

Biotoxin report:

ASP toxins: Four samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

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

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

PSP toxins: Four samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

YTX toxins: Eleven samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

Harmful algae report:

Alexandrium: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Alexandrium* was not detected.

Dinophysis: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Dinophysis* was not detected.

Karenia mikimotoi: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Karenia* was not detected.

Prorocentrum lima: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *P. lima* was detected at trigger level in Scarvar Ayre and in low numbers in North Flotta.

Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *P. delicatissima* was found in low numbers at all sites.

Pseudo-nitzschia seriata: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *P. seriata* was detected in low numbers in Parkgate and North Flotta.

Shetland: trends and forecast

Alexandrium/PSP: Toxins were not detected. It is unlikely there will be a toxic bloom this week.

Dinophysis/DSP: Given the time of year, it is unlikely there will be a toxic bloom this week.

Pseudo-nitzschia/ASP: *P. delicatissima* was detected in low numbers in twelve sites. *P. seriata* was detected in low numbers in two sites. 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.

P. lima was detected above trigger in one site. However, it is unlikely that there will be a toxic bloom this week

Risk for PSP: Low

Risk for YTX: Low

Risk for DSP: Low

Risk for AZA: Low

Risk for ASP: 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.



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



Seafood Shetland

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/algaltxin/#.UY0TkqTQ6O>

Warning/Threshold Levels

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

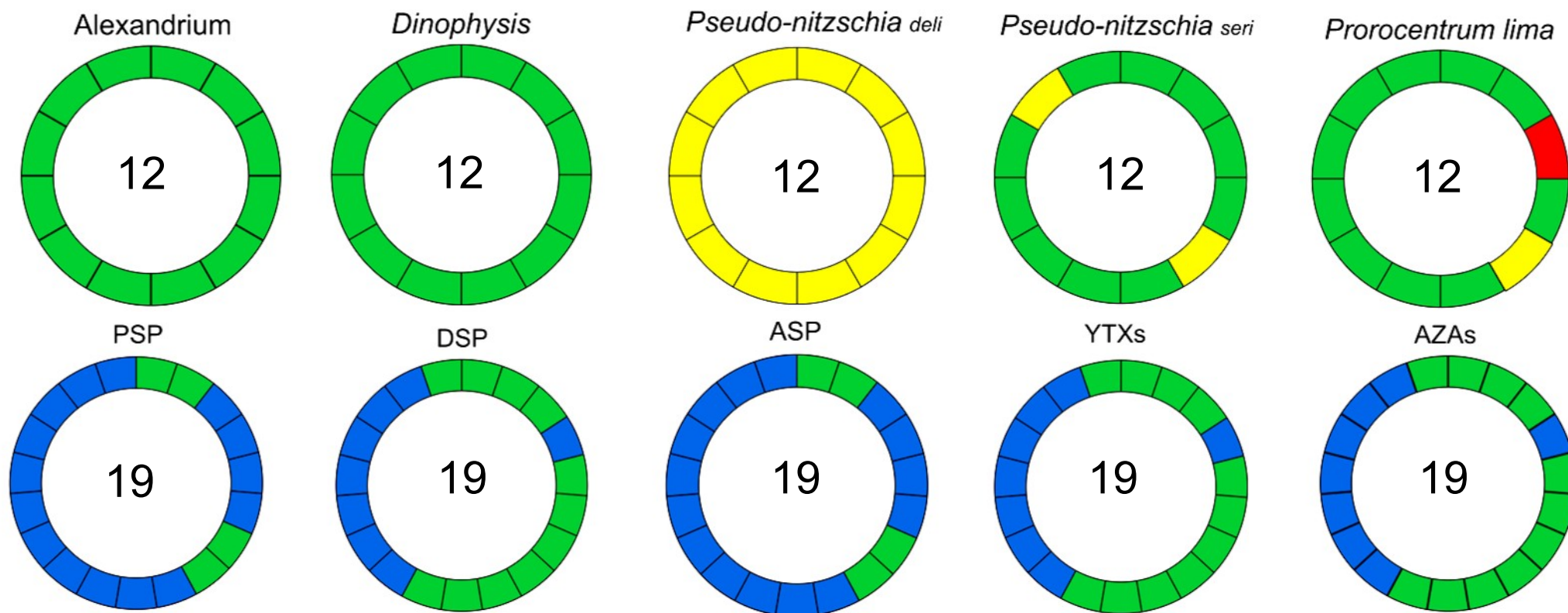
Lipophilic toxins (tested by LC-MS):

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

YTXs: 3.75 milligram of yessotoxin equivalent/kilogram

AZAs: 160 micrograms of azaspiracids equivalents/kilogram

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	Green	Yellow	Amber	Red	Blue
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
<i>Alexandrium</i>	<20 cells/l	n/a	20 cells/l	≥ 40 cells/l	Not sampled
<i>Dinophysis</i>	<20 cells/l	20 - 79 cells/l	80 - 99 cells/l	≥100 cells/l	Not sampled
<i>Pseudo nitzschia</i>	<20 cells/l	20 - 39,999 cells/l	40,000 - 49,999 cells/l	≥50,000 cells/l	Not sampled
<i>Prorocentrum lima</i>	<20 cells/l	20 - 79 cells/l	80 - 99 cells/l	≥100 cells/l	Not sampled

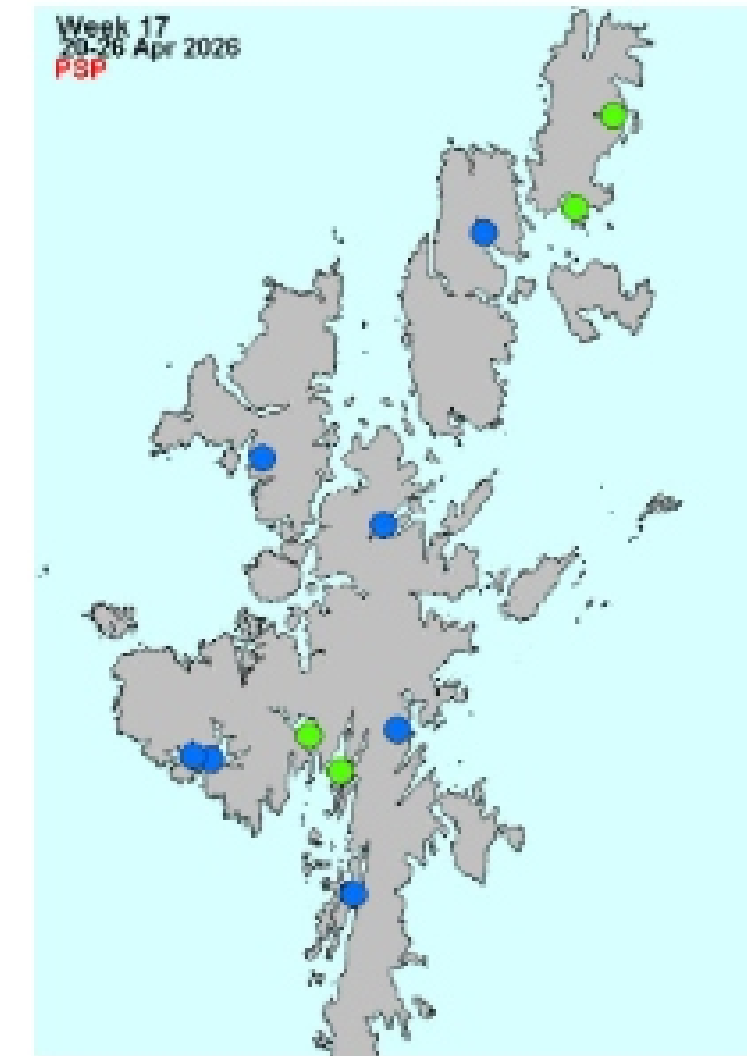
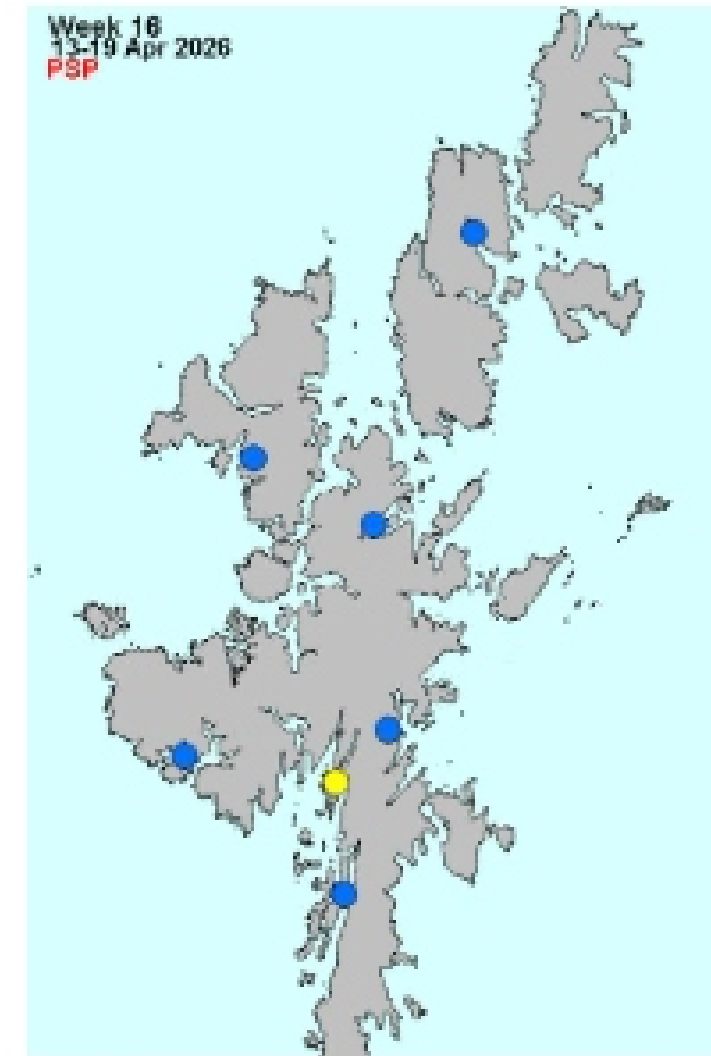
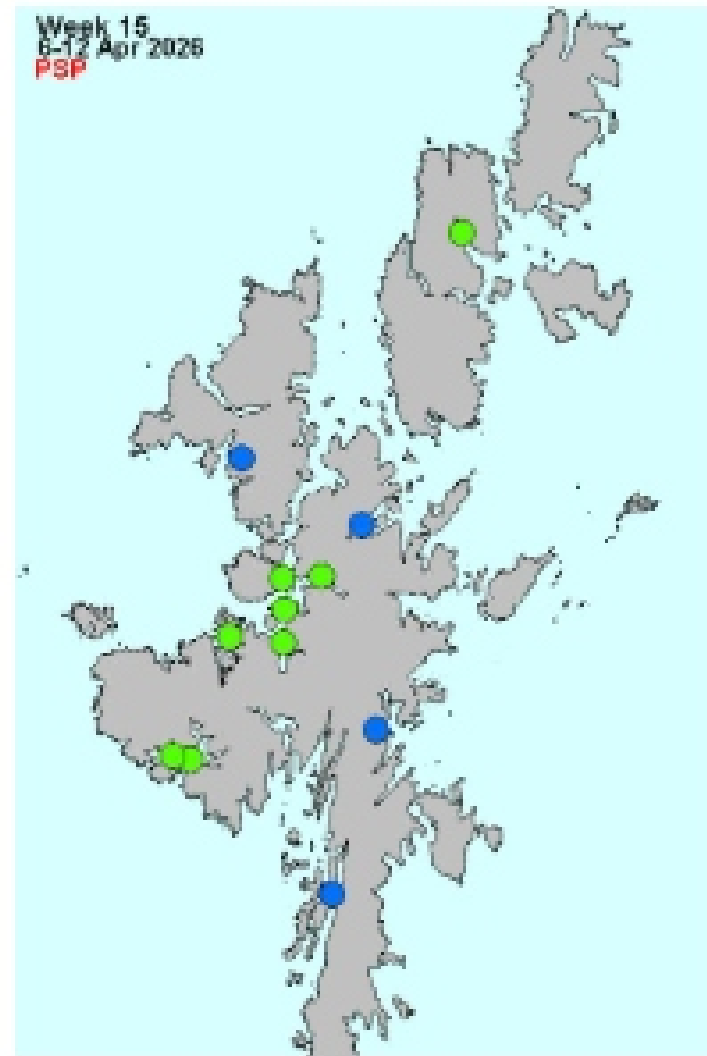
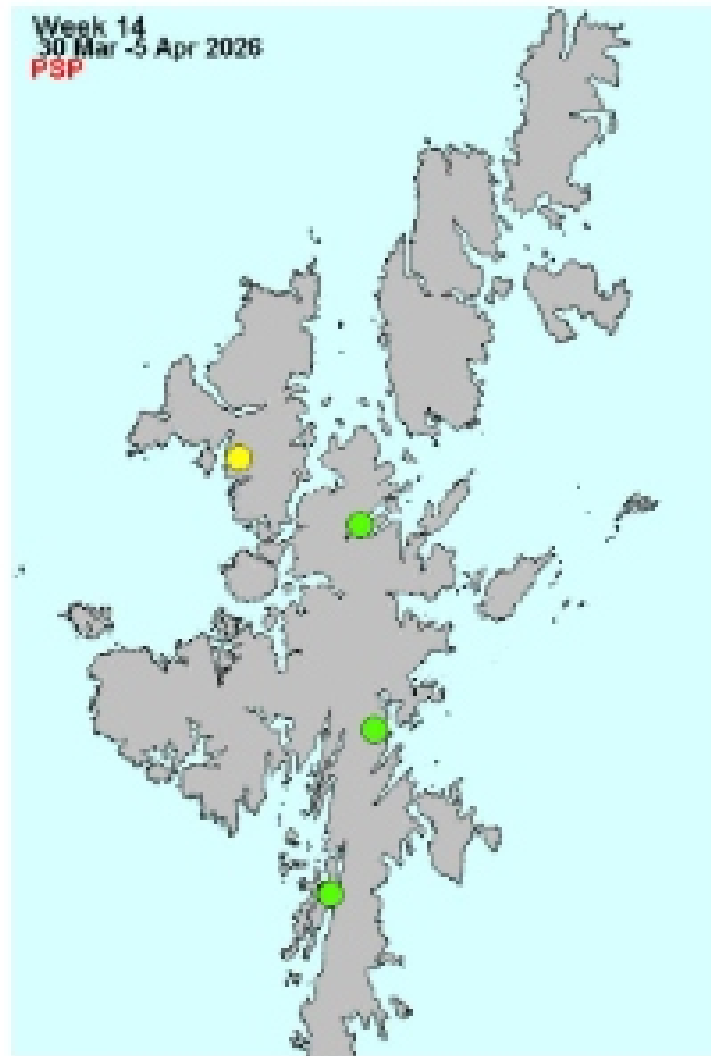
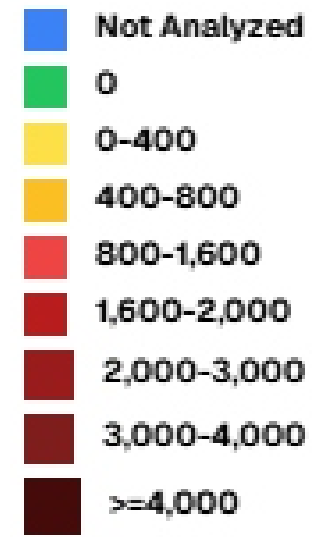
NOTE:
 This page is intended as a quick overview of the situation in the Shetland Islands. If the status for a particular species or biotoxin is amber or red please check the relevant pages in the bulletin for more details and specific locations.
 RL- reporting limit;
 LOQ – Limit of quantification

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 17, 20th - 26th April, 2026

PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING TOXINS & CAUSATIVE PHYTOPLANKTON

