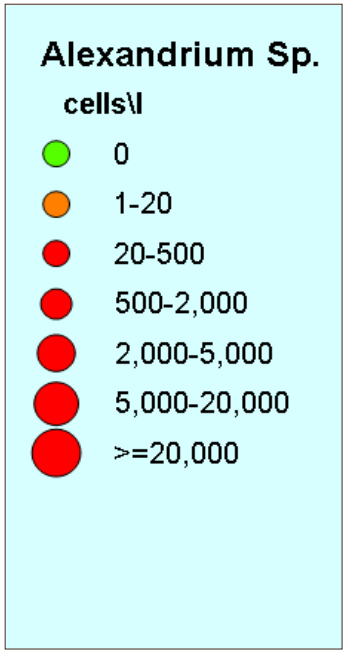


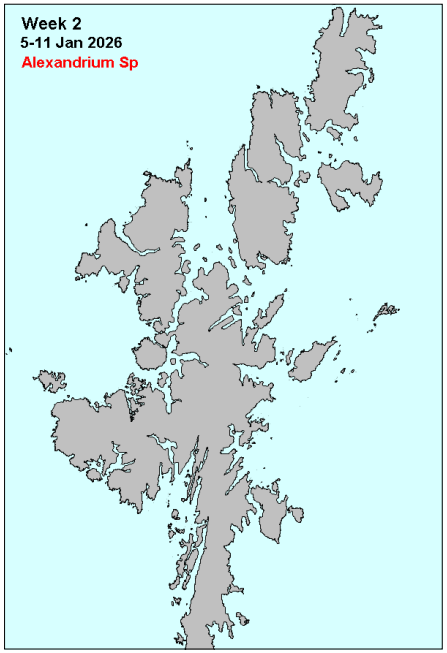


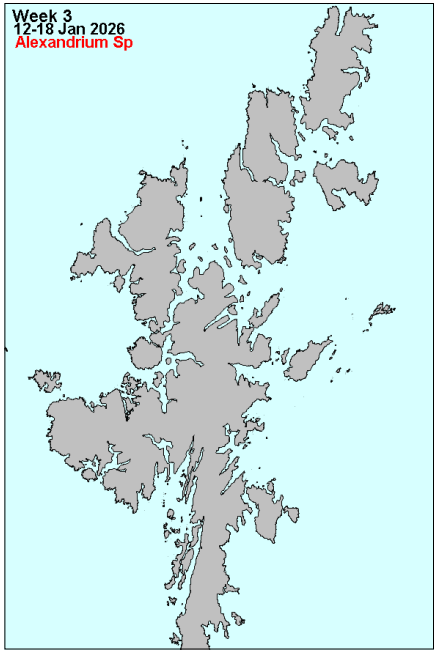


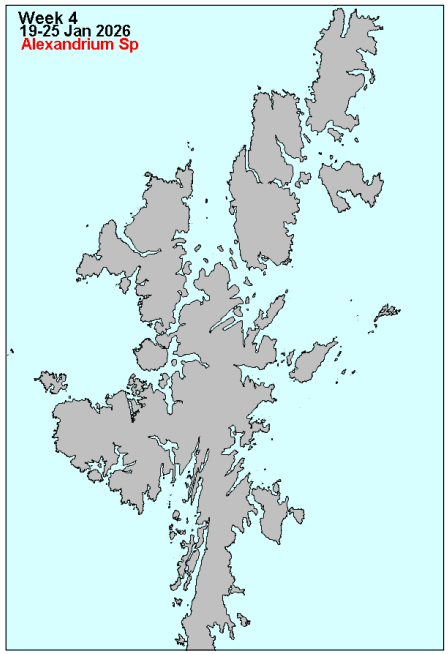


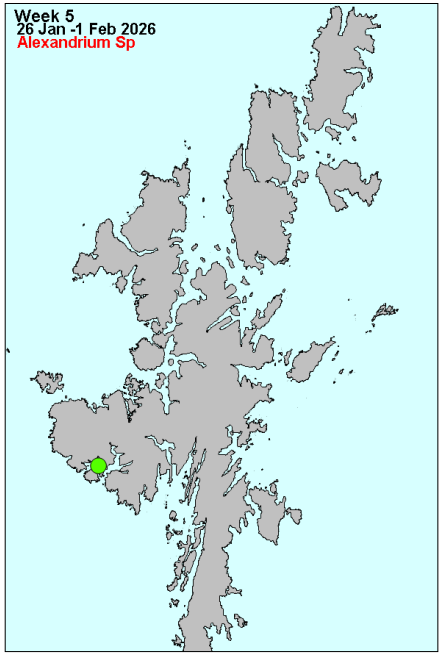












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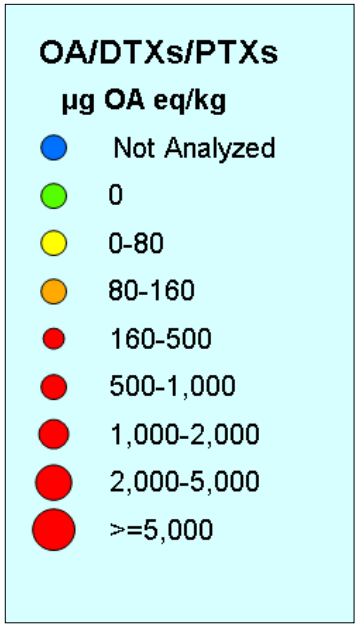
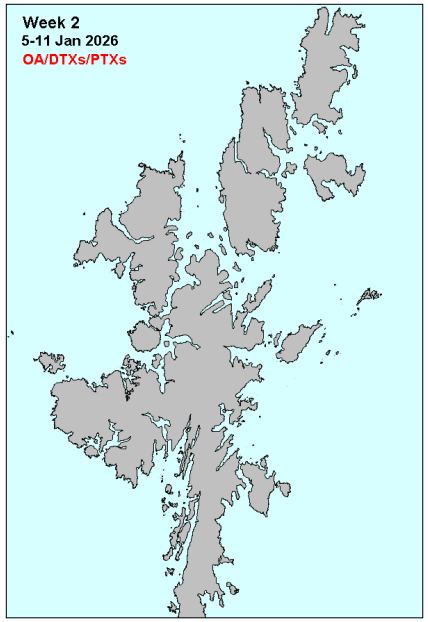
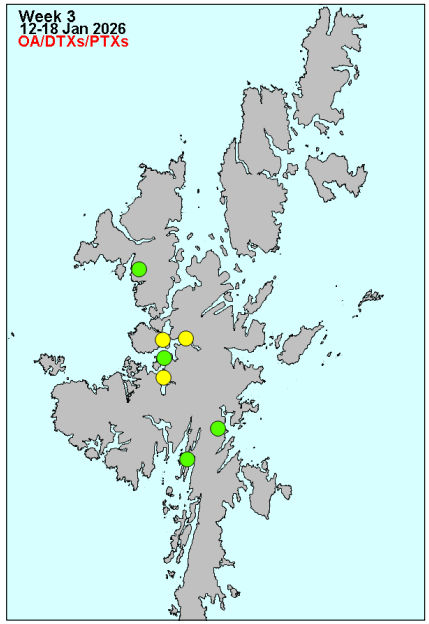
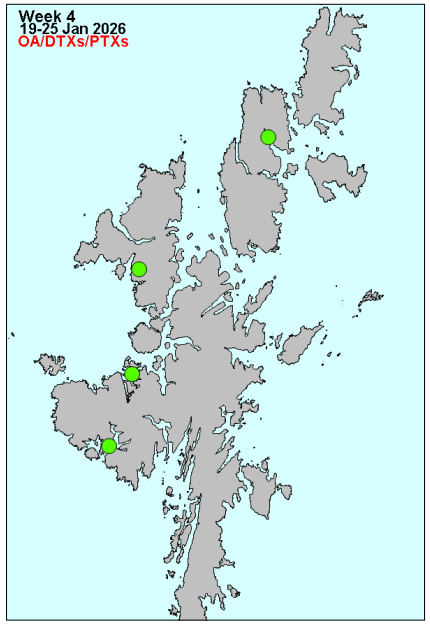
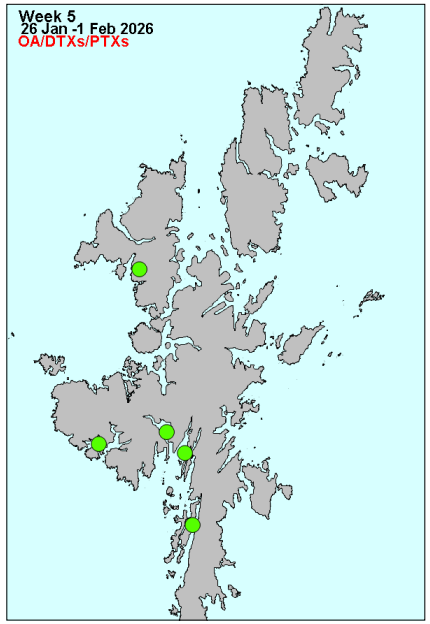
Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton