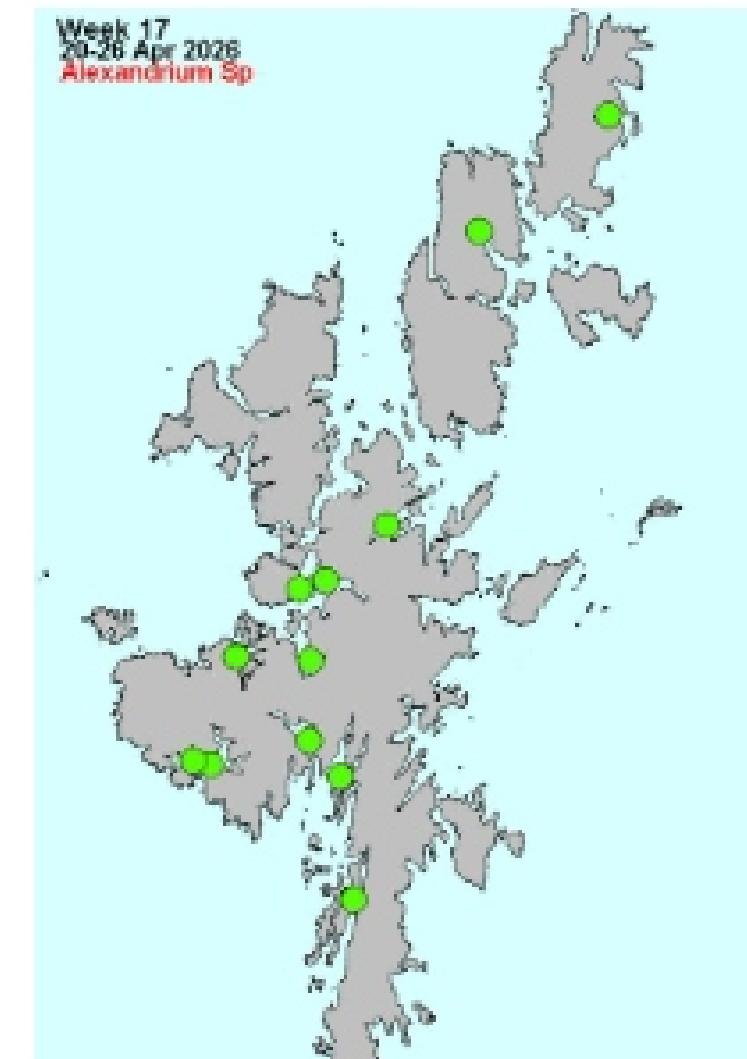
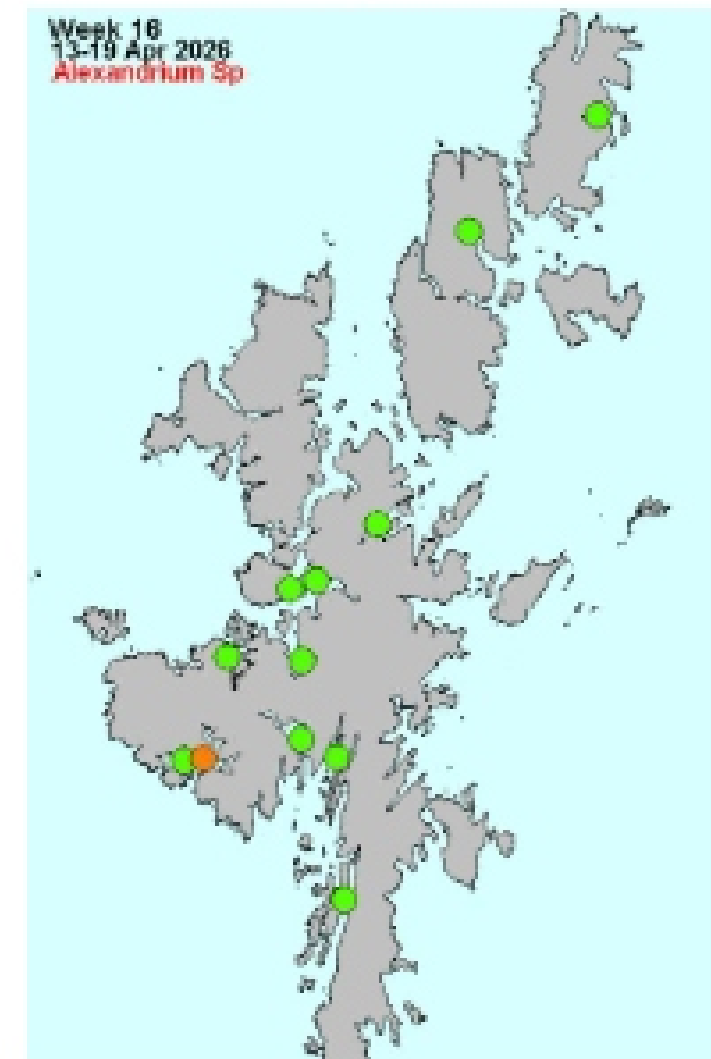
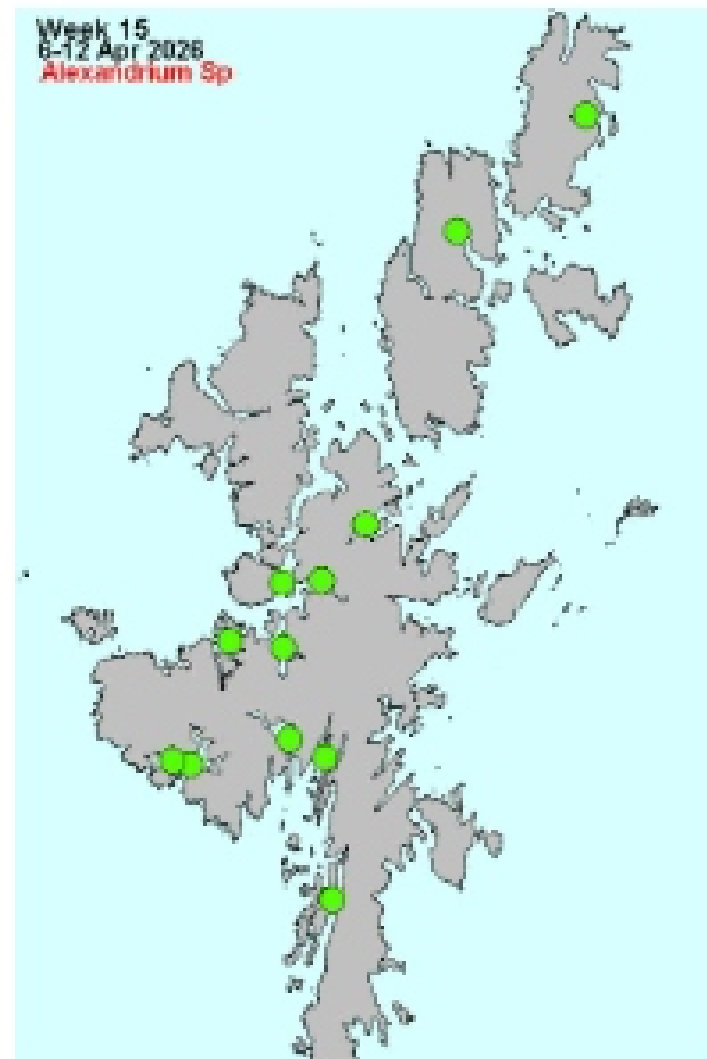
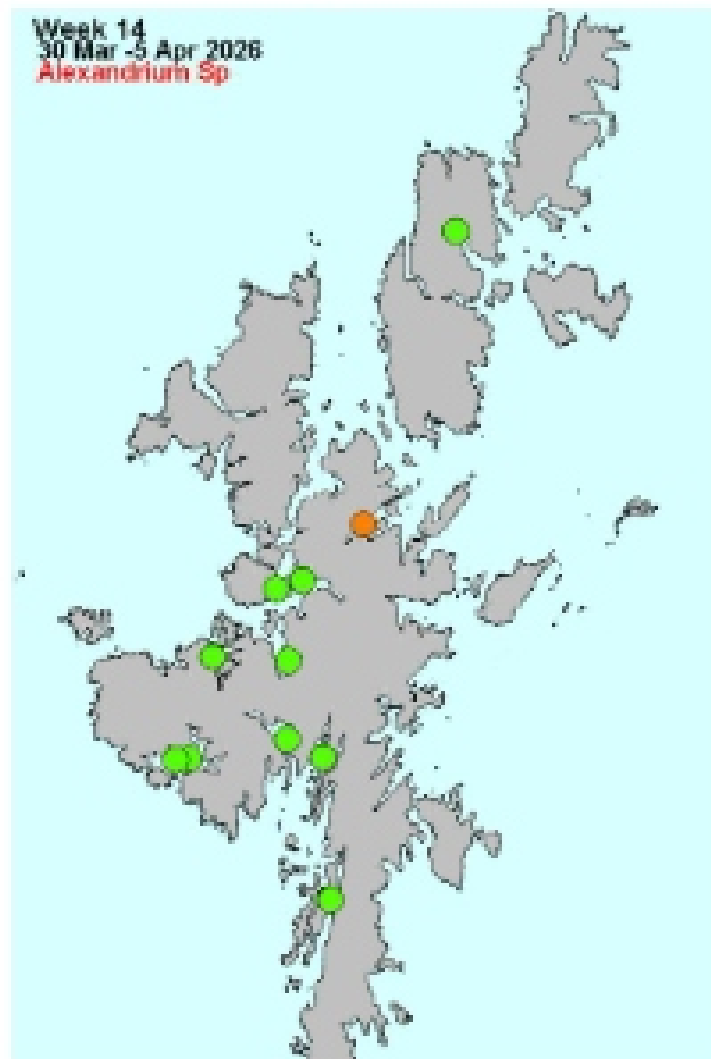
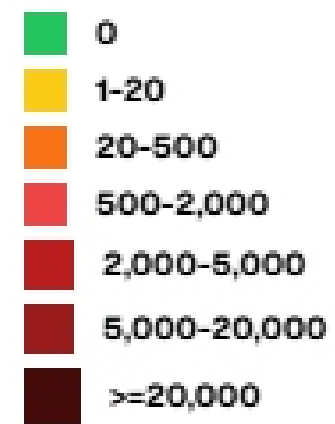
PSP

µg STX eq/kg



ALEXANDRIUM SP.

cells/l

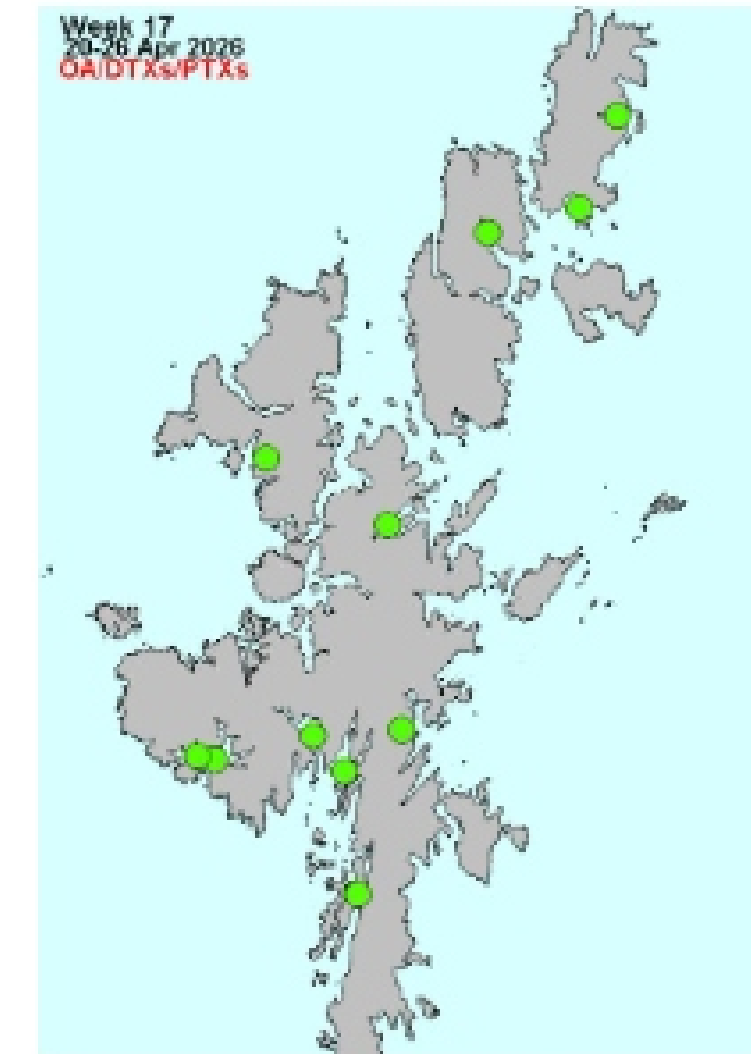
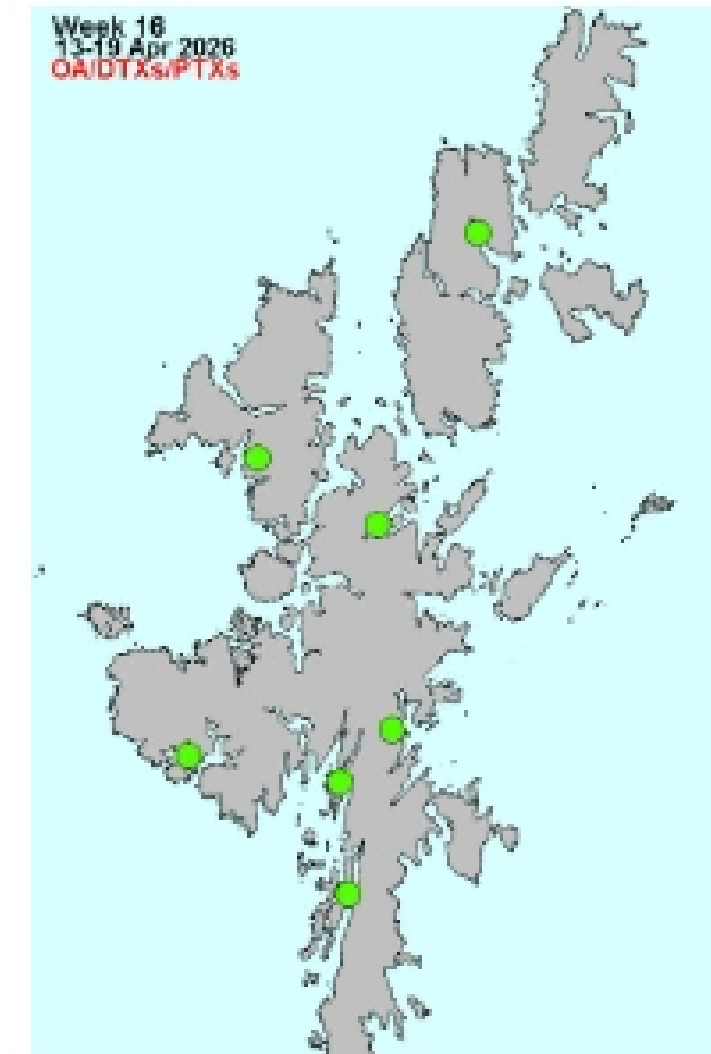
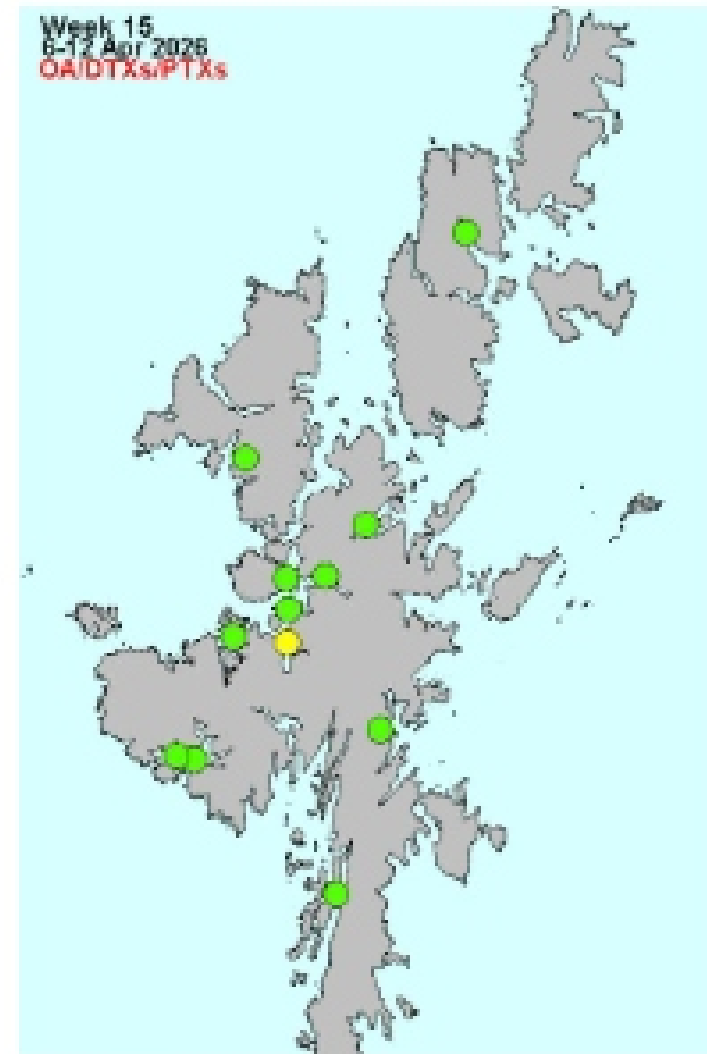
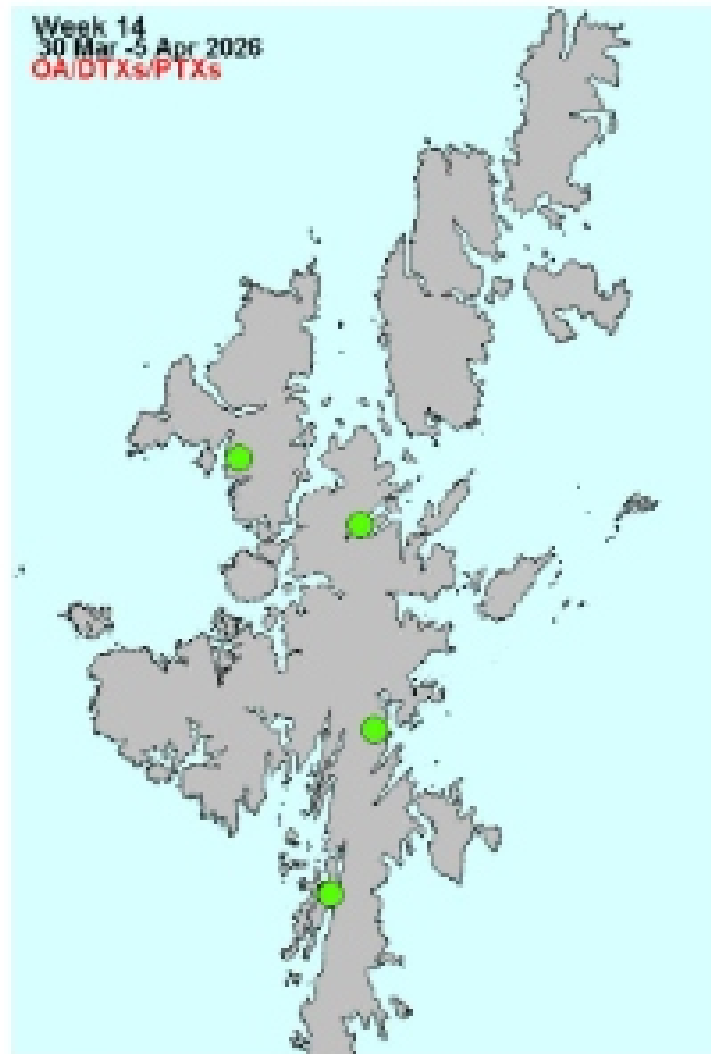
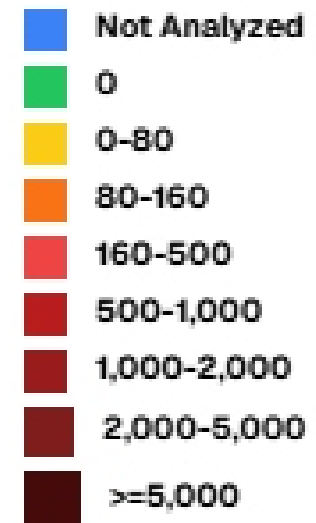


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DIARRHETIC SHELLFISH POISONING TOXINS & CAUSATIVE PHYTOPLANKTON

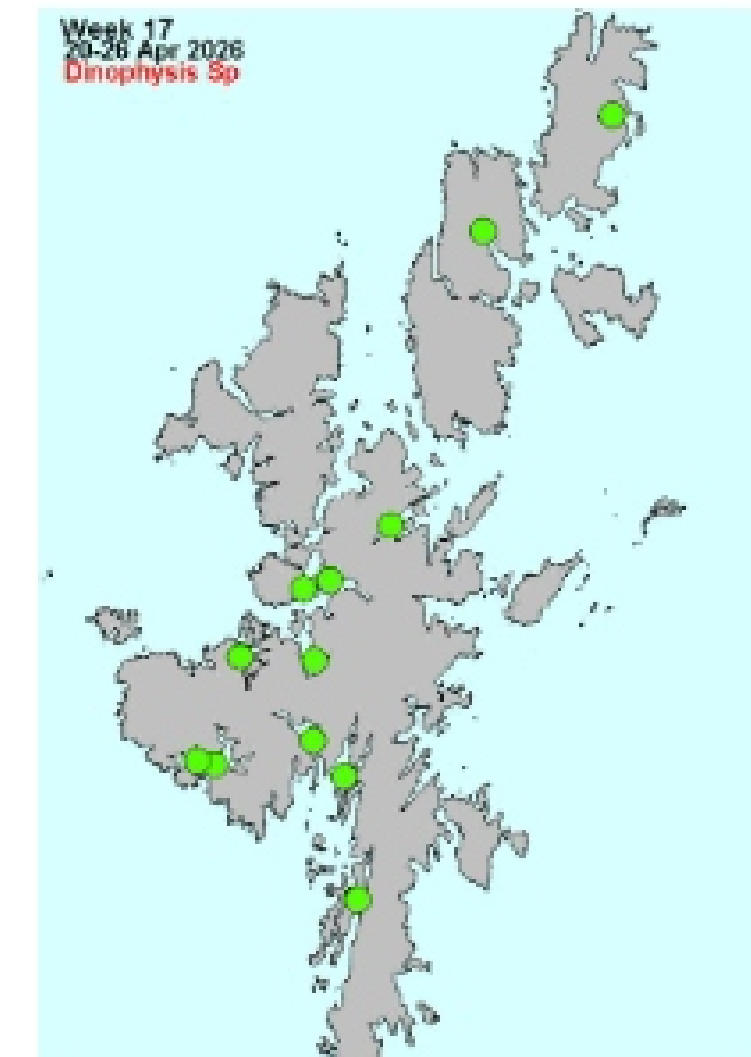
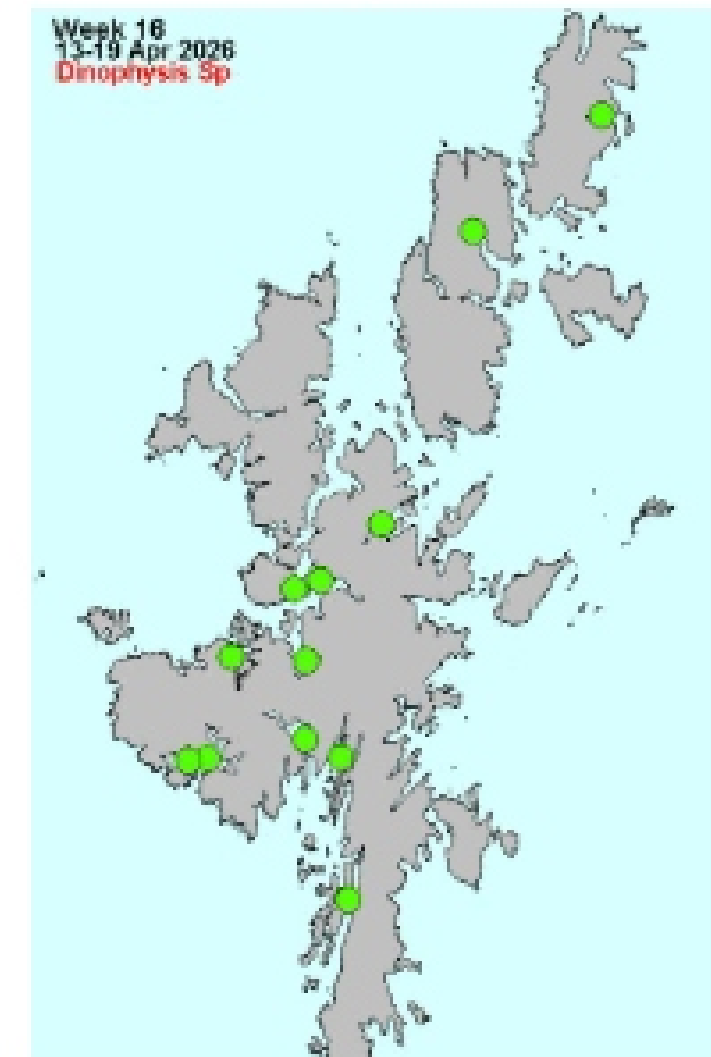
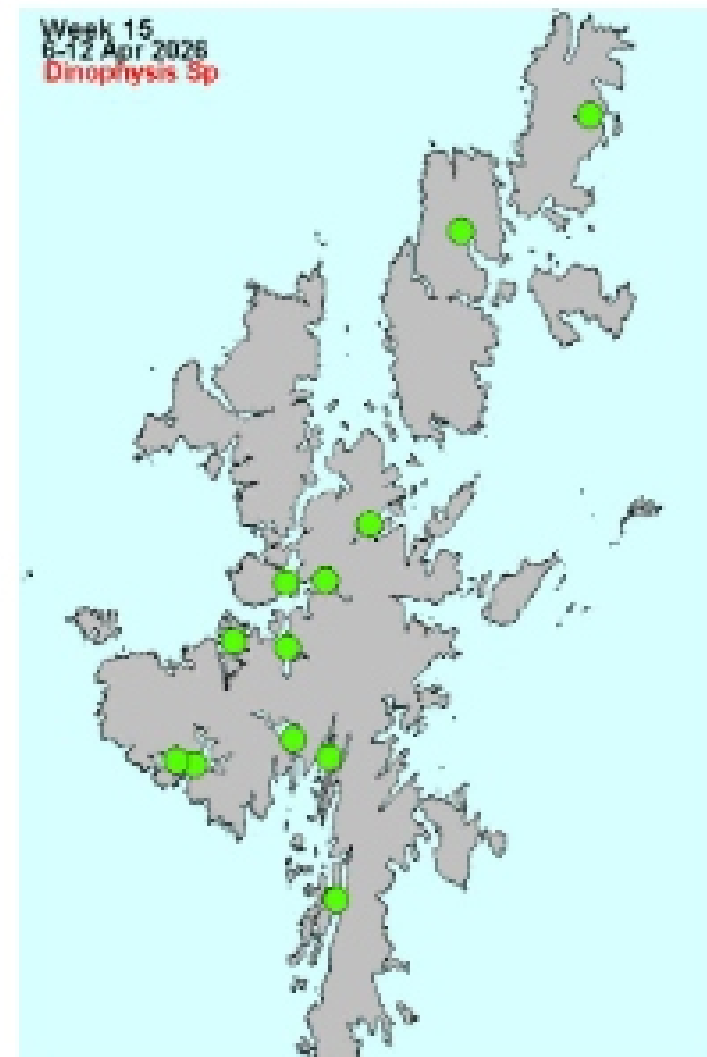
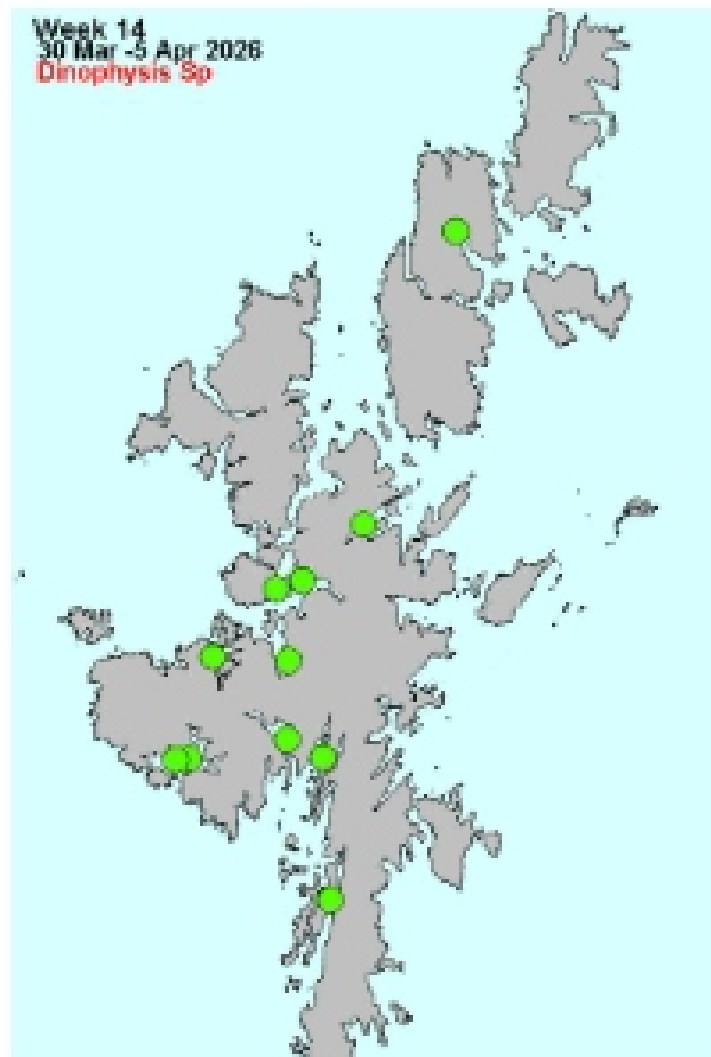
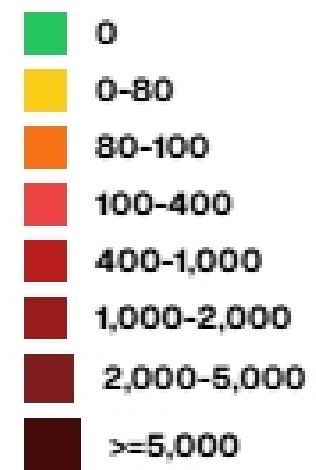
OA/DTXS/PTXS

µg OA eq/kg



DINOPHYSIS SP.

cells/l

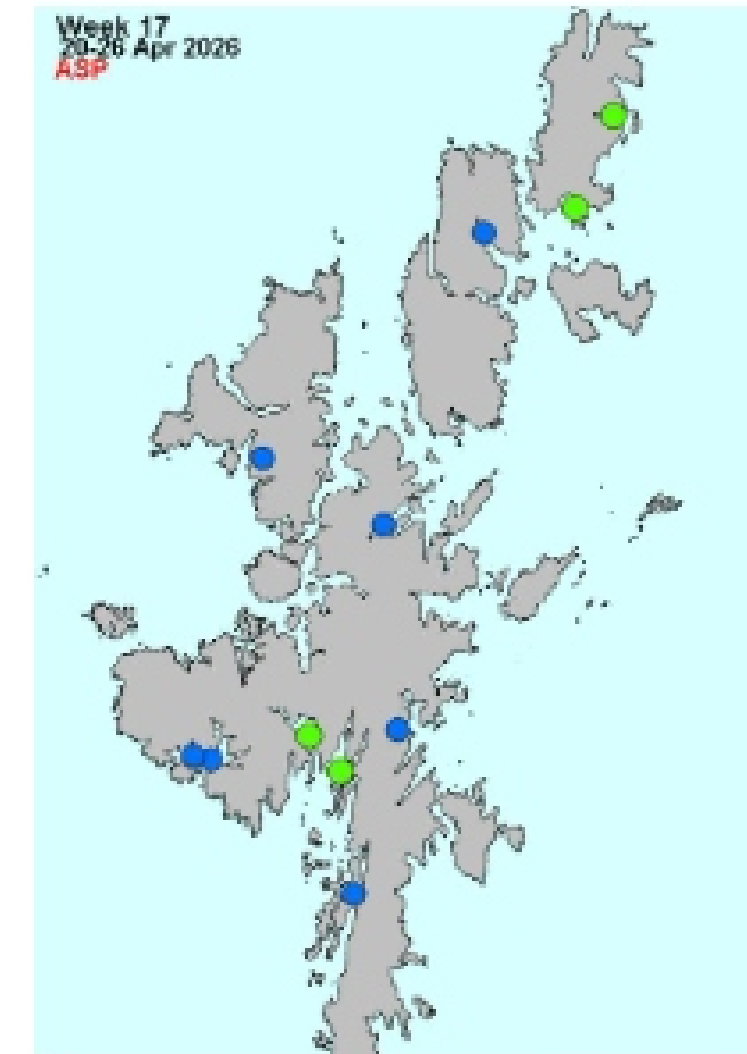
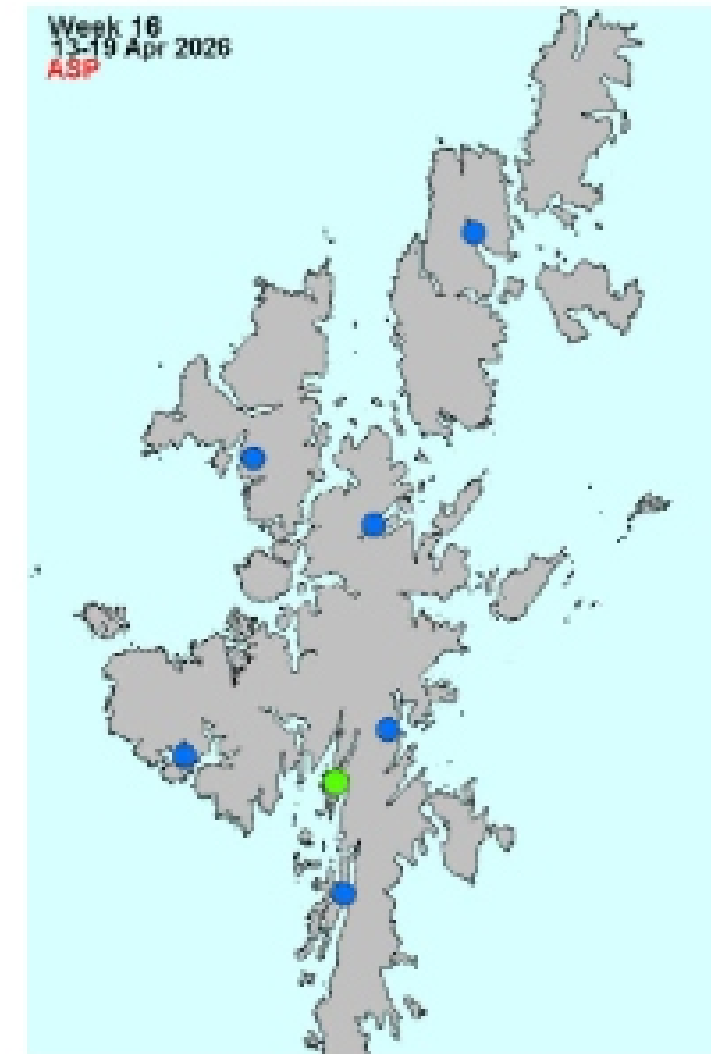
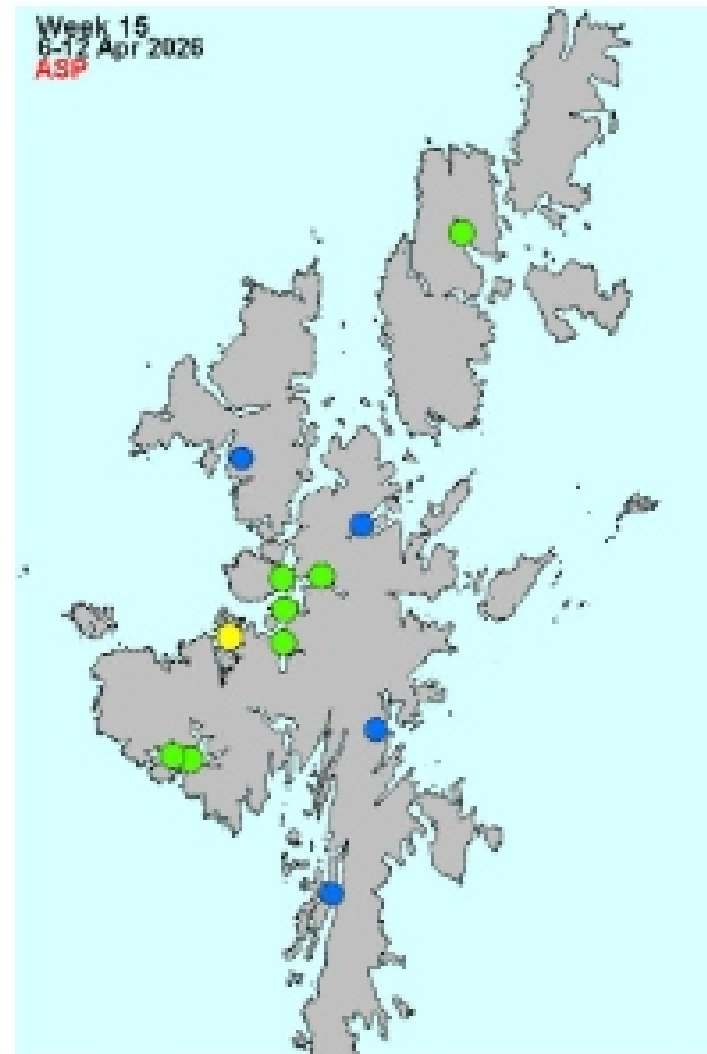
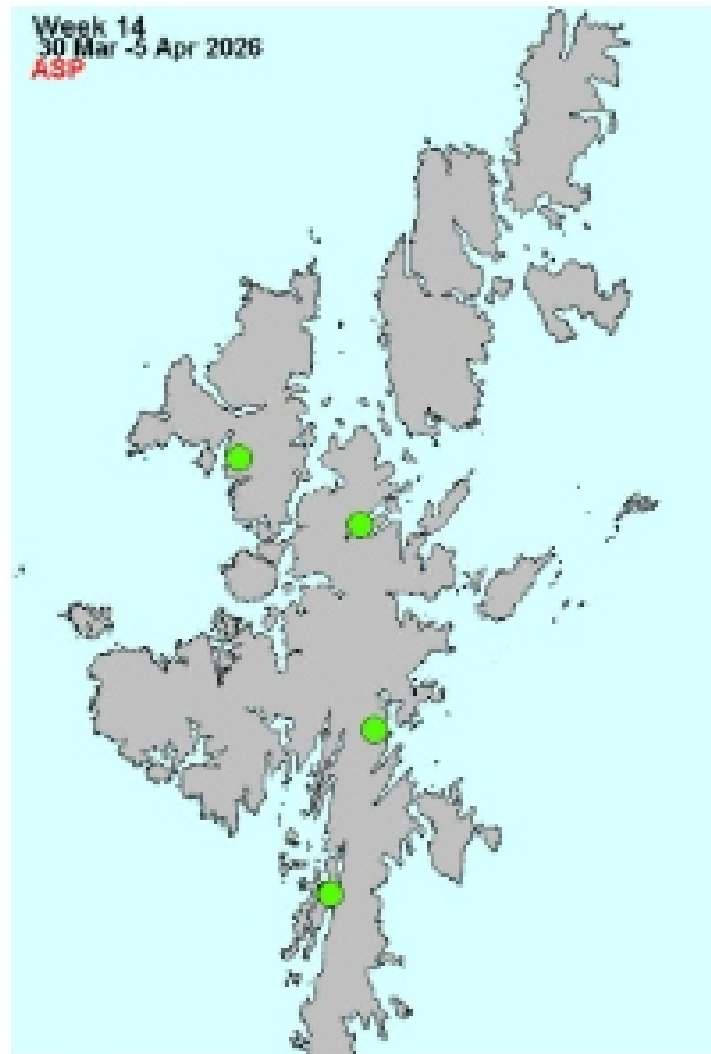
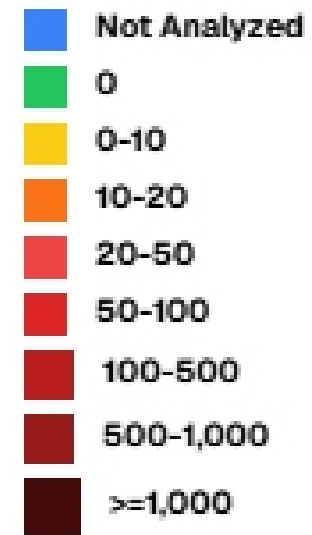