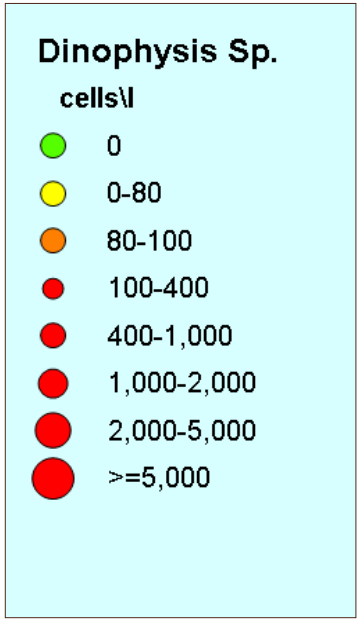


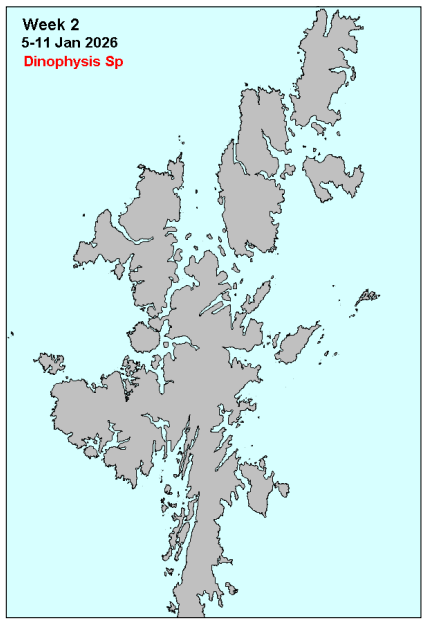


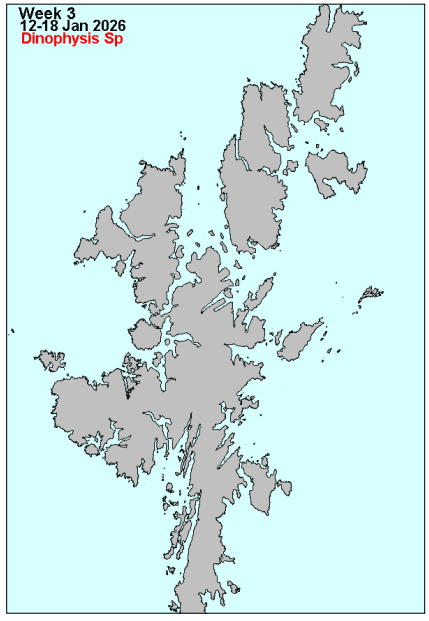


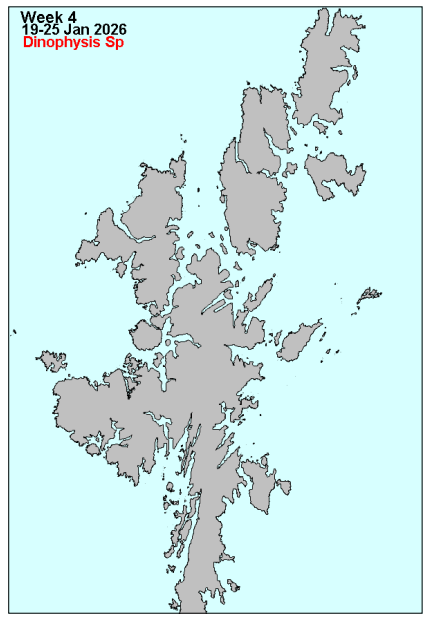


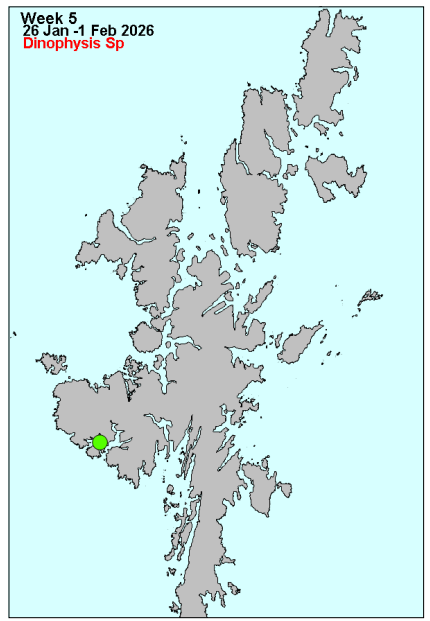












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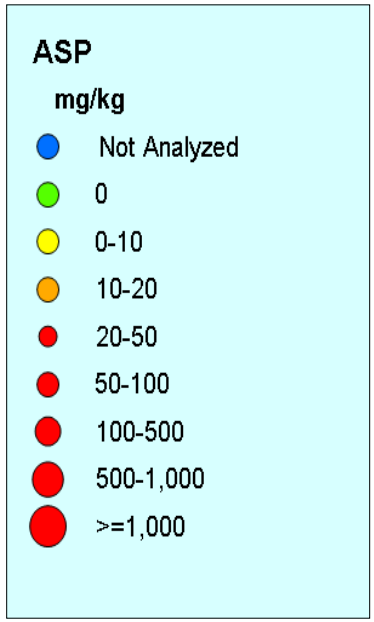
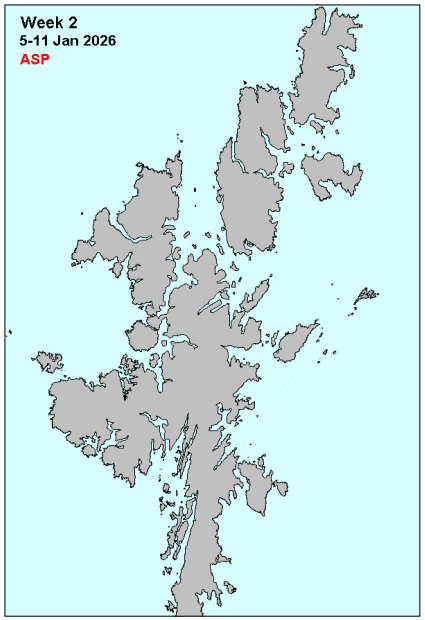
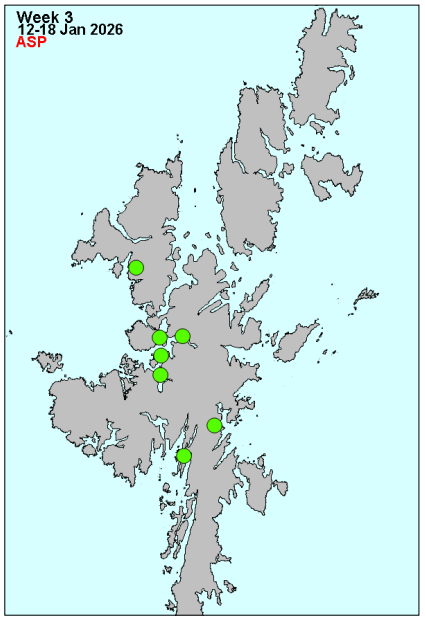
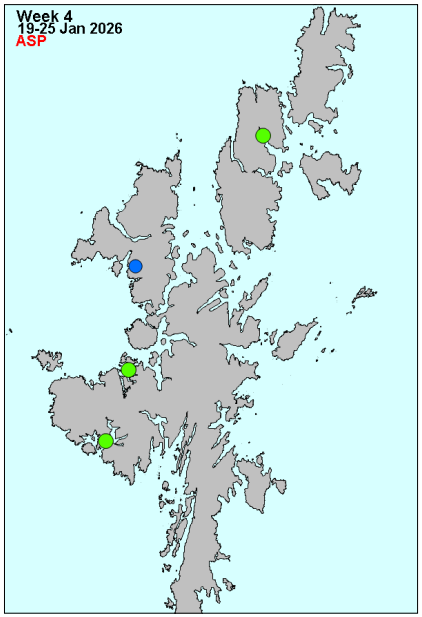
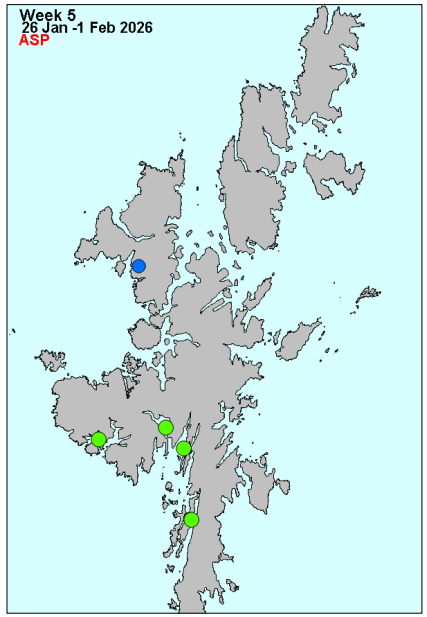
Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning & causative phytoplankton