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AMNESIC SHELLFISH POISONING & CAUSATIVE PHYTOPLANKTON

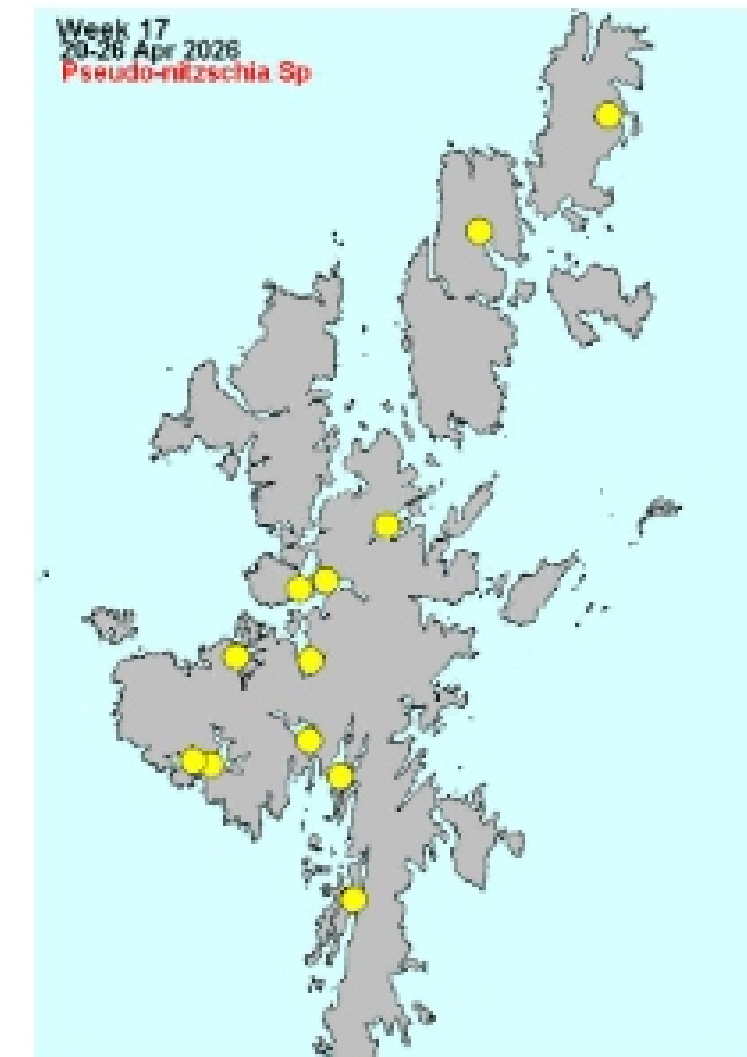
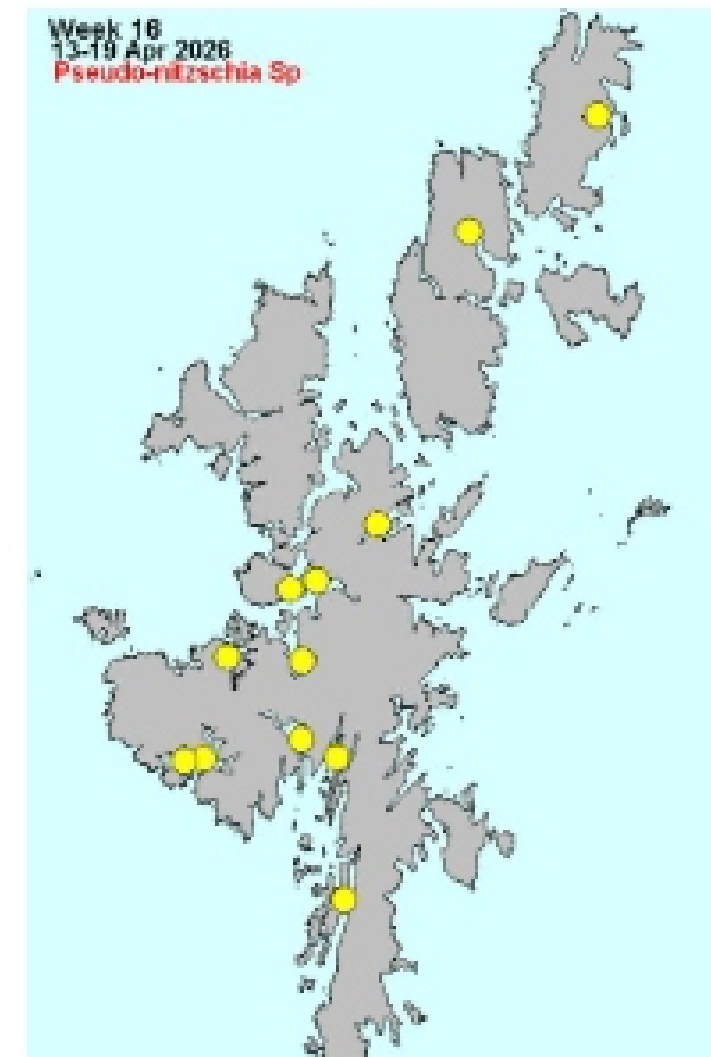
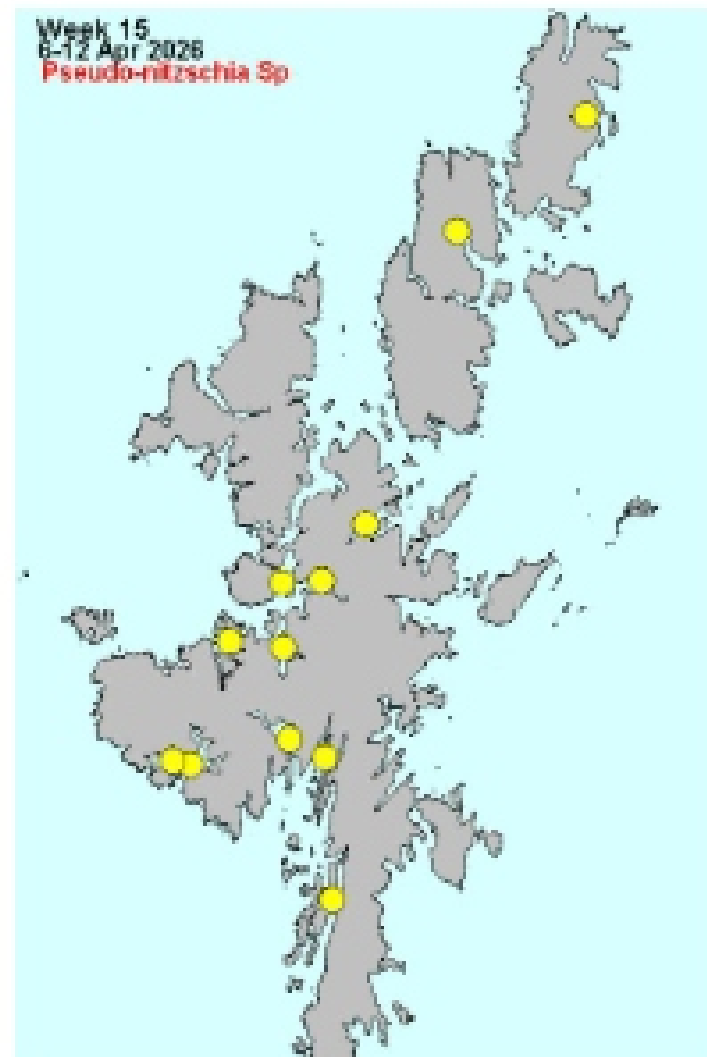
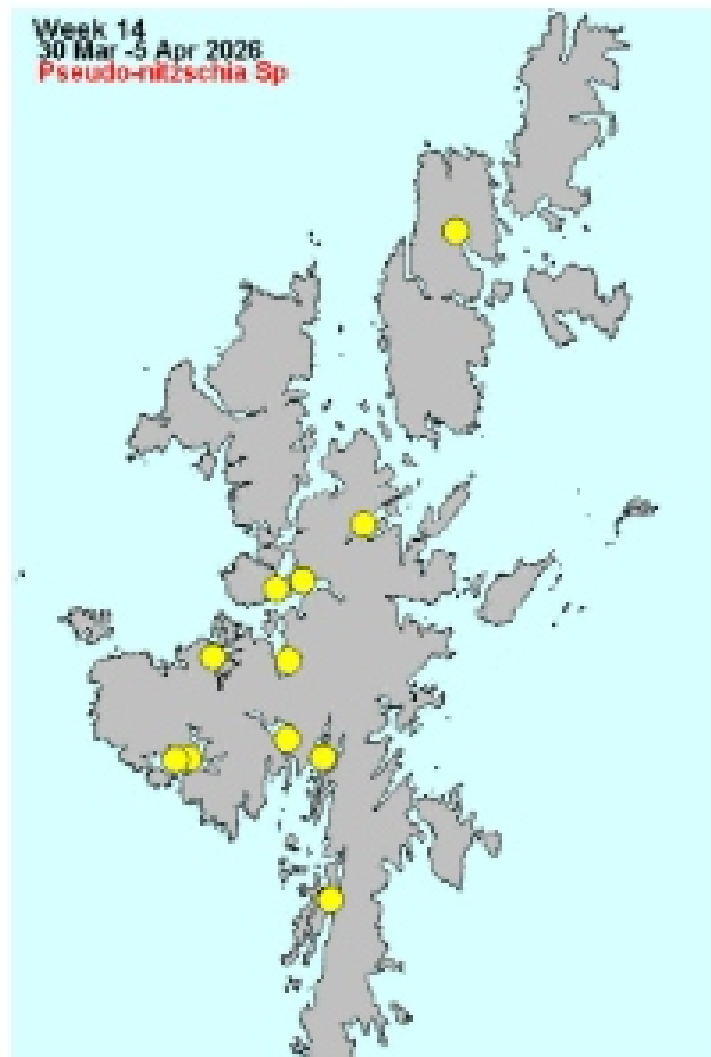
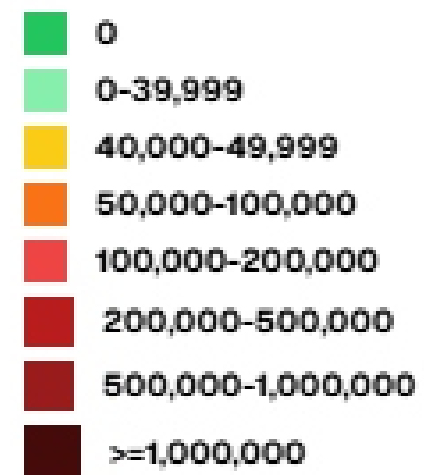
ASP

mg/kg



PSEUDO-NITZSCHIA SP.

cells/l

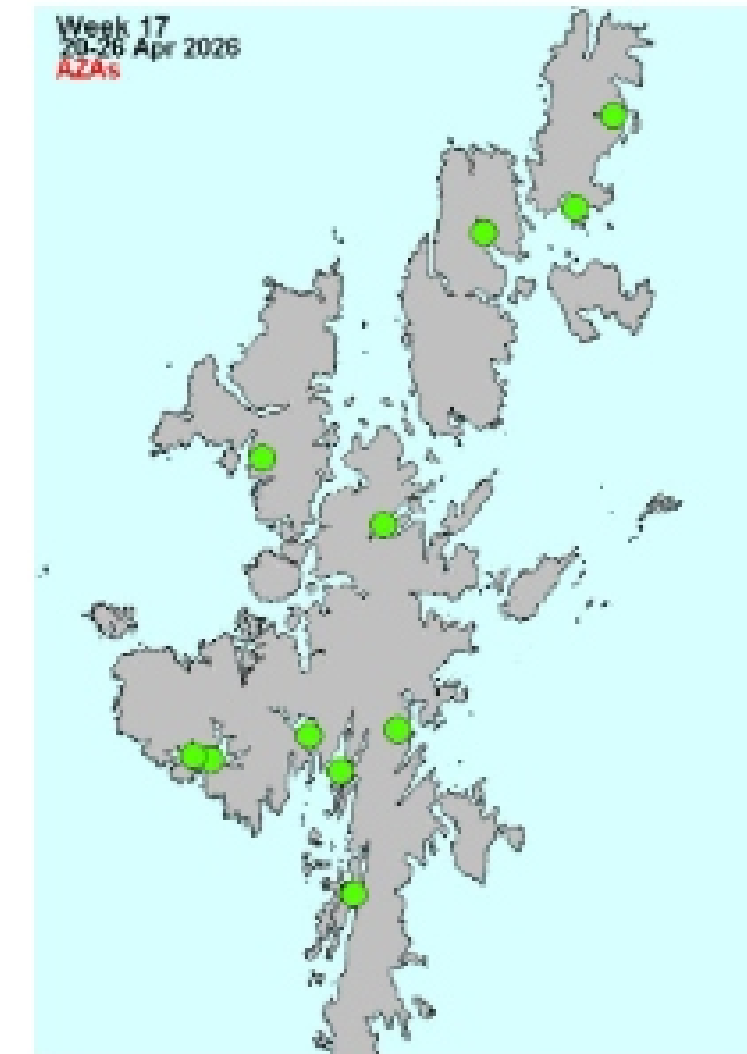
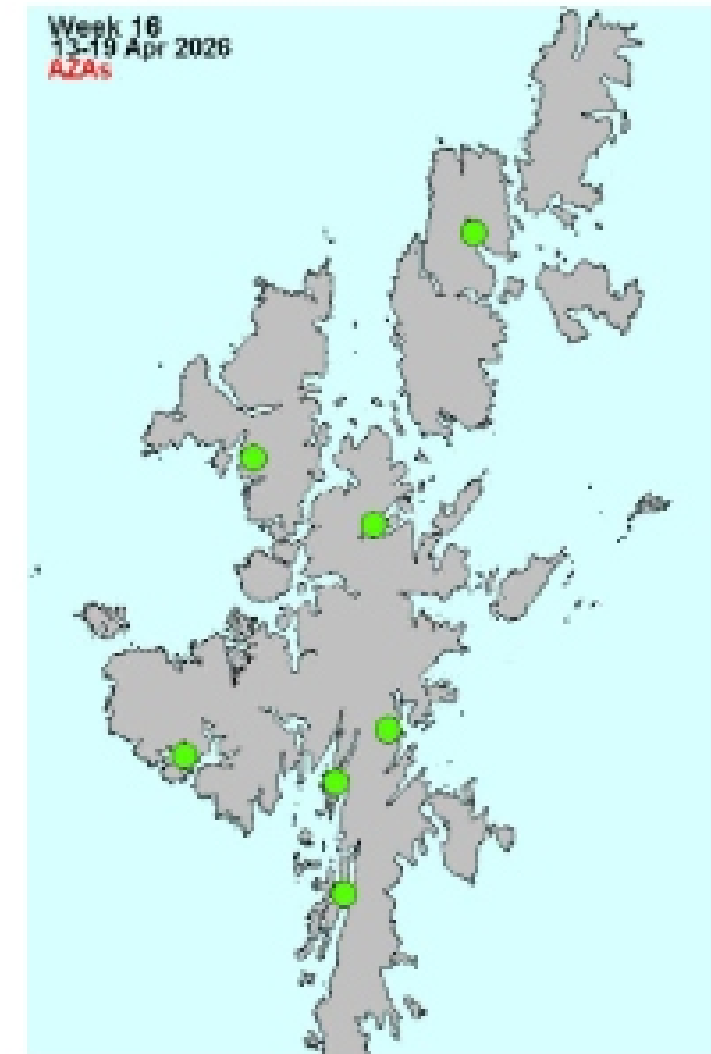
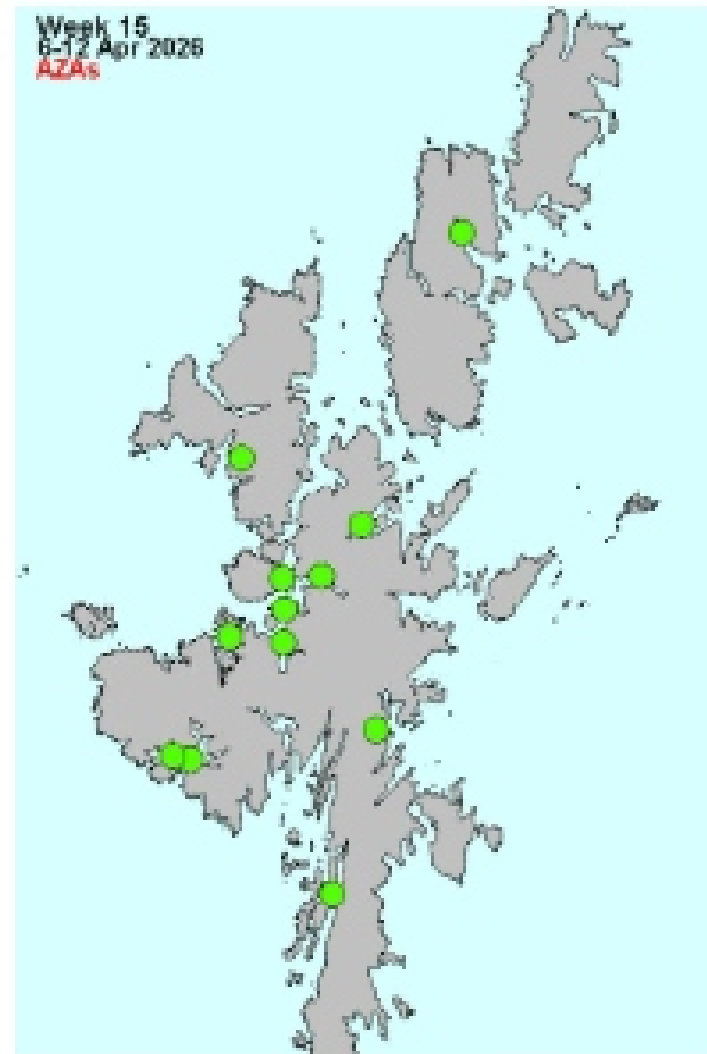
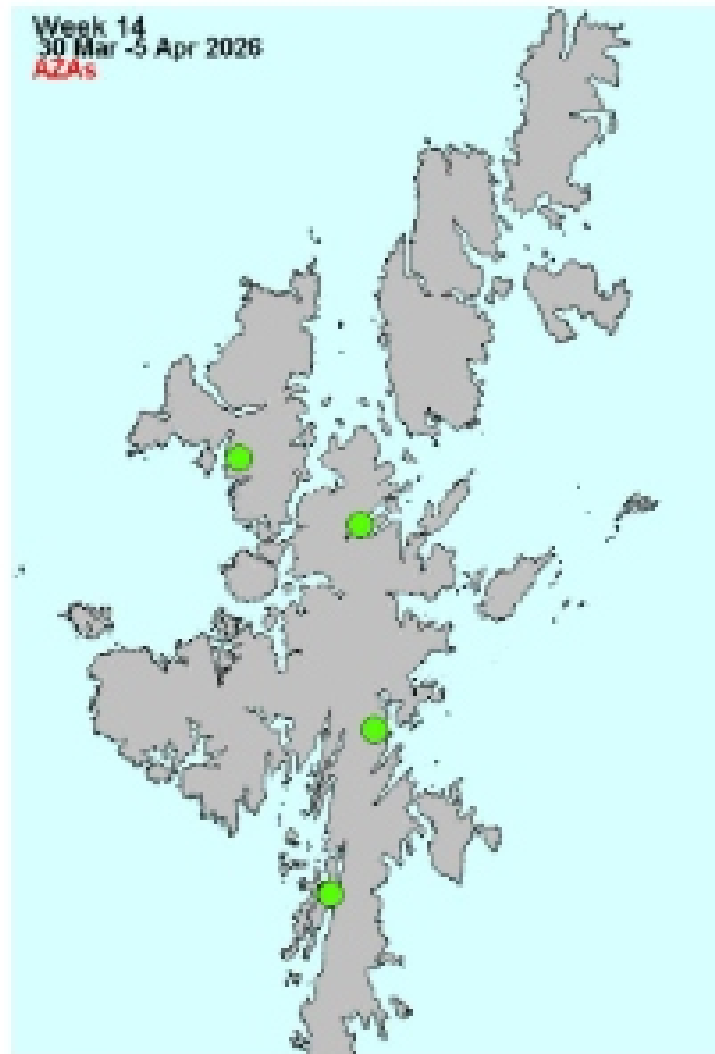
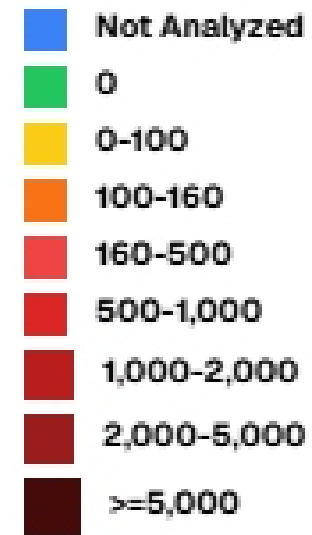


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AZASPIRACID & YESSOTOXIN SHELLFISH POISONING TOXINS

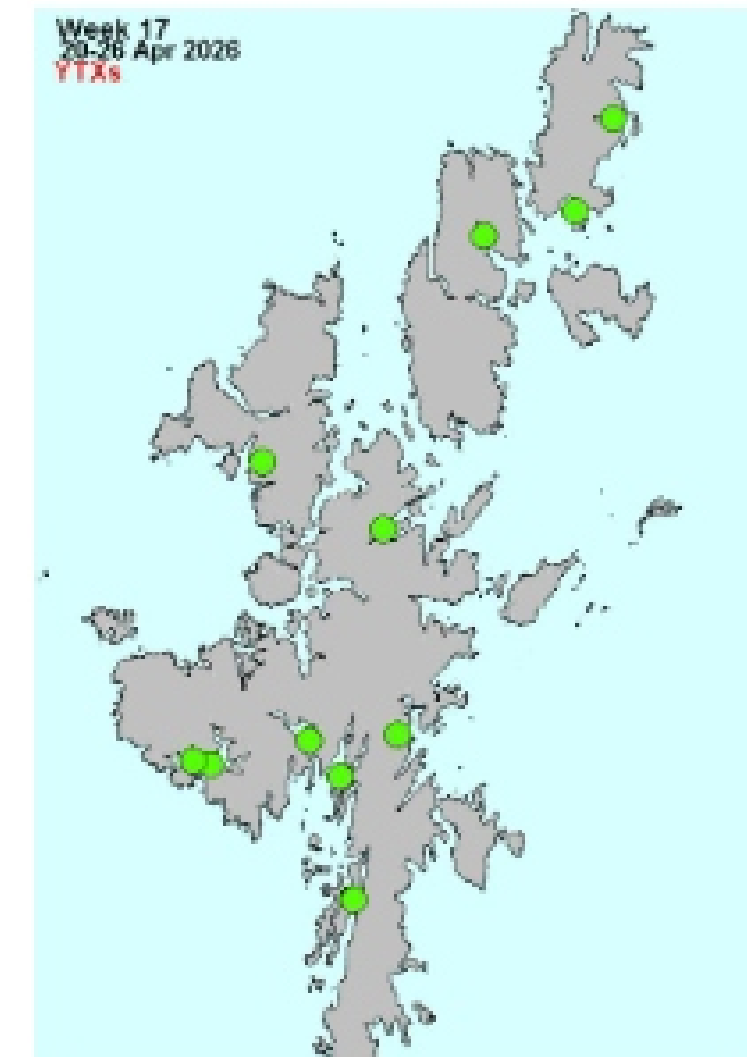
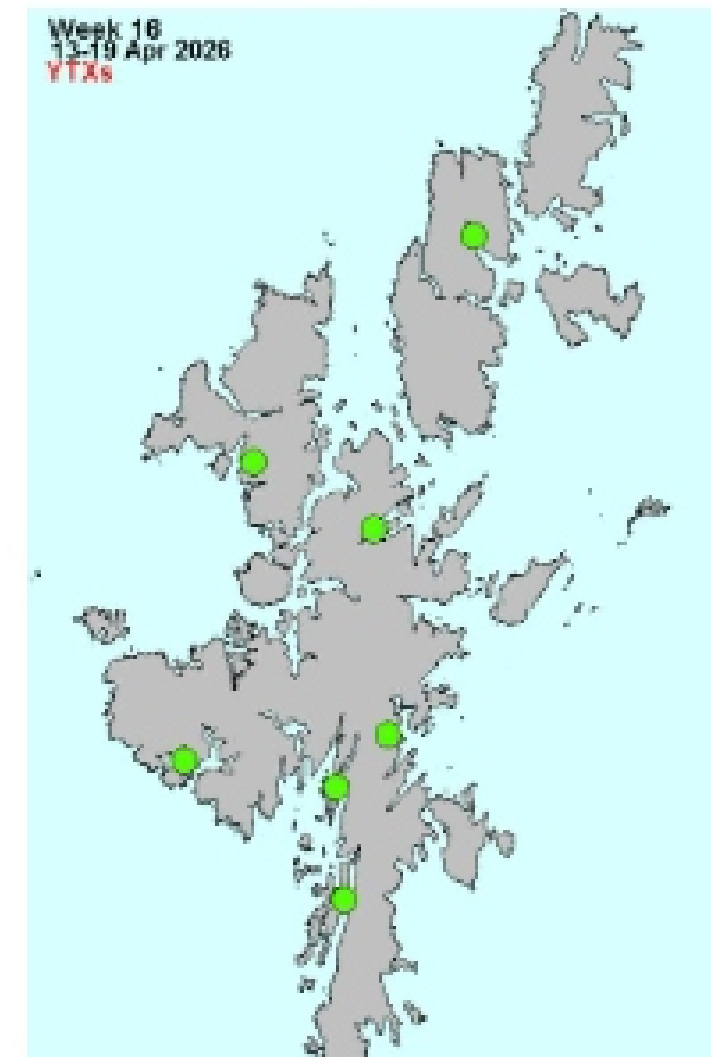
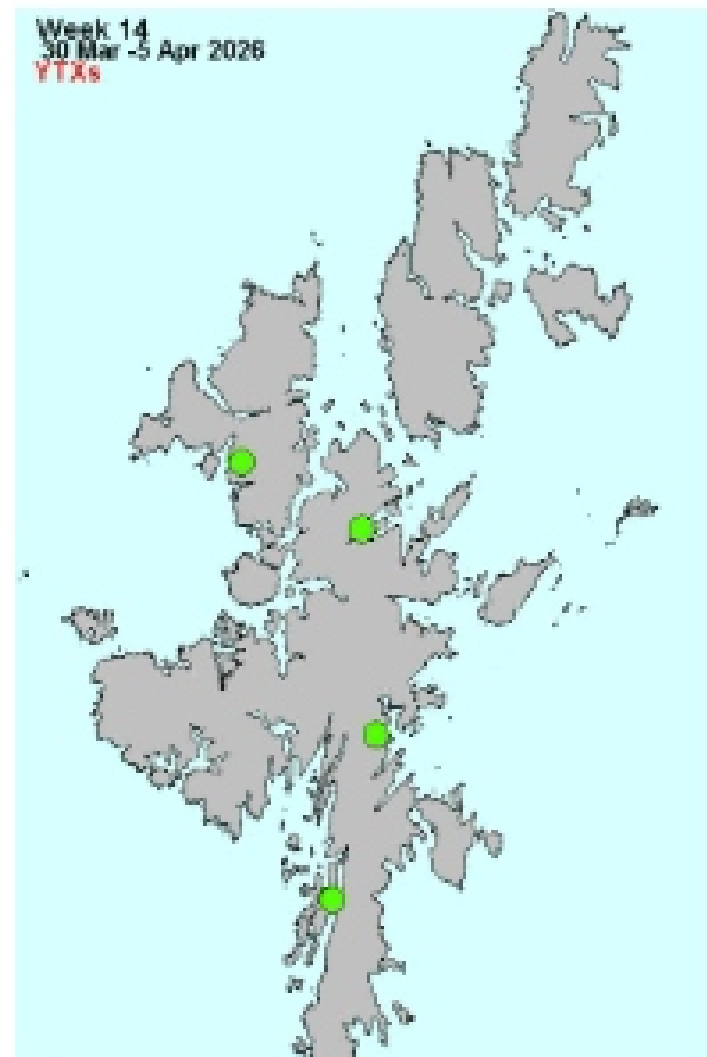
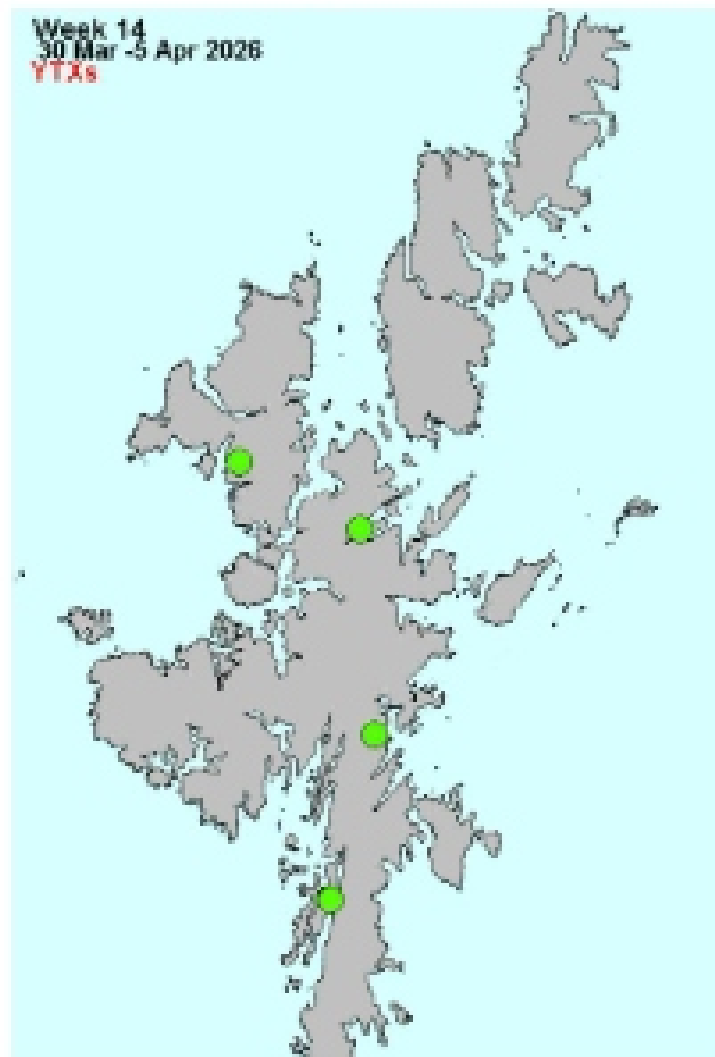
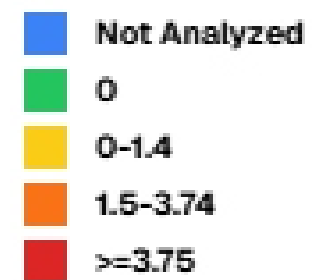
AZAS

µg AZA1 eq/kg



YTXS

mg YTX eq/kg

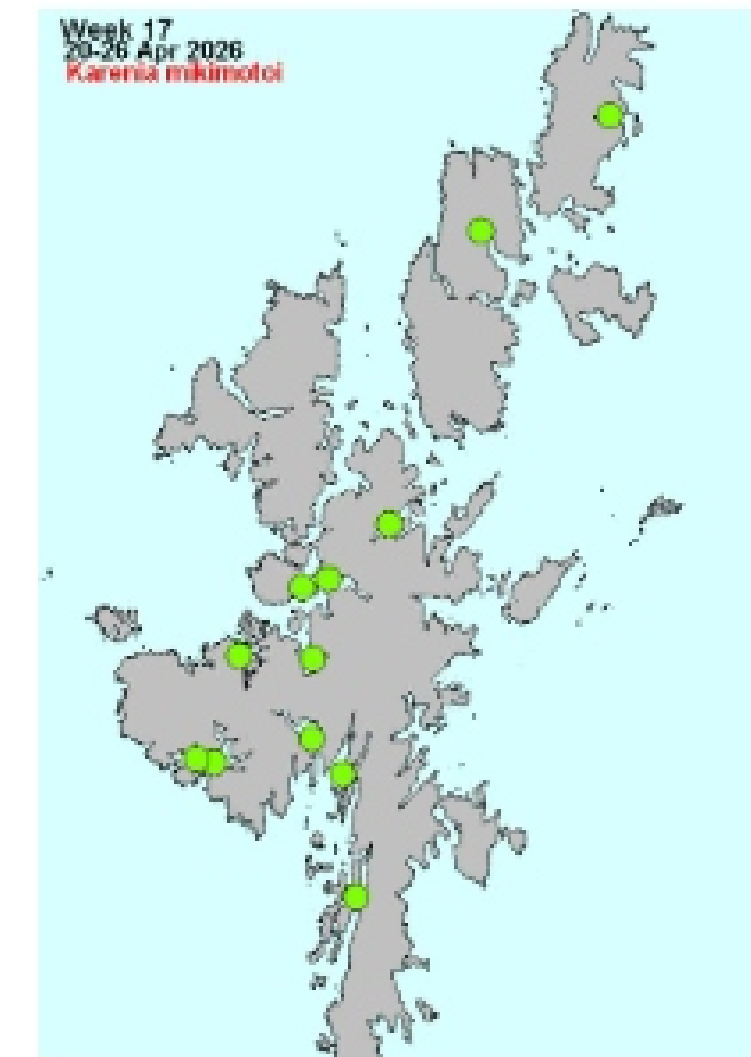
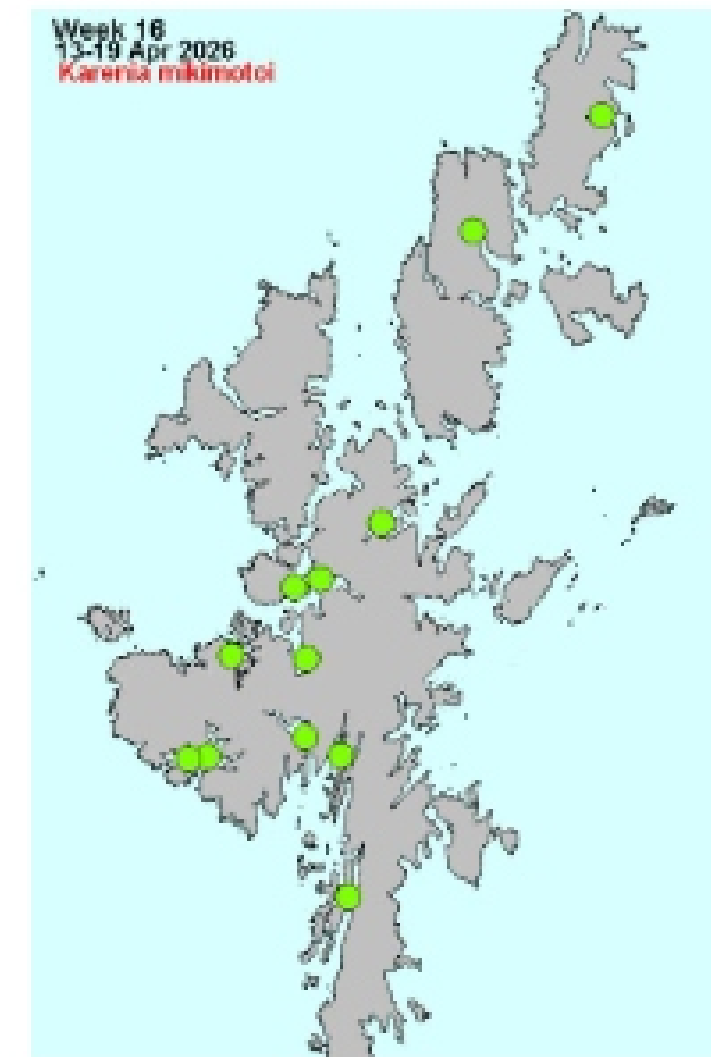
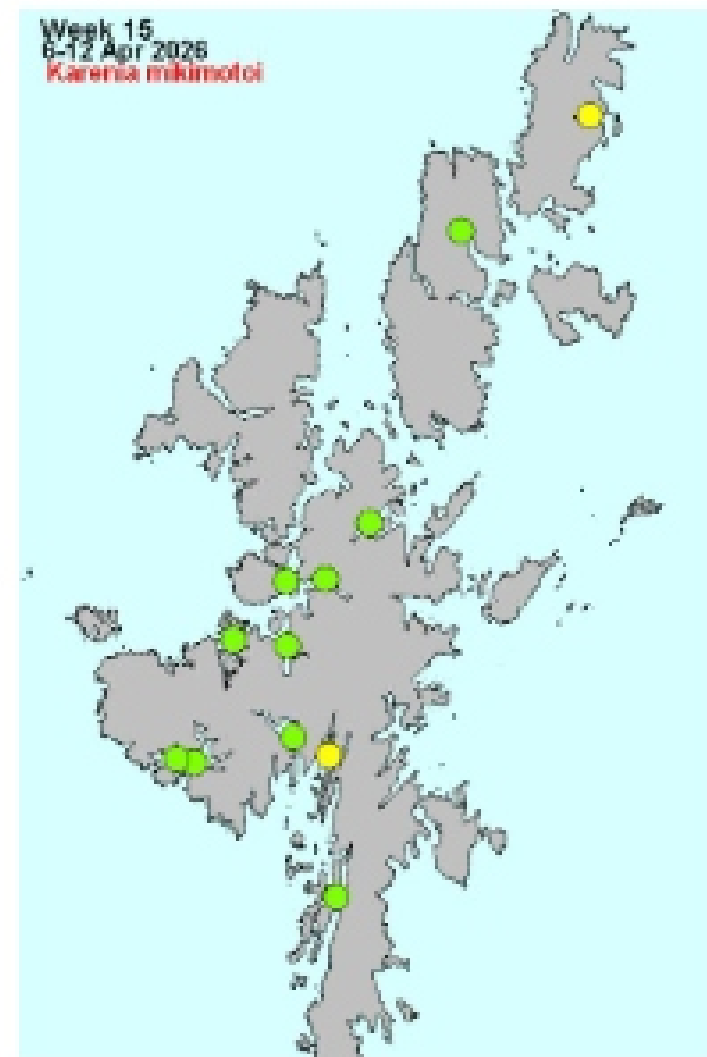
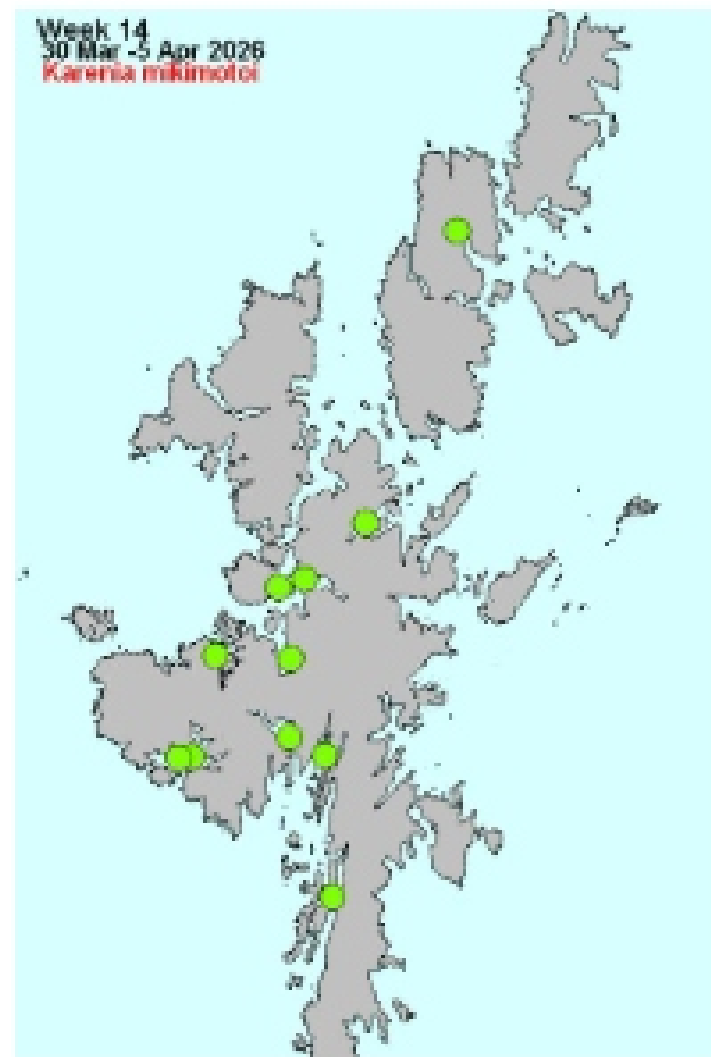
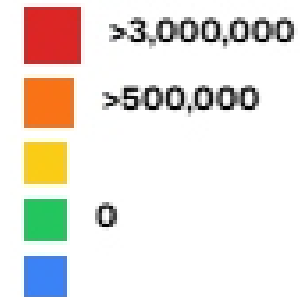