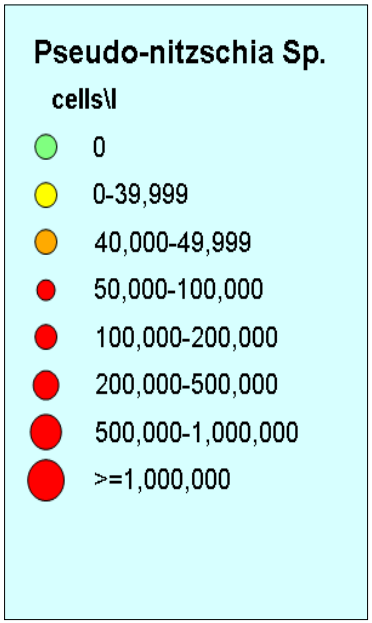


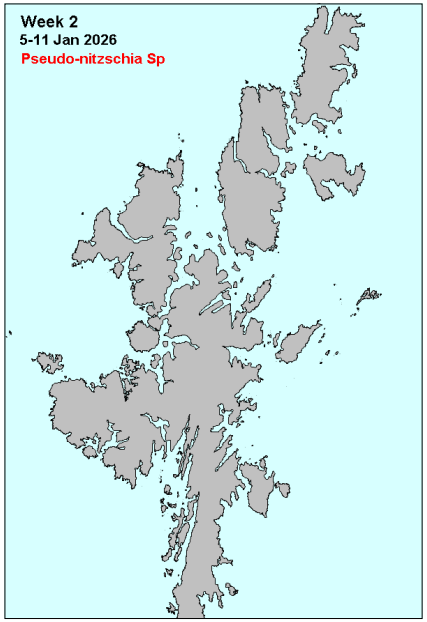


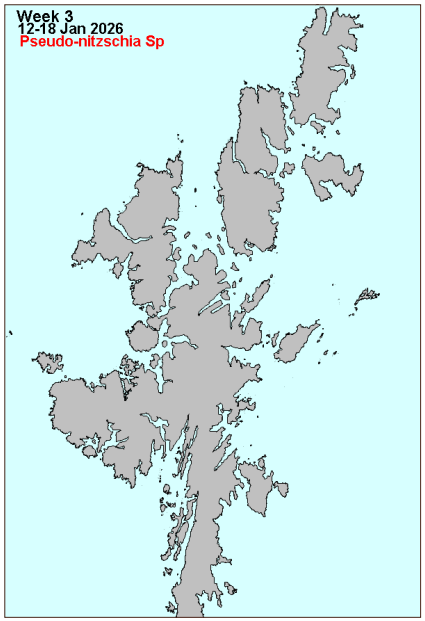


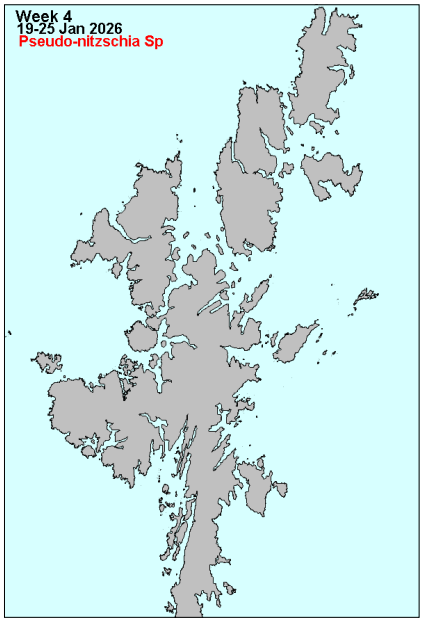


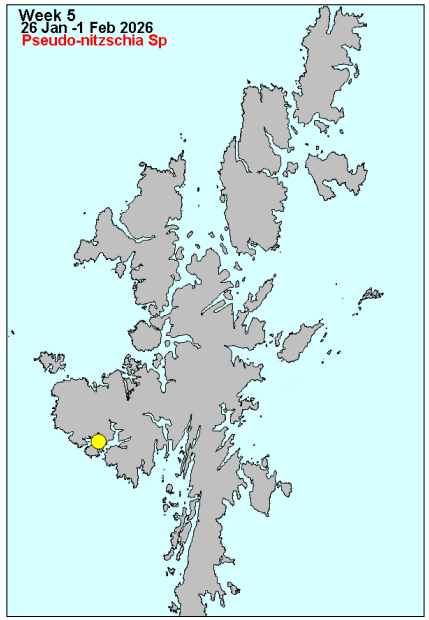












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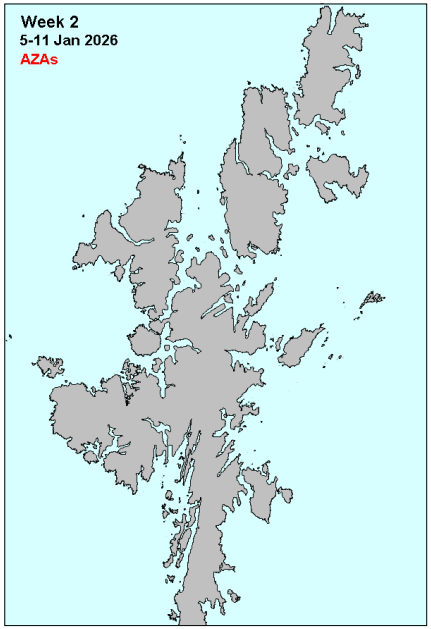
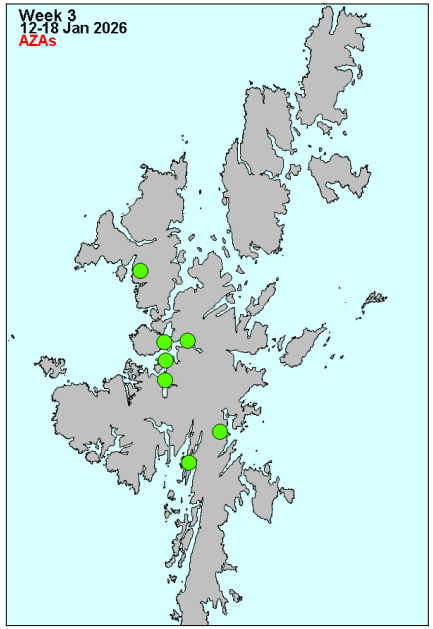
Azaspiracid & Yessotoxin shellfish poisoning toxins

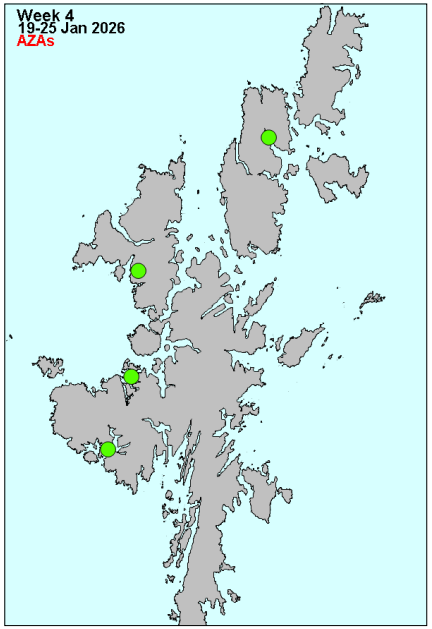
AZAs

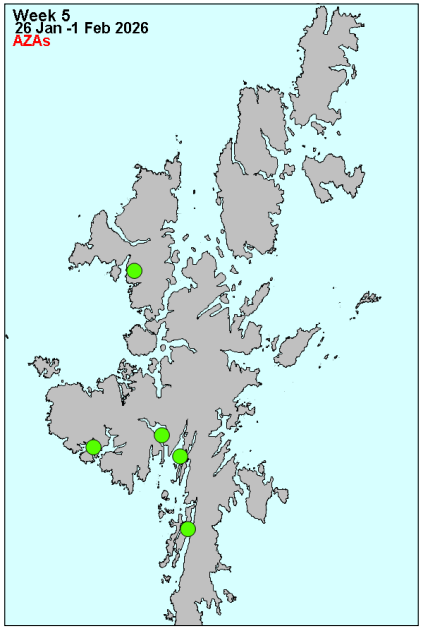
µg AZA1 eq/kg

- Not Analyzed
- 0
- 0-100
- 100-160
- 160-500
- 500-1,000
- 1,000-2,000
- 2,000-5,000
- >=5,000