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KARENIA MIKIMOTOI

KARENIA MIKIMOTOI

cells/l



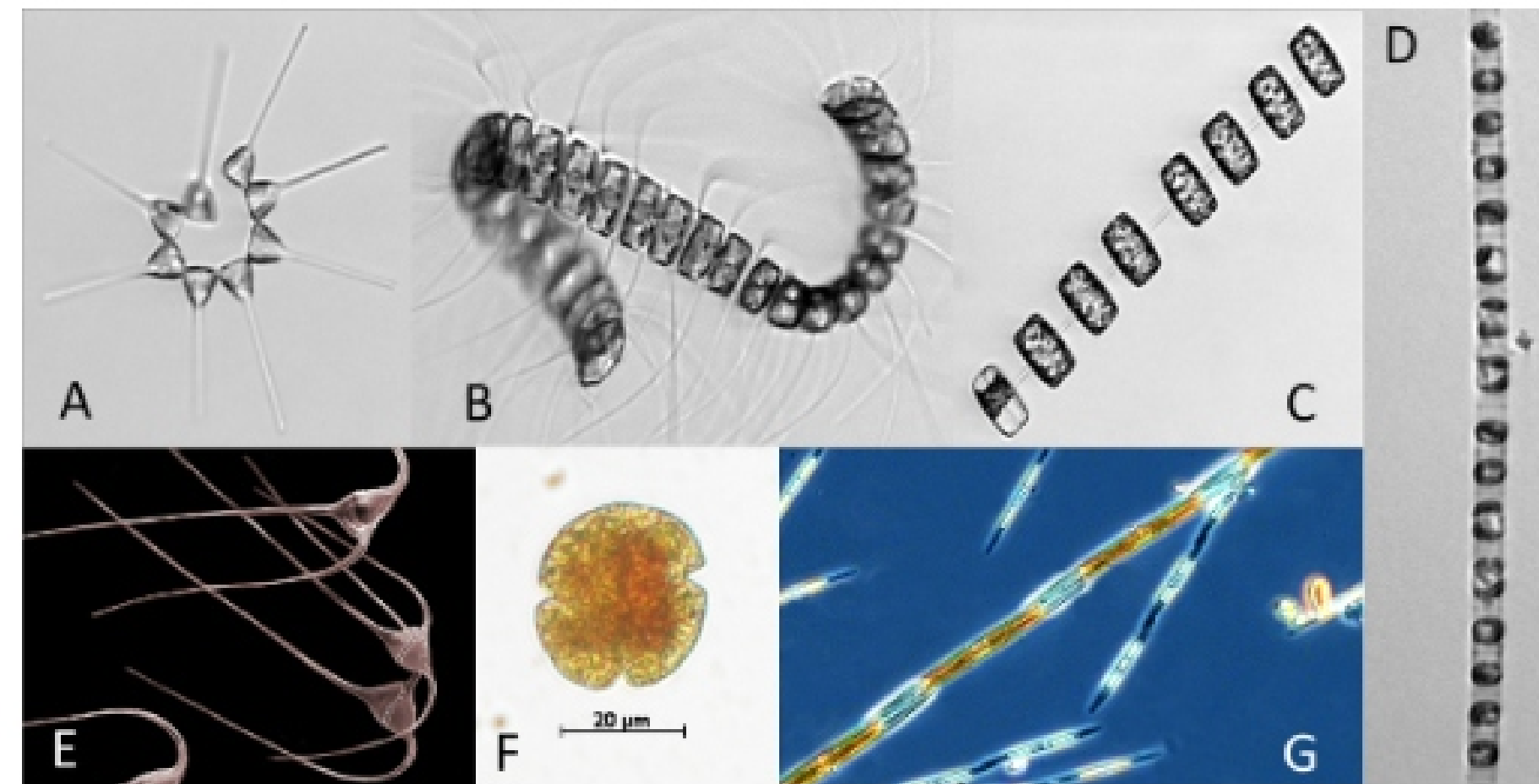
CHAIN FORMING PHYTOPLANKTON

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* (*Tripes*) can cause debilitating damage to fish gills.

STATUS

Twelve samples were analysed this week, *Karenia* was not detected. The IFCB's at Cole Deep and Scalloway are detecting chains of *Thalassiosira* and *Chaetoceros*.

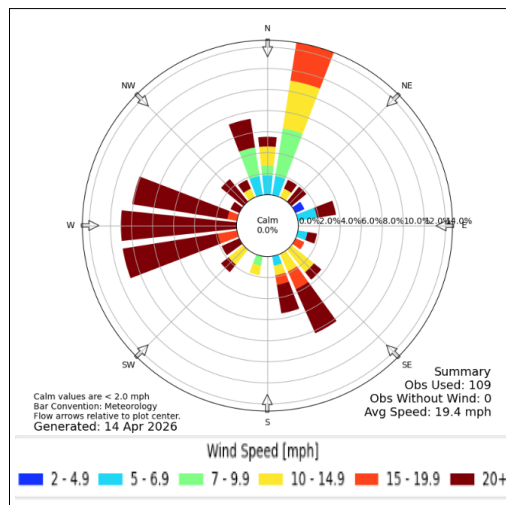
<https://www.habreports.org/ifcb-nafc.php>



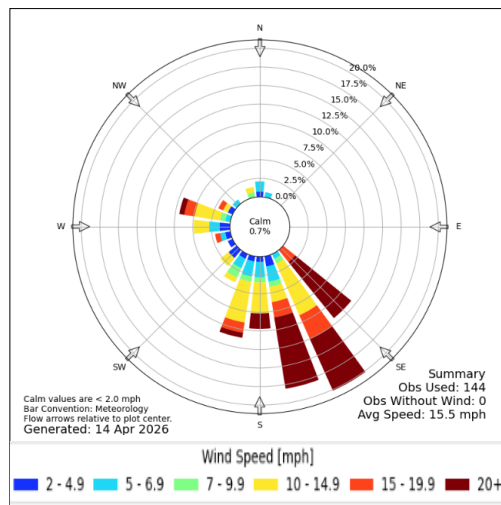
A. *Asterionellopsis* spp. B. *Chaetoceros* spp. C. *Thalassiosira* spp. D. *Skeletonema* spp. E. *Ceratium horridum* F. *Karenia mikimotoi* G. *Pseudo-nitzschia* spp.

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

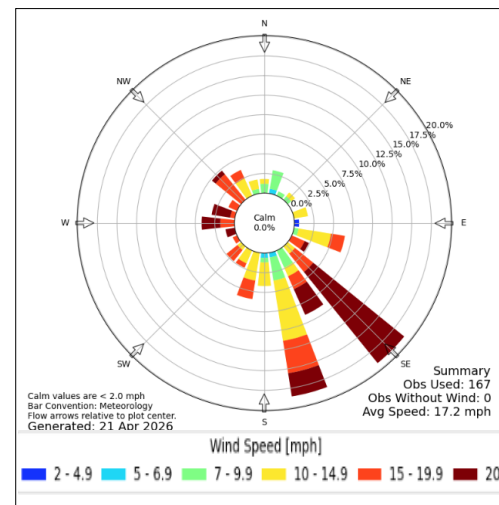
Week 14



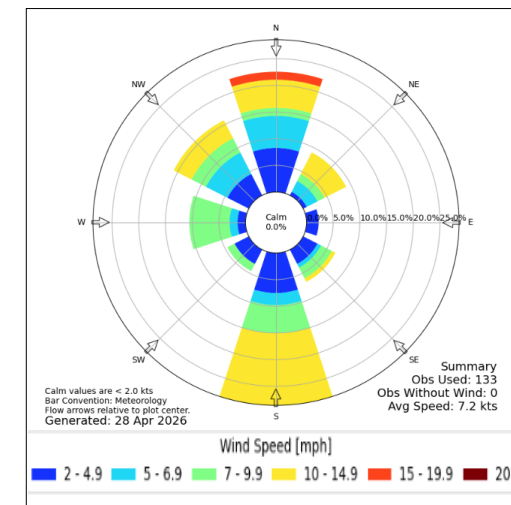
Week 15



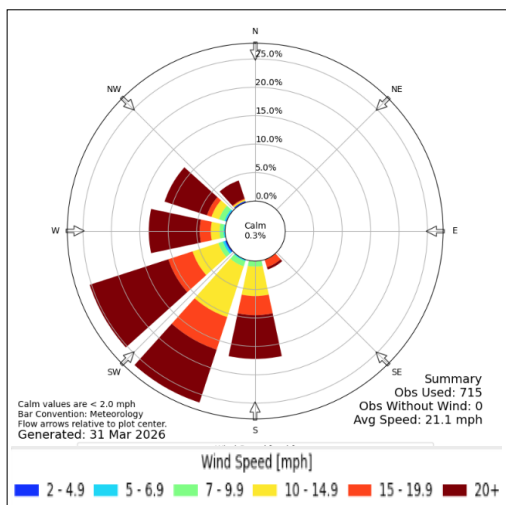
Week 16



Week 17



March



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 variable.

Predictions:

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

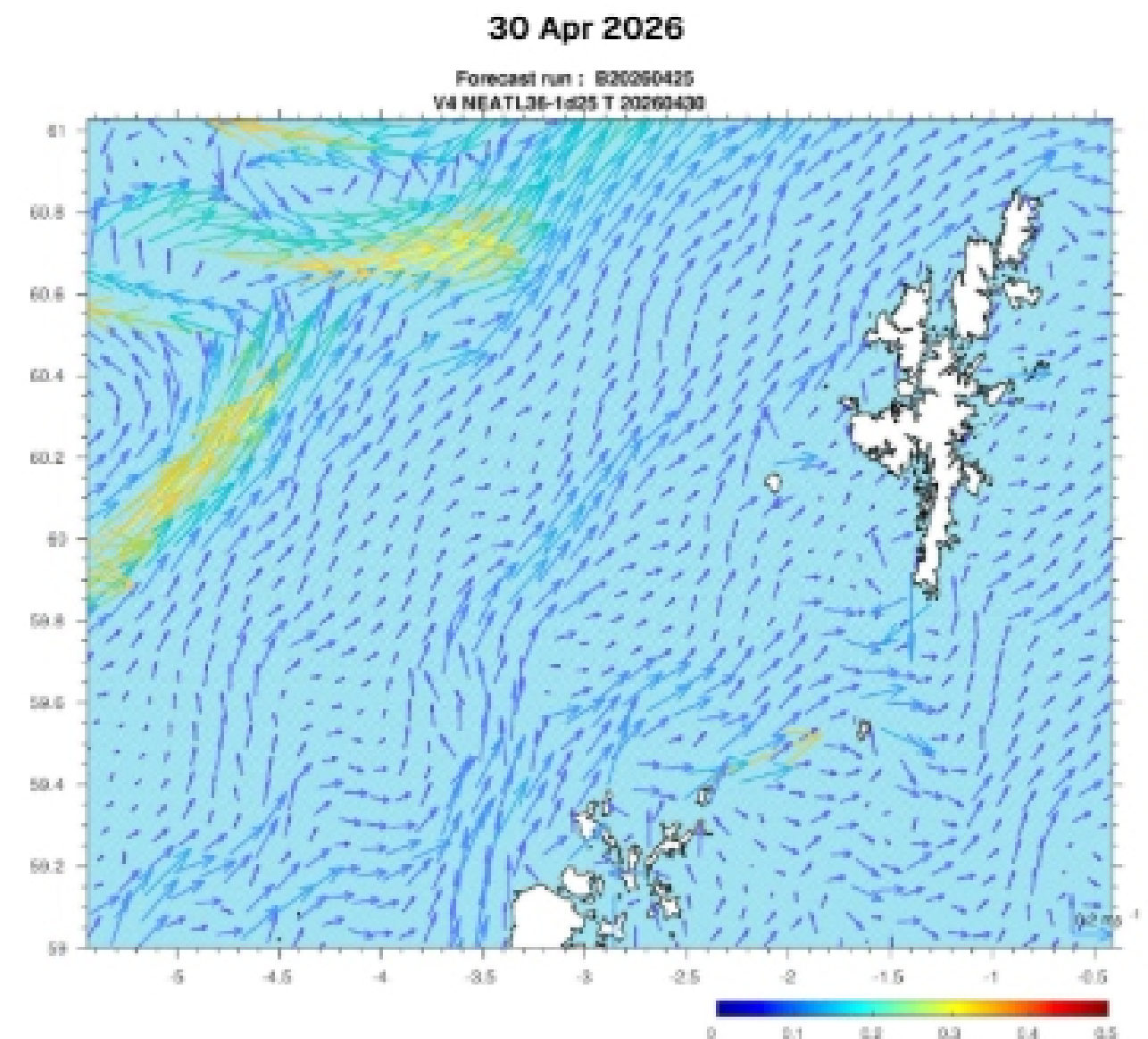
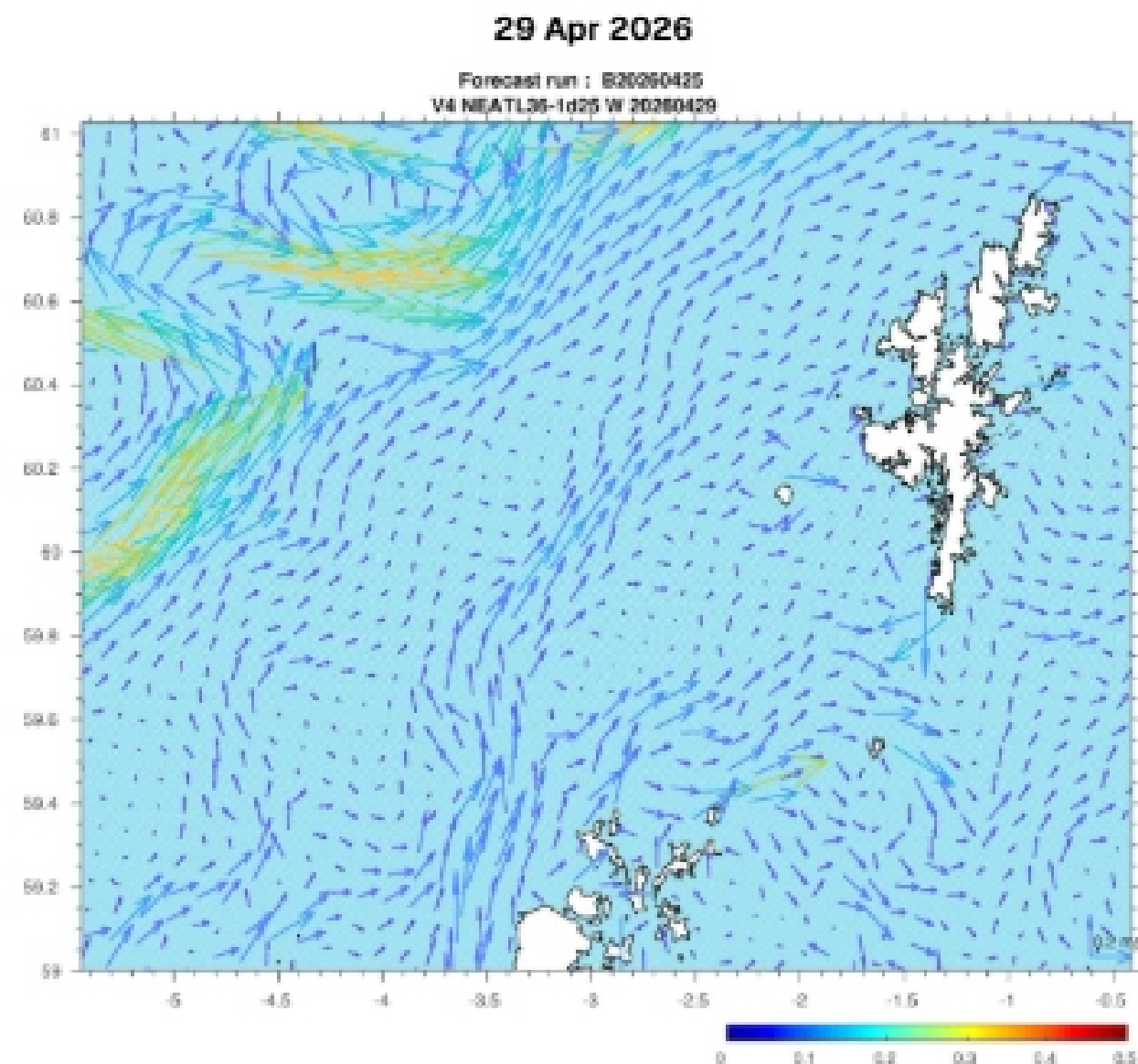
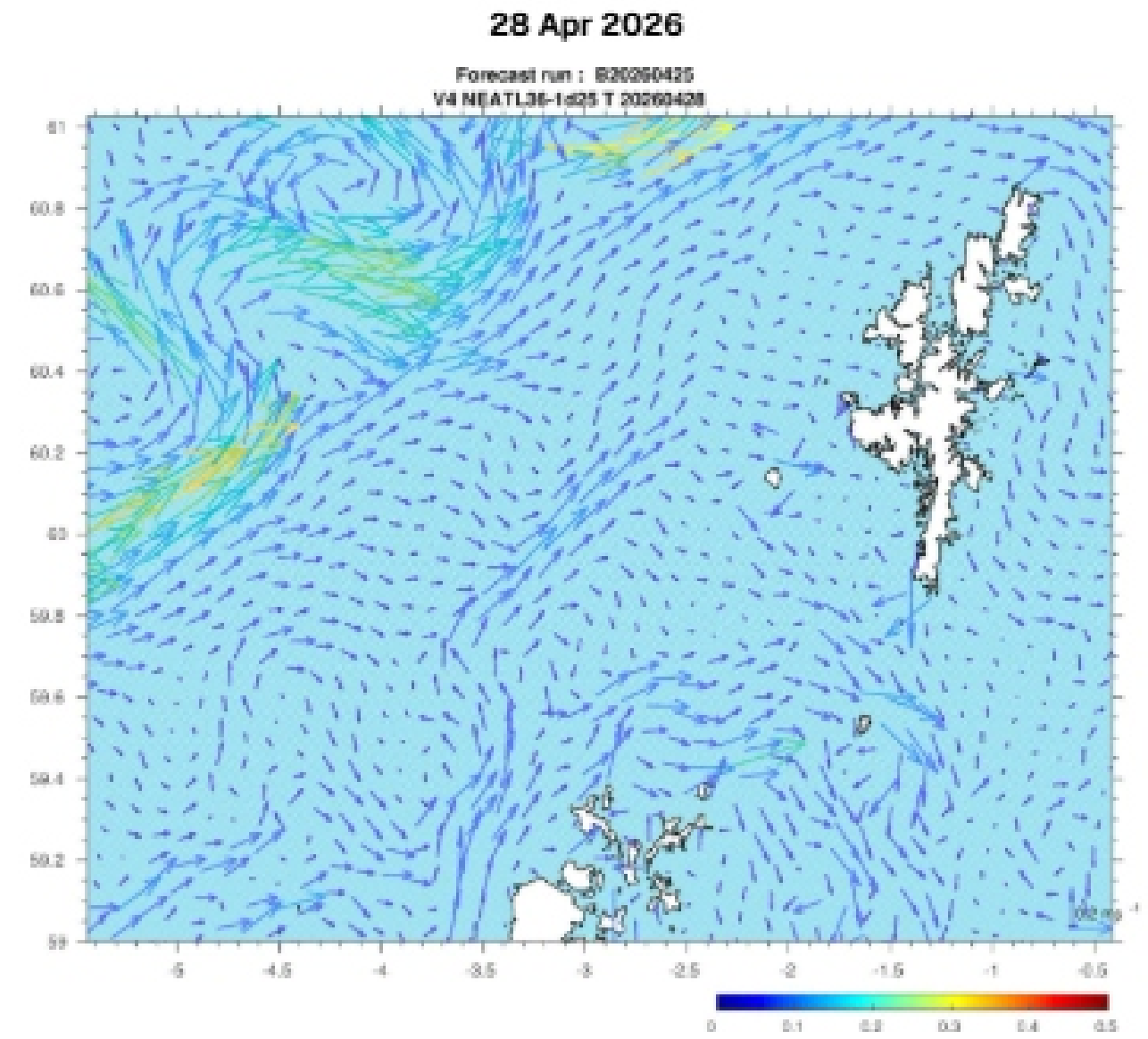
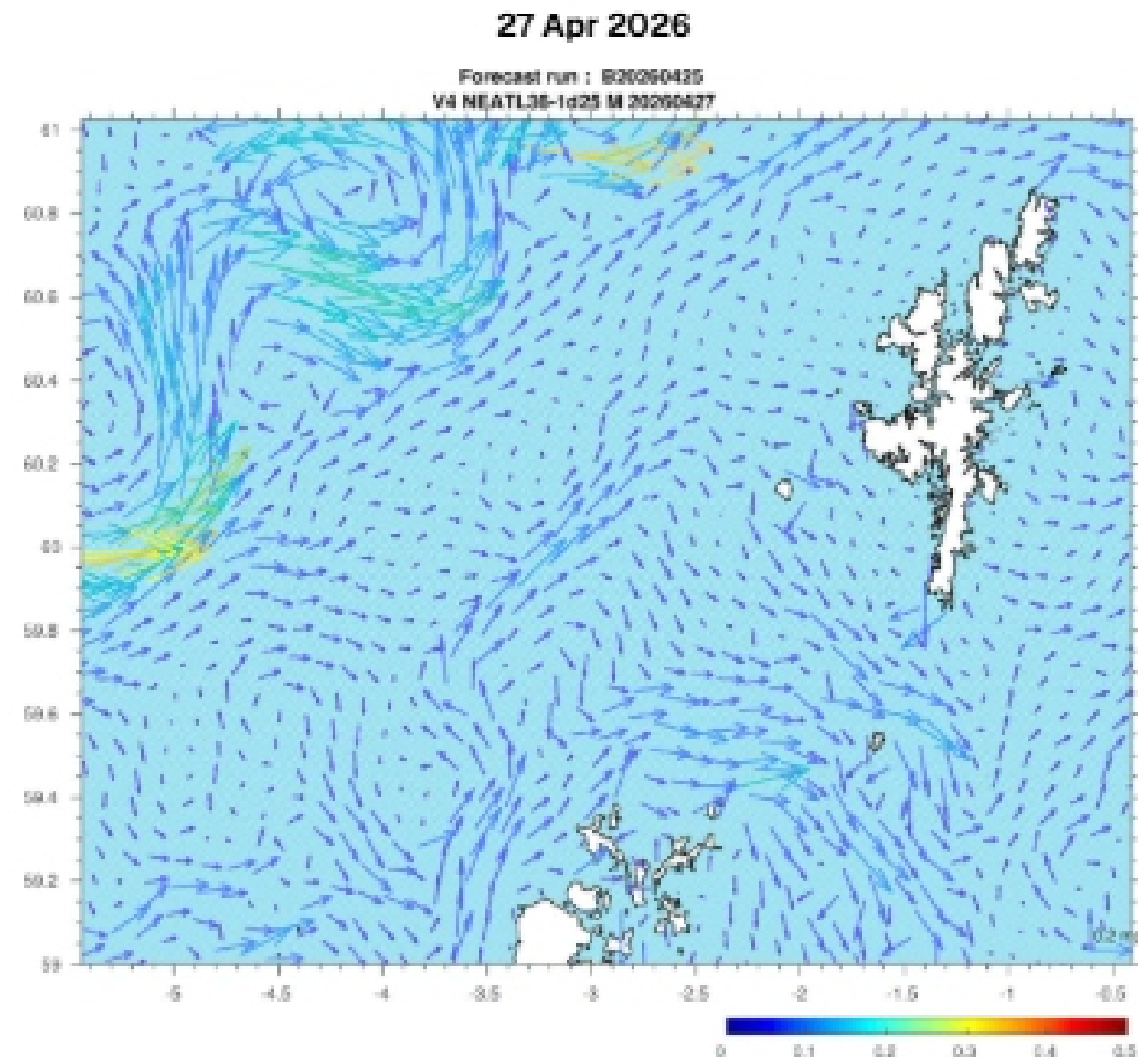
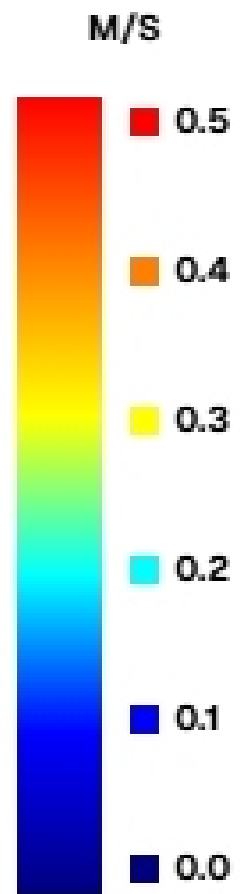
Why do we think this?