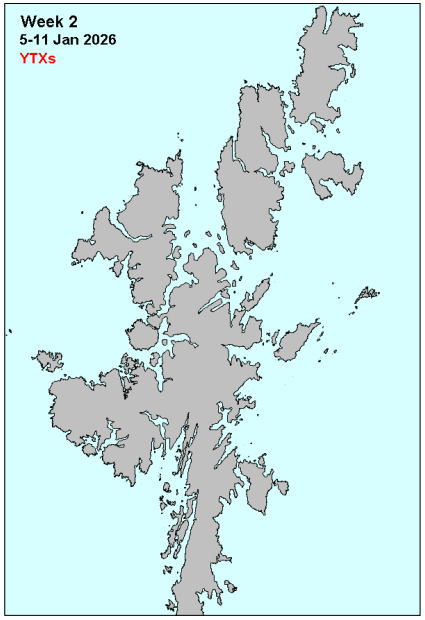


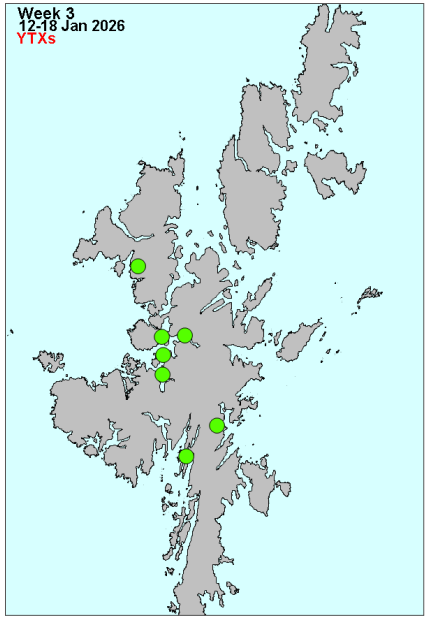


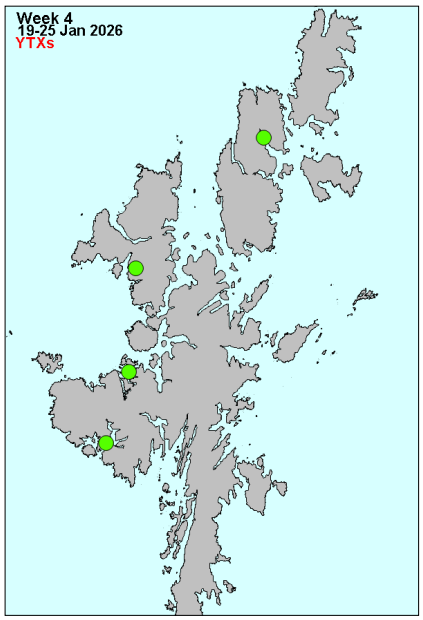
YTXs

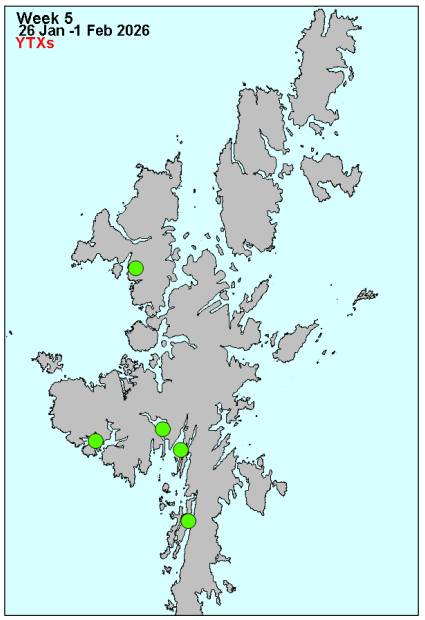
mg YTX eq/kg

- Not Analysed
- 0
- 0-1.4
- 1.5-3.74
- >=3.75









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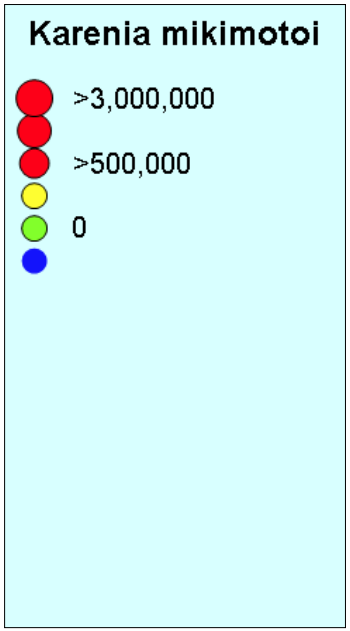
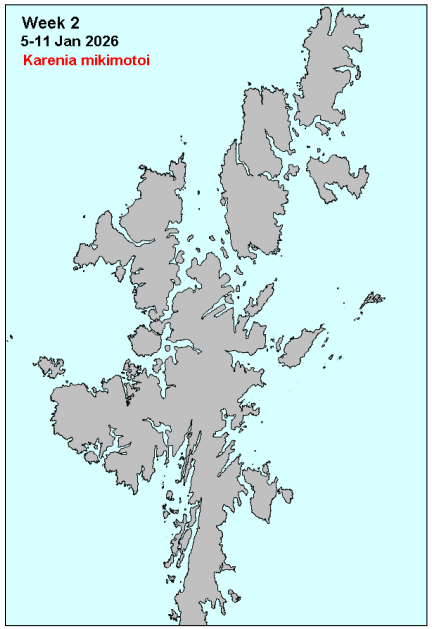
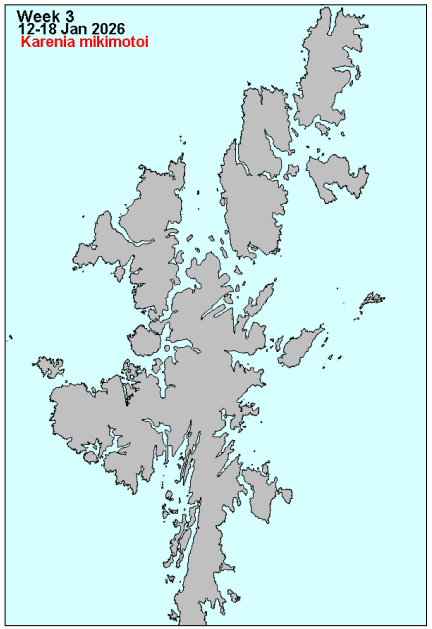
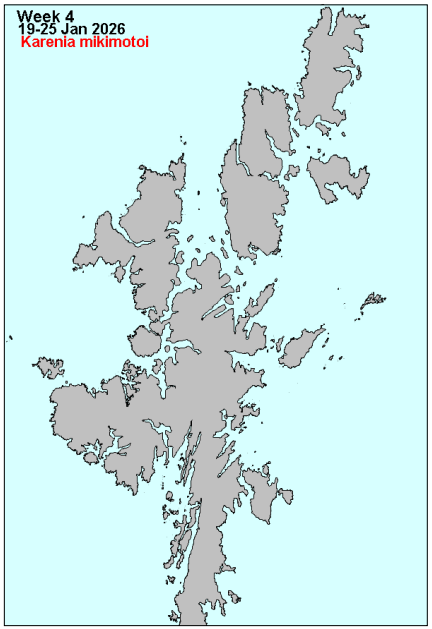
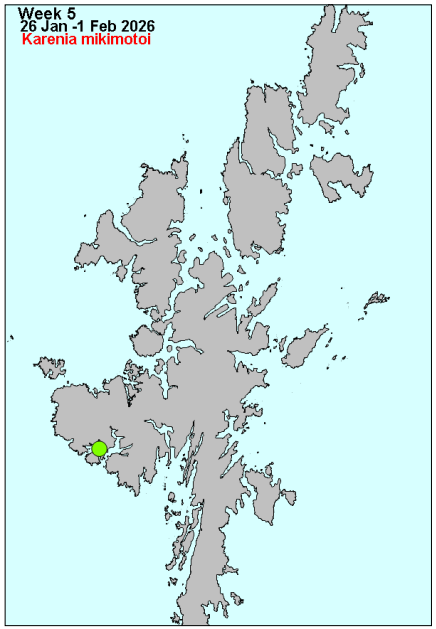
Karenia mikimotoi