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 variable. It is very unlikely that there will be an advected bloom of *Dinophysis* in the coming week.

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FORECASTED SEA SURFACE CURRENTS

These diagrams show the predicted current directions around Shetland for the next couple of days. Greens to reds indicate stronger currents. In general strong currents run parallel to the deep water channel between the Faroes and Shetland. Problems can arise when these currents turn Eastwards potentially carrying *Dinophysis* and *Karenia mikimotoi* blooms, from the shelf edge, into shore.



Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 17, 20th - 26th April, 2026

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°C) IN PRECEDING 6 DAYS IN THE SHETLAND ISLANDS

22 Apr 2026

23 Apr 2026

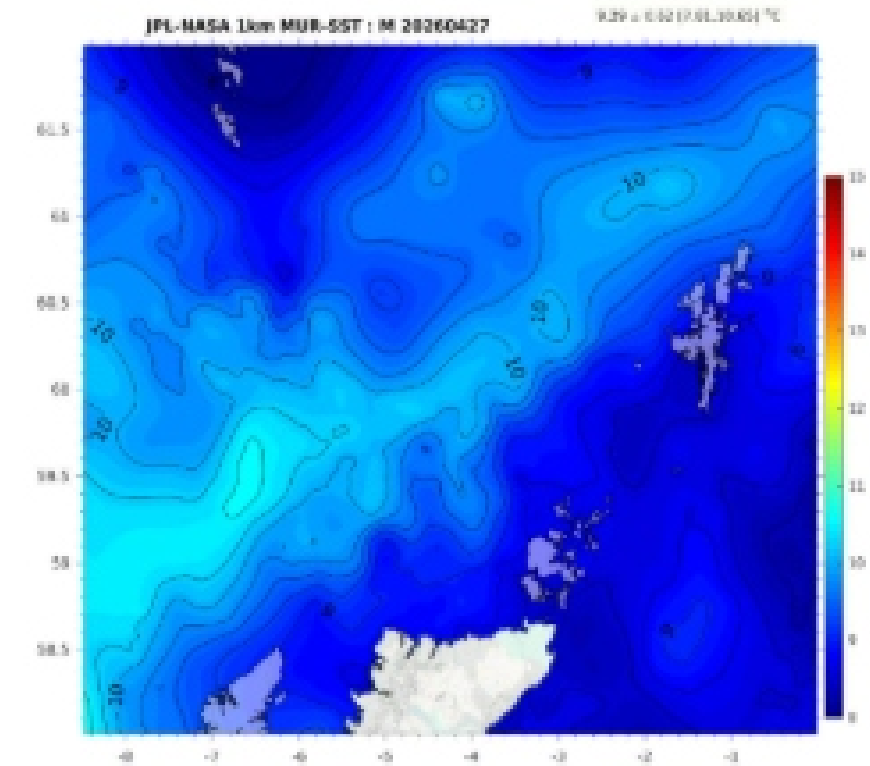
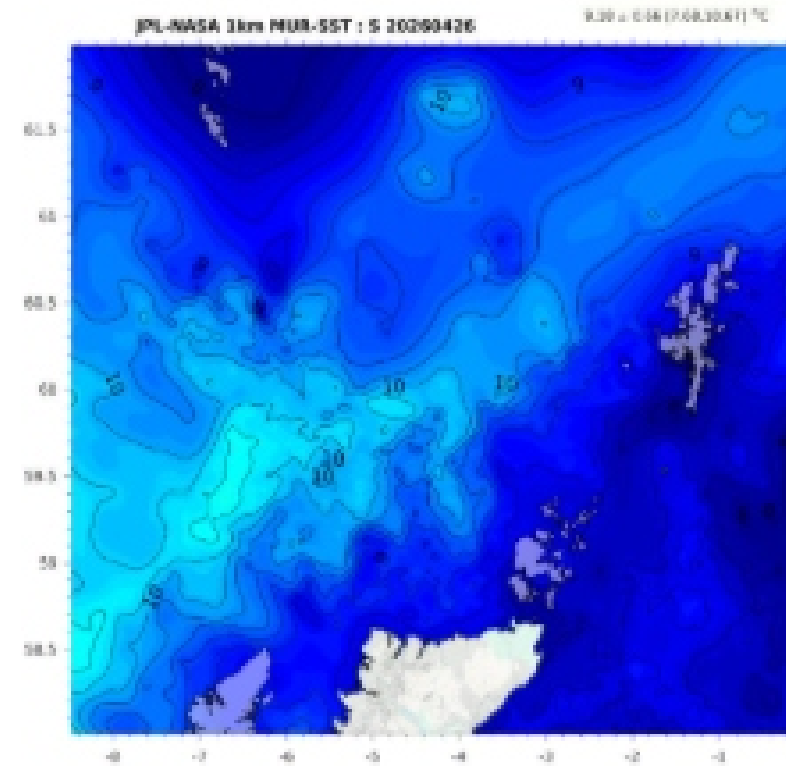
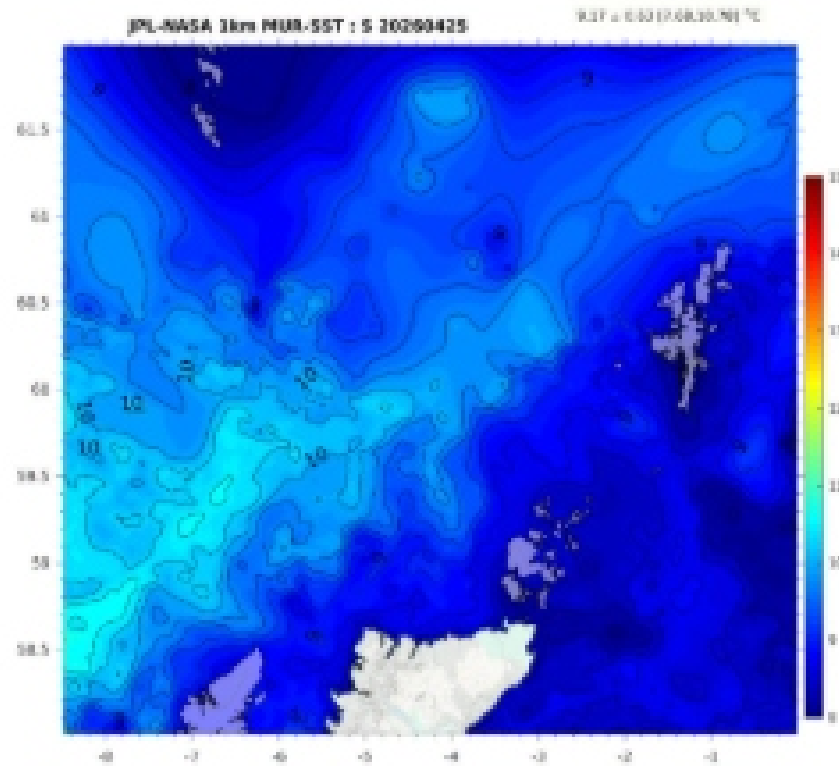
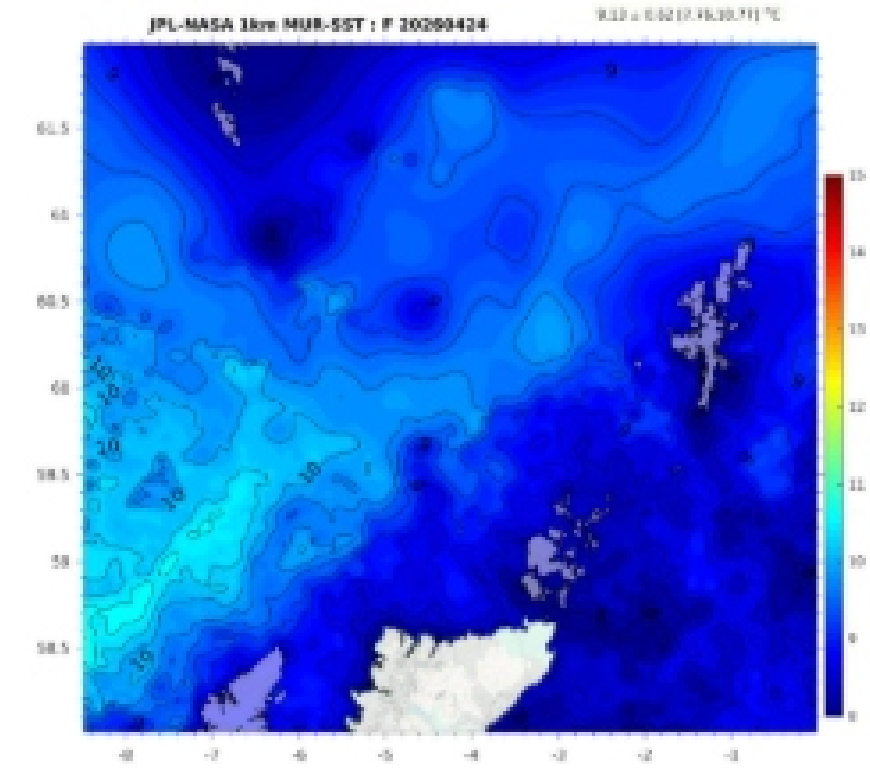
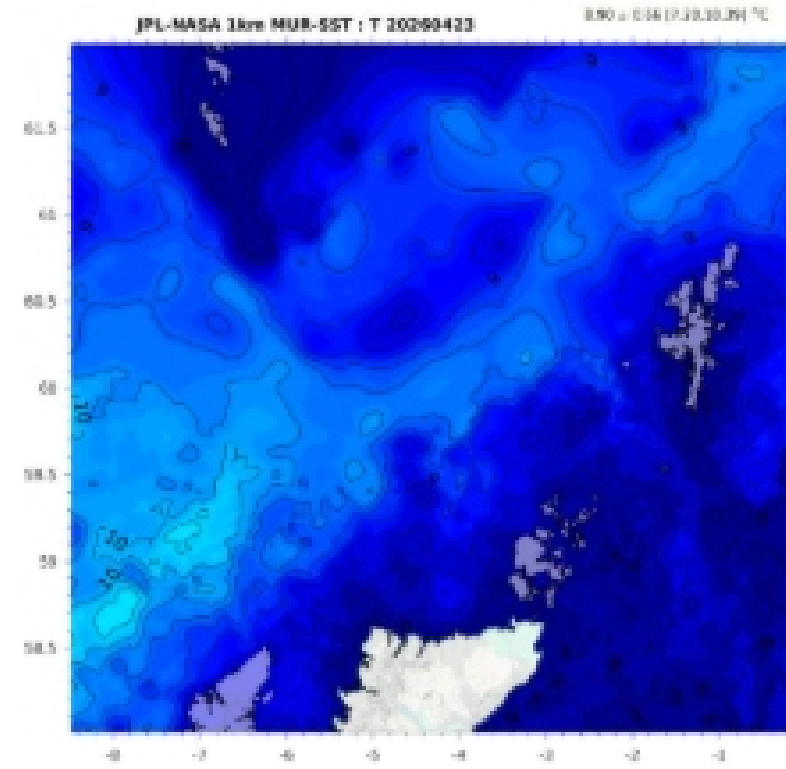
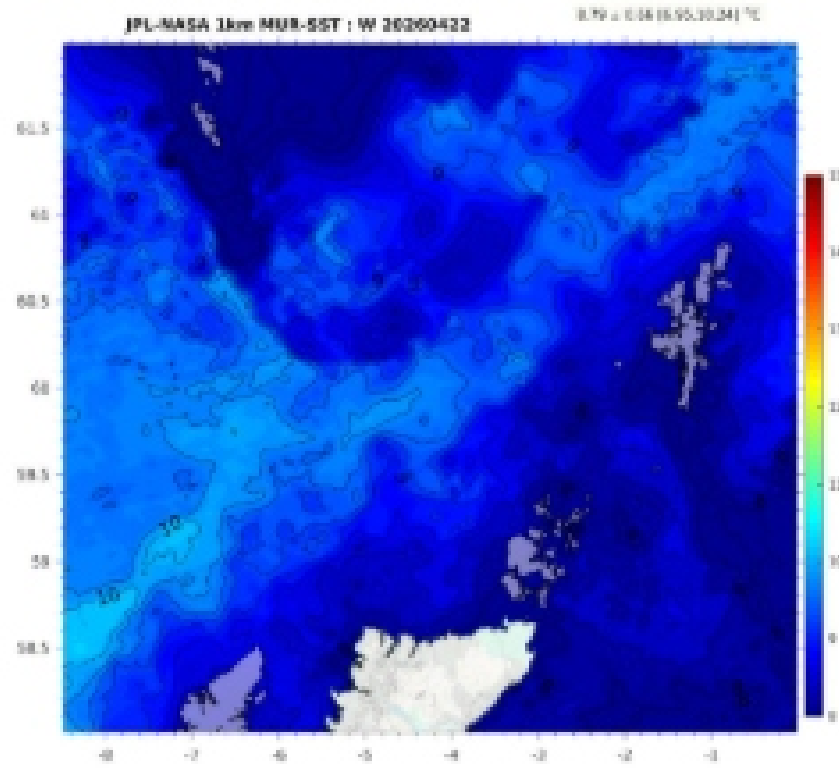
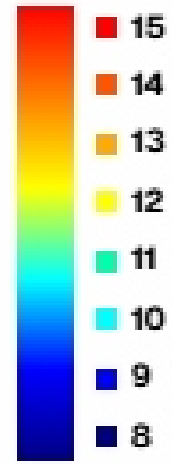
24 Apr 2026