Chain forming Phytoplankton

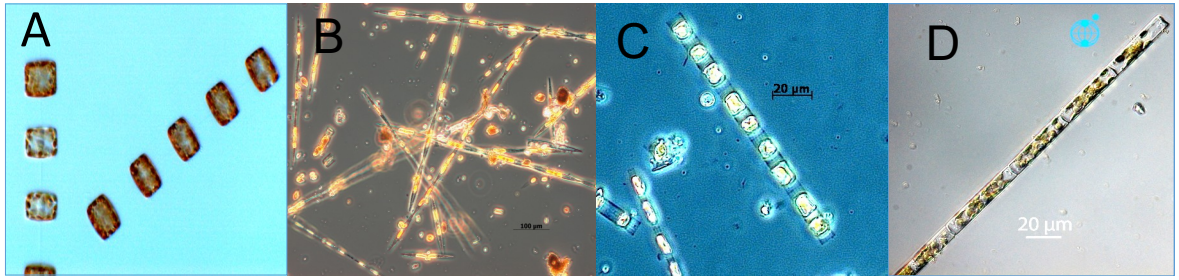
High densities of chain forming diatoms including, but not limited to the genus, *Chaetoceros, Skeletonema, Leptocylindrus , Rhizosolenia, Thalassiosira, Corethron* and *Pseudo-nitzschia,* the centric species *Coscinodiscus wailesii,* and species with long spines such as *Ceratium (Tripos)* can cause debilitating damage to fish gills.

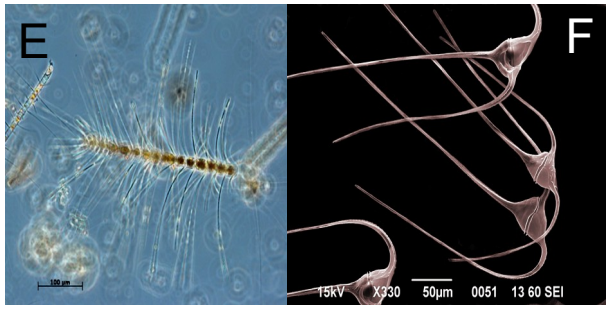
Status

One sample was analysed this week. Karenia was not detected.