25 Apr 2026

26 Apr 2026

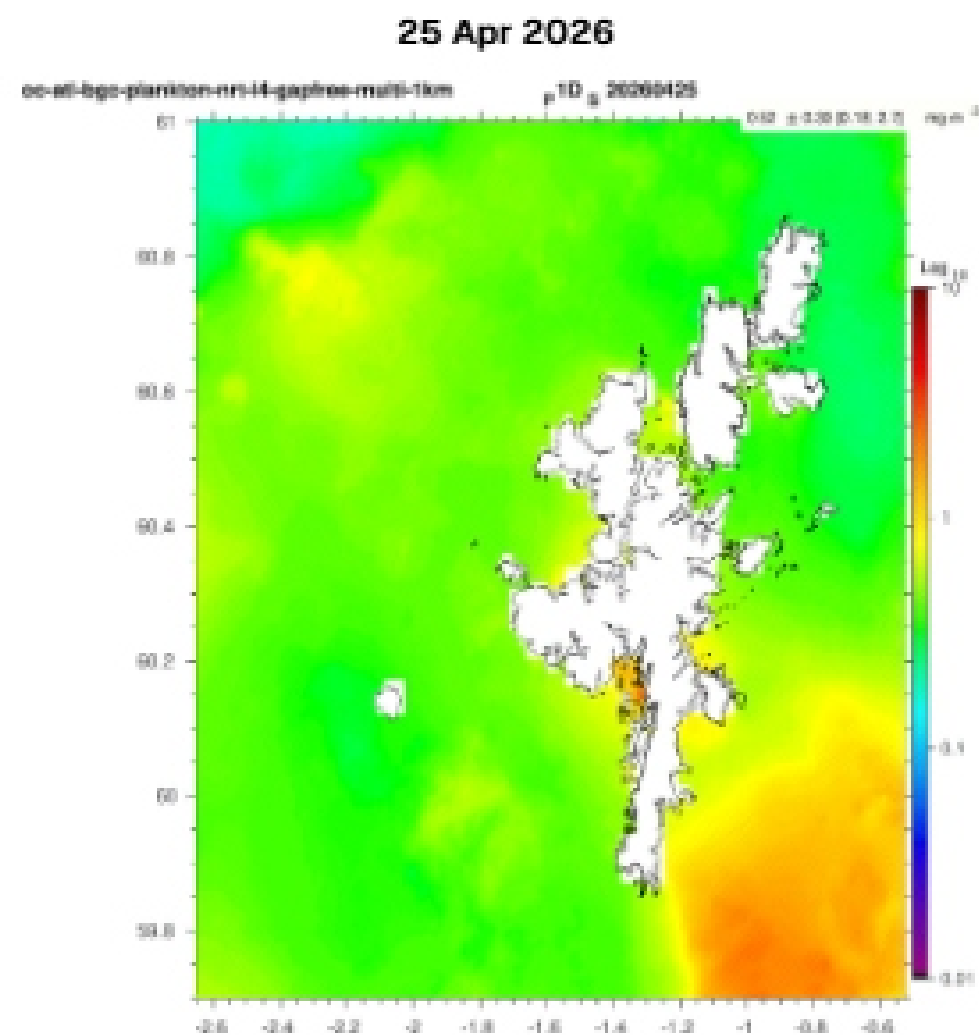
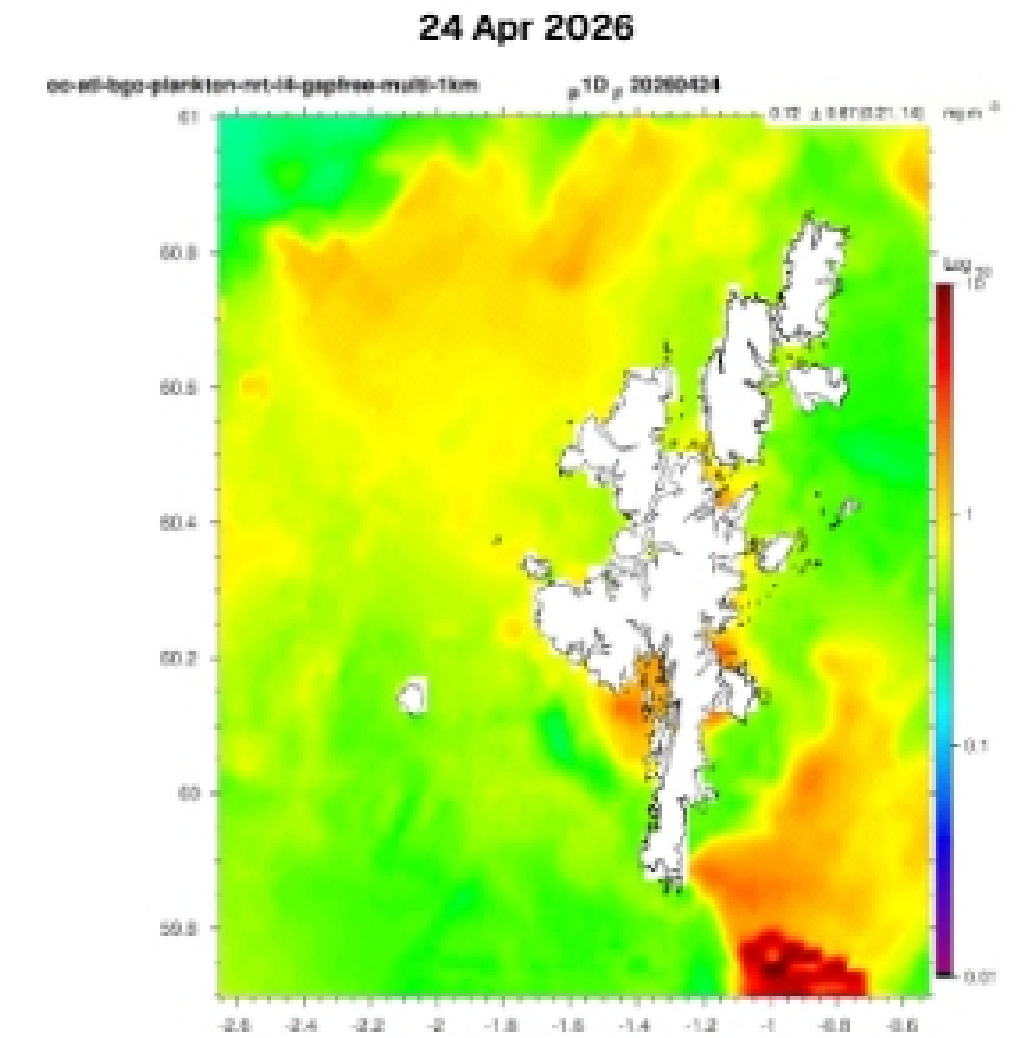
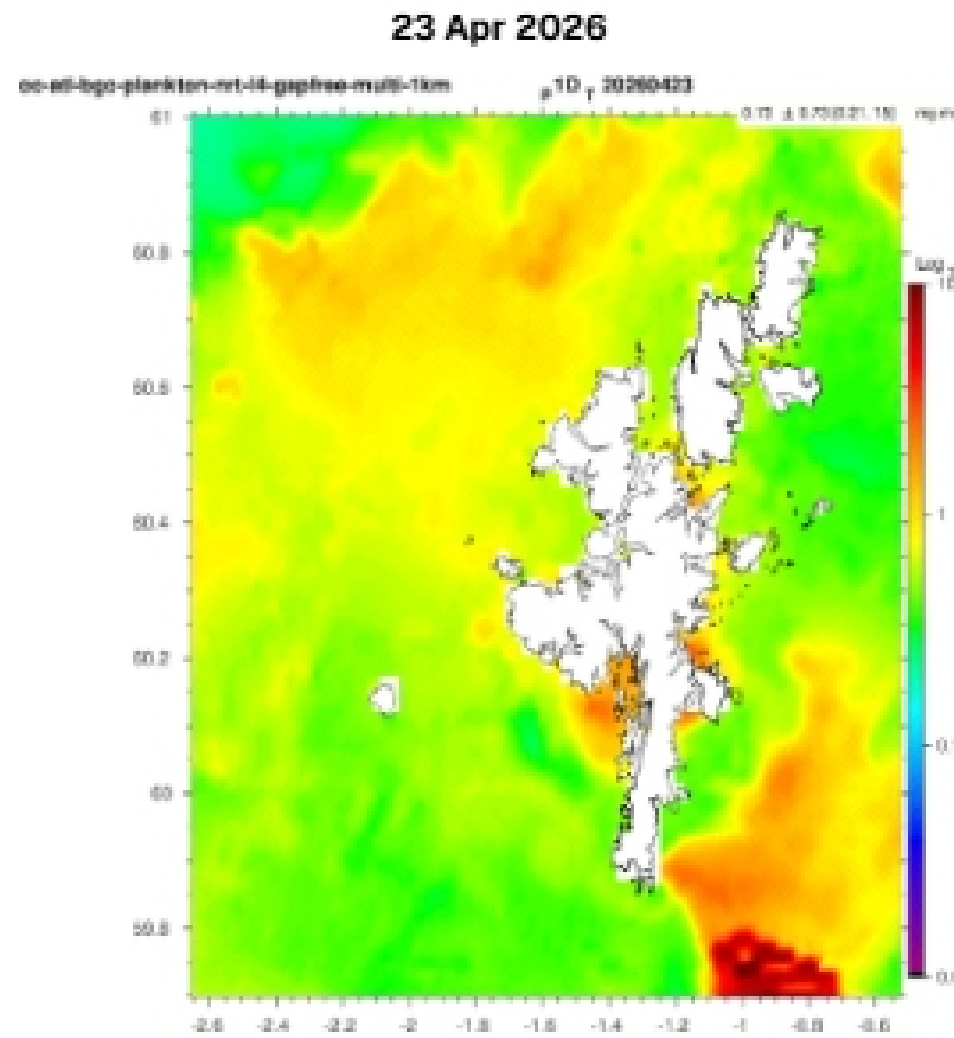
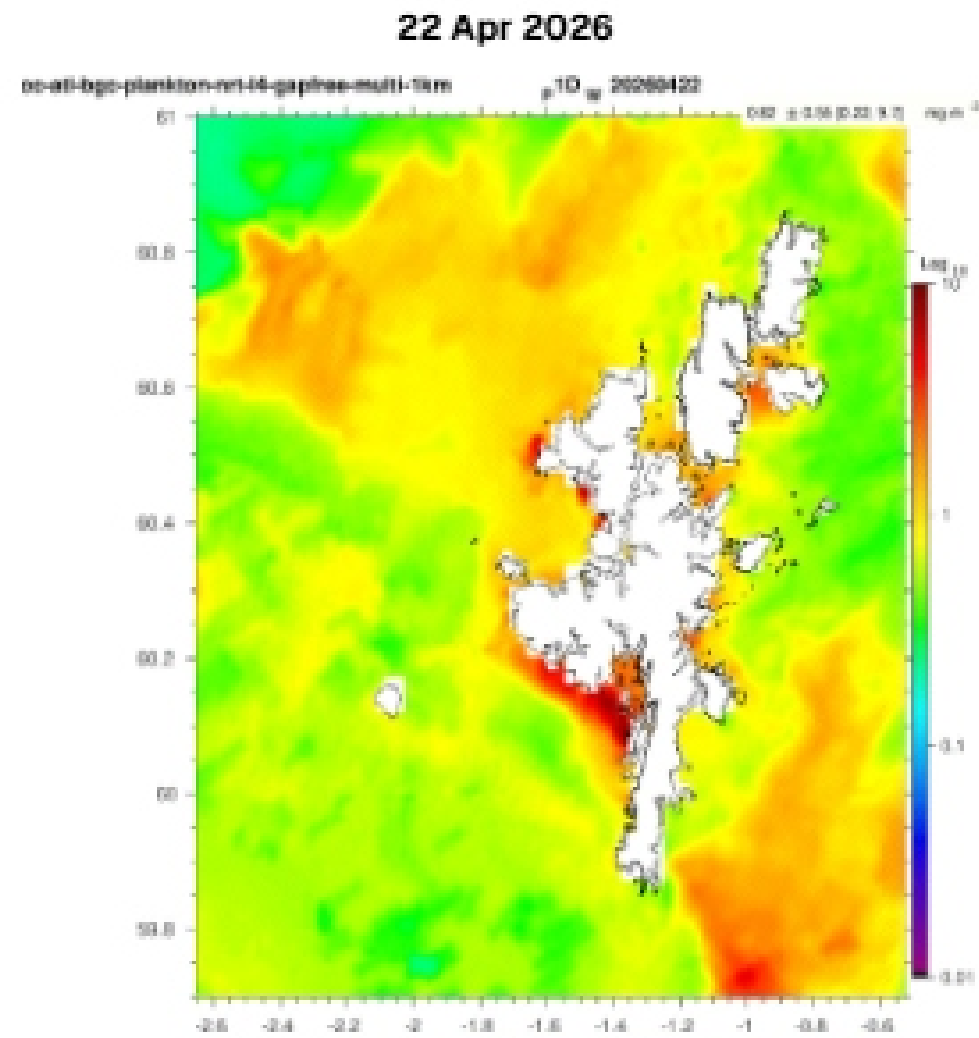
27 Apr 2026

TEMP °C

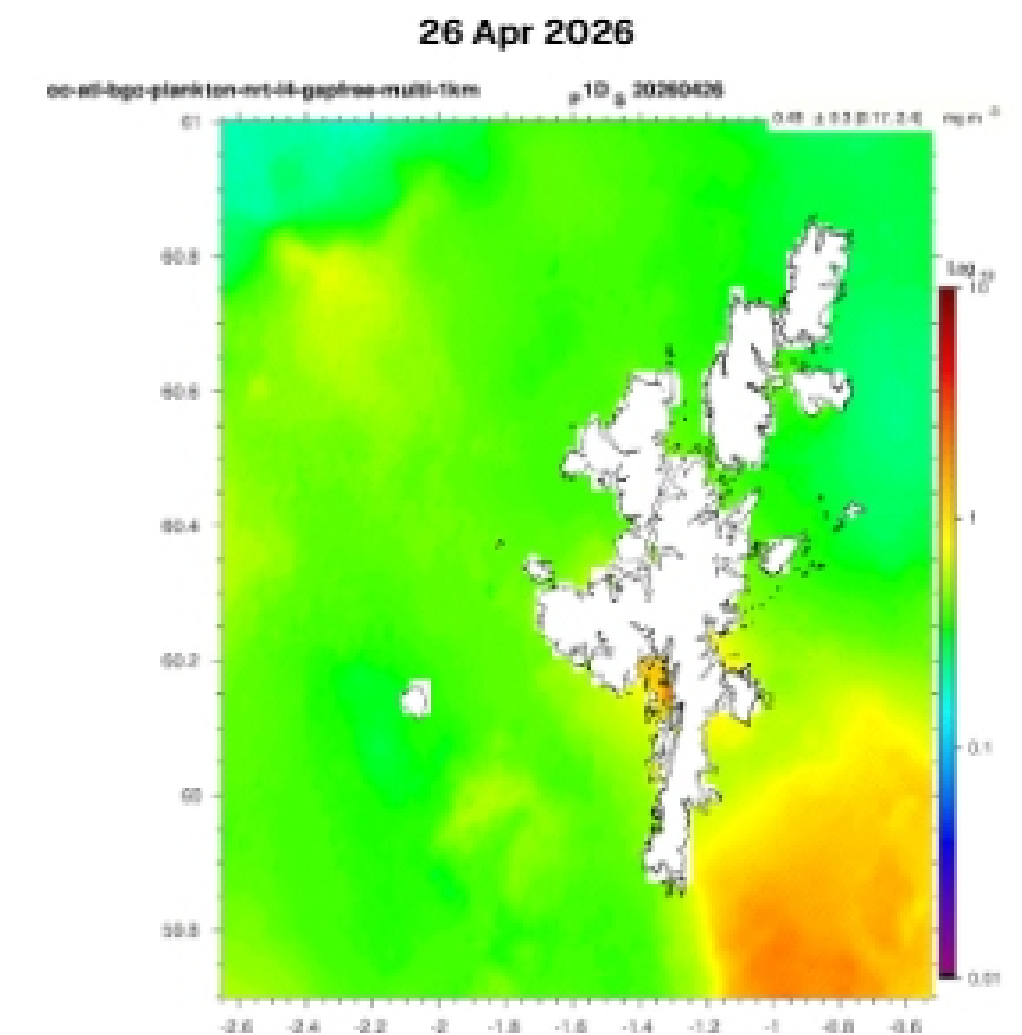


Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 17, 20th - 26th April, 2026

CHLOROPHYLL CONCENTRATIONS (MG/M³)



These diagrams show the mass concentration of chlorophyll-a around Shetland. Yellows to reds indicate higher concentrations. However it should be noted that turbidity and the presence of organic material deposited into near shore areas can give false positive readings making the concentrations appear much higher than in situ observations would indicate.



Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 17, 20th - 26th Apr 2026

Wind and rain forecast for next three days in Shetland

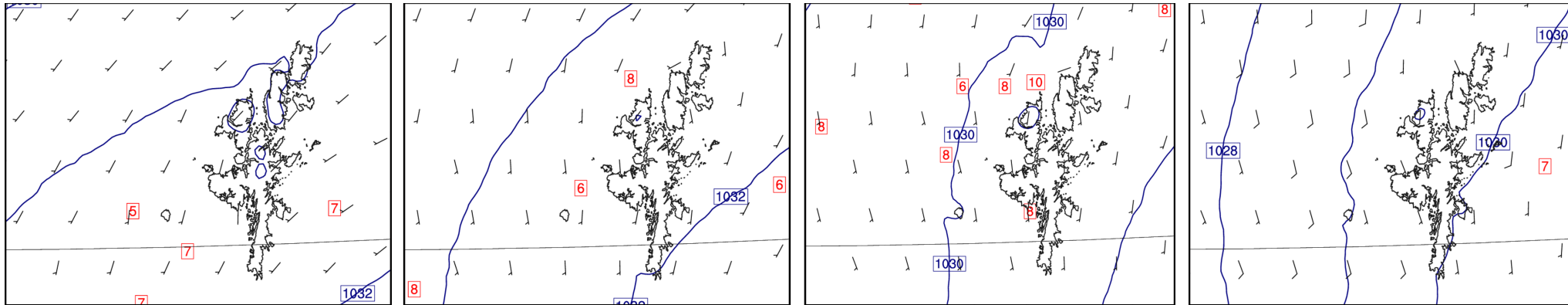
6 AM

12 Noon

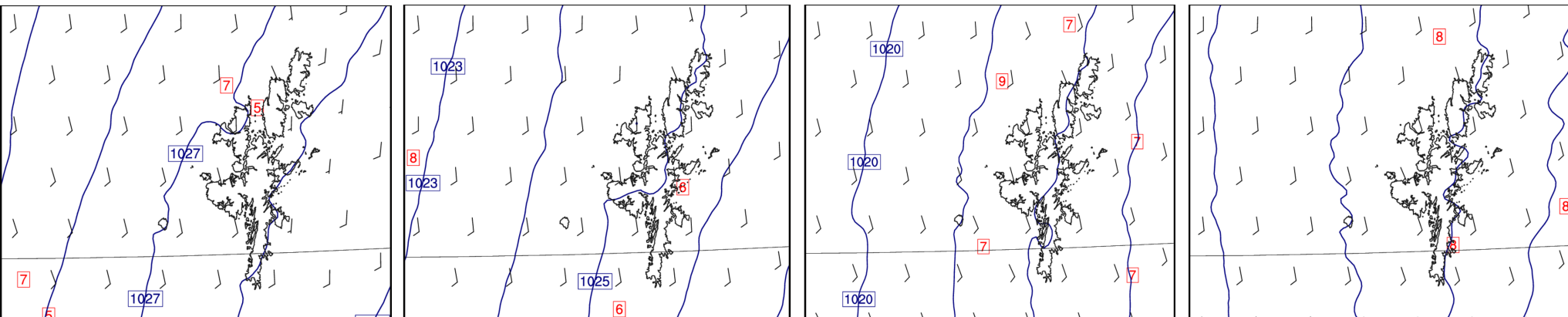
6 PM

12 PM

29 Apr



30 Apr



1 May