The IFCB's at Cole Deep and Scalloway are mainly detecting small flagellates.

https://www.habreports.org/ifcb-nafc.php





A - *Thalassiosira sp.*

B - *Pseudo-nitzschia sp.*

C - *Skeletonema sp.*

D - *Leptocylindrus sp.*

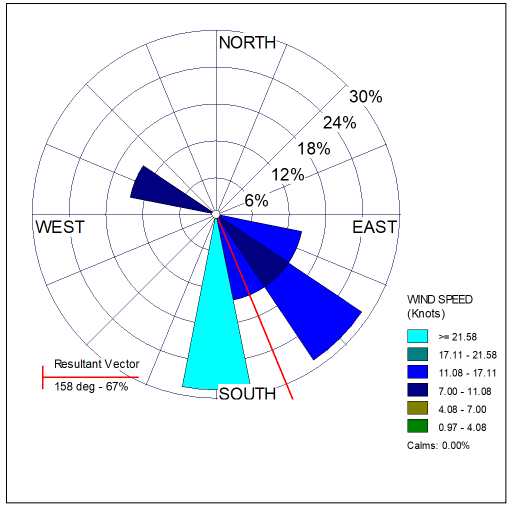
E - Chaetoceros sp.

F—*Ceratium/Tripos* sp.

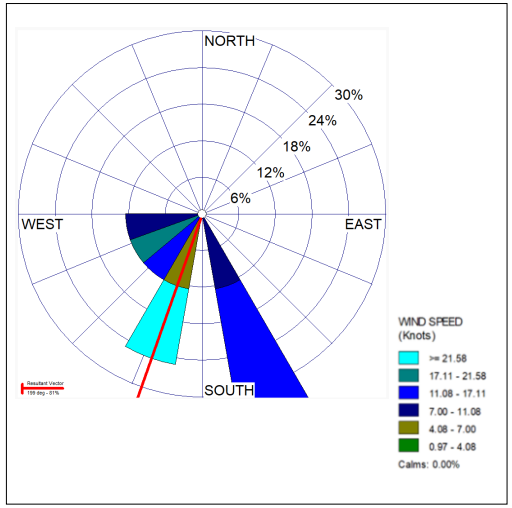
Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 5, 26th Jan - 1st Feb 2026

Mean wind direction observed in Shetland for current and three preceding weeks

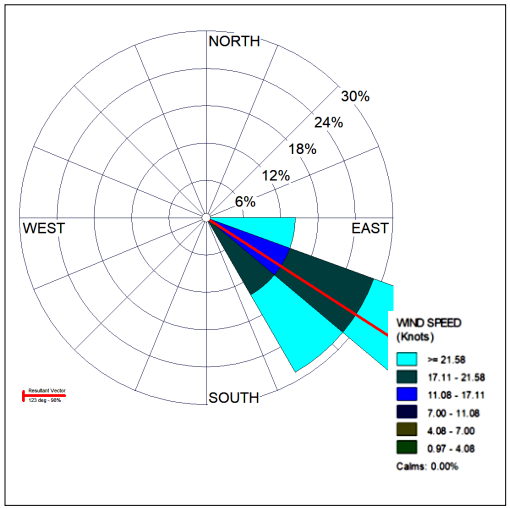
Week 2



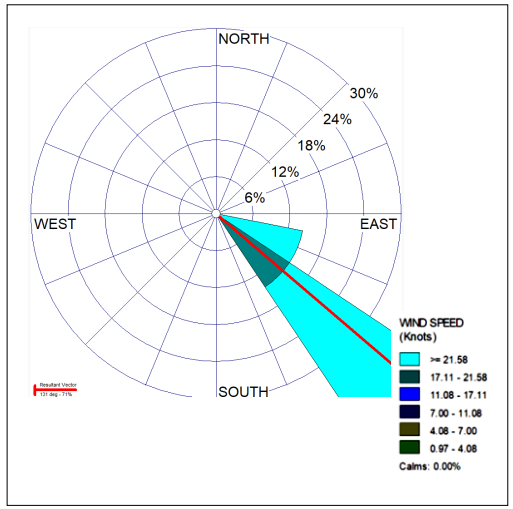
Week 3



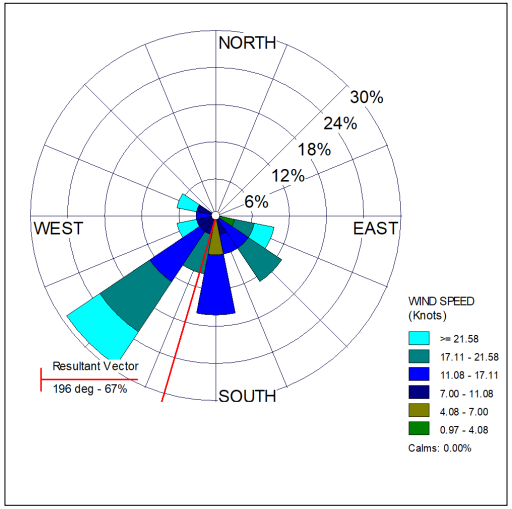
Week 4



Week 5



December



Mean wind direction and speed observed in Shetland over the past four weeks. Higher wind speeds are shown in lighter shades. The percentage of time the wind blew from any particular direction is shown by the length of the triangle. The resultant vector, represented by the red or blue line, shows the average wind direction for the week. It is based on wind direction only and includes periods of calm which are not indicated on the diagram. The data used is taken from the weather station at Sumburgh.

Status:

Over the past week the average wind direction has been from the south east.

Predictions:

The risk of wind blown *Dinophysis* blooms in Shetland is **low** this week.

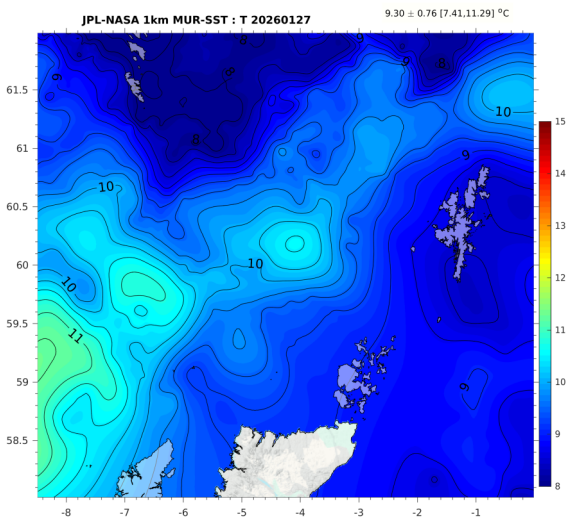
Why do we think this?

During the summer *Dinophysis* can bloom out at sea and at shelf fronts found off the West of Shetland. Westerly winds can then blow these blooms into shore. Westerly winds may also retain *Dinophysis* cells in Westerly facing voes and inlets where their numbers may increase. Wind for the past week has been predominantly from the south east. It is unlikely that there will be an advected bloom of *Dinophysis* in the coming week.

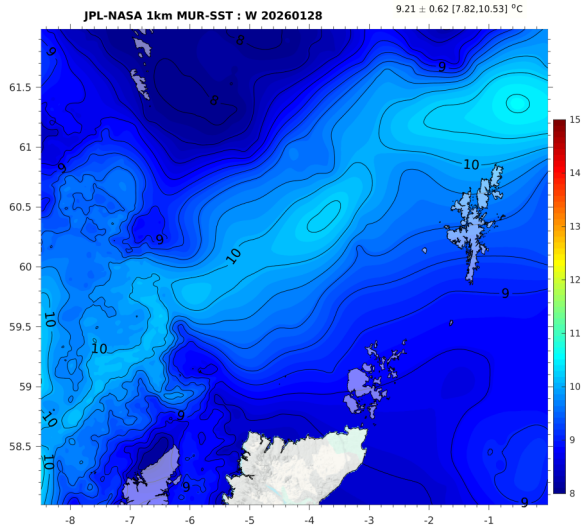
Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 5, 26th Jan - 1st Feb 2026

Sea Surface temperature (°C) in preceding 6 days in the Shetland Islands

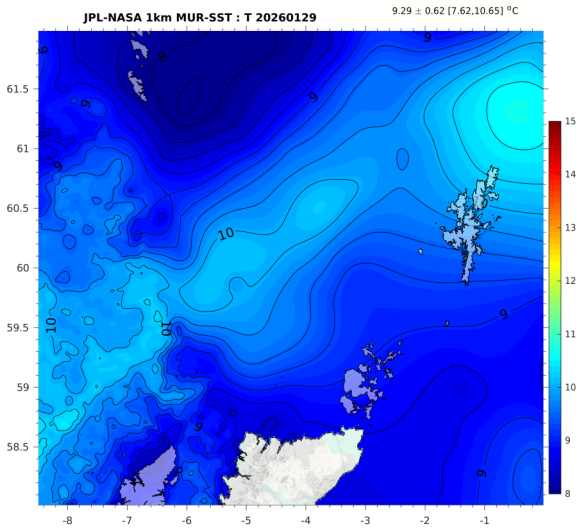
27 Jan 2026



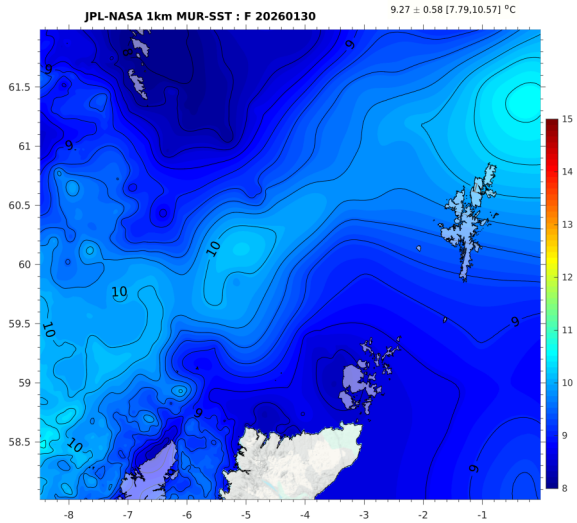
28 Jan 2026



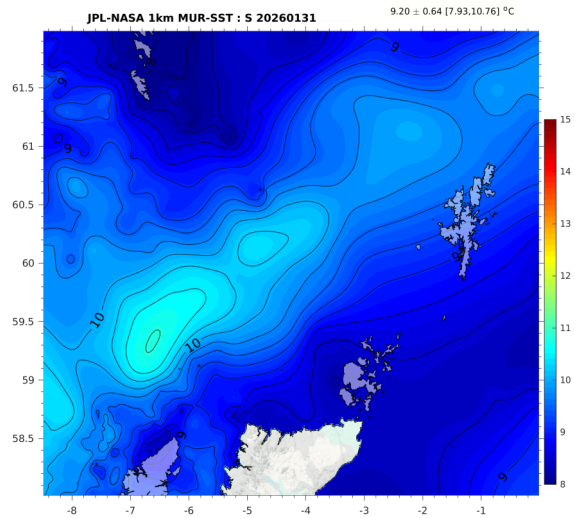
29 Jan 2026



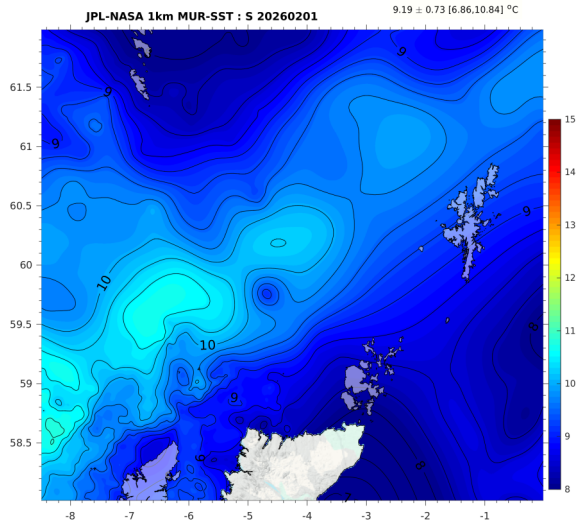
30 Jan 2026



31 Jan 2026



1 Feb 2026



Maps provided courtesy of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA

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Wind and rain forecast for next three days in Shetland