

Biotoxin report:

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

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

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

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

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

Harmful algae report:

Alexandrium: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Alexandrium* was detected at warning level in Scarvar Ayre.

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 in low numbers in Scarvar Ayre, North Flotta, Seggi bight and Inner-site 1.

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

Pseudo-nitzschia seriata: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *P. seriata* was detected in low numbers in Baltasound, North Flotta and Inner-site 1.

Shetland: trends and forecast

Alexandrium/PSP: *Alexandrium* was detected in warning numbers at one site and toxins were not detected at any site. It is unlikely there will be a toxic bloom this week.

Dinophysis/DSP: *Dinophysis* was not detected and toxins were not detected at any site. 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 eleven sites. *P. seriata* was detected in low numbers in three 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 in low numbers in four sites. However, it is unlikely that there will be a toxic bloom this week.

Risk for PSP: Low

Risk for YTX: 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.



Seafood Shetland

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



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/algatoin/#.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

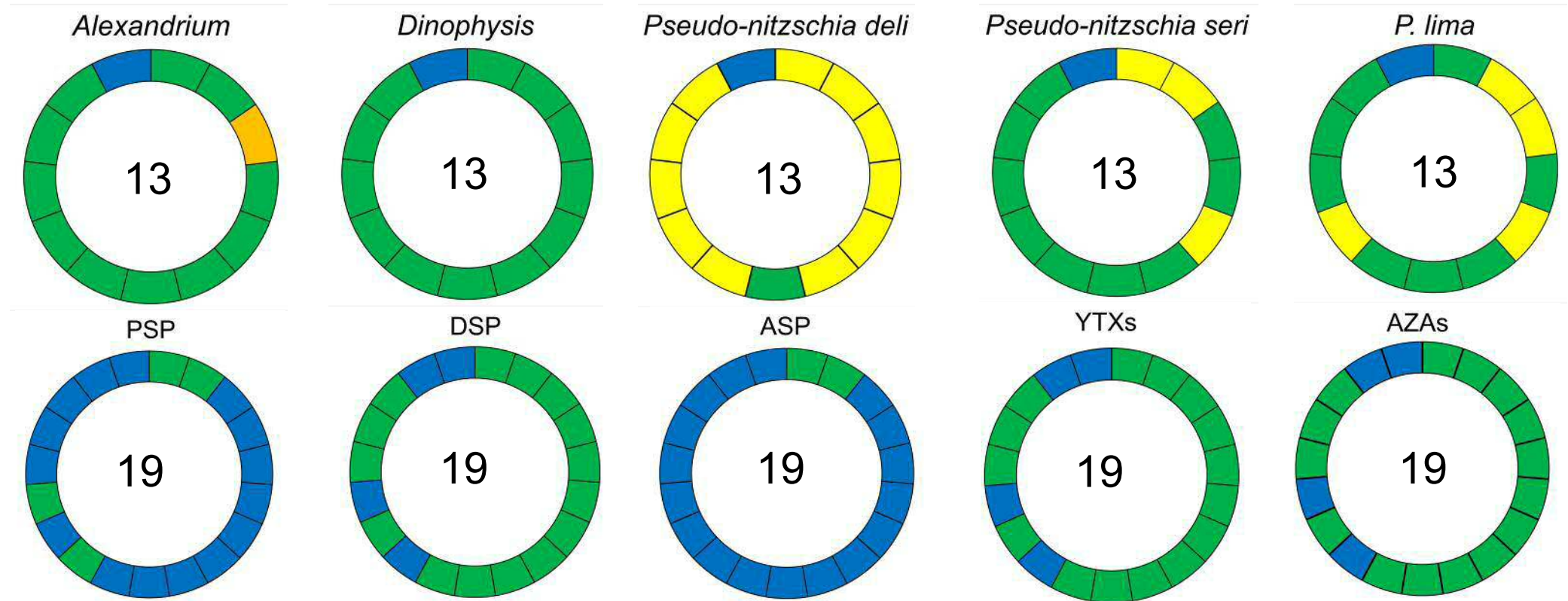
Lipophilic toxins (tested by LC-MS):

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

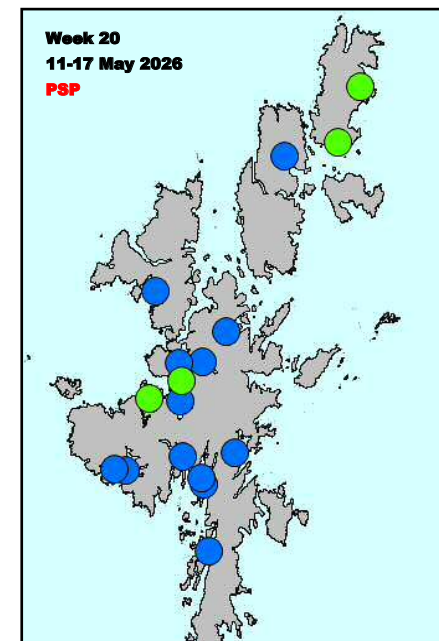
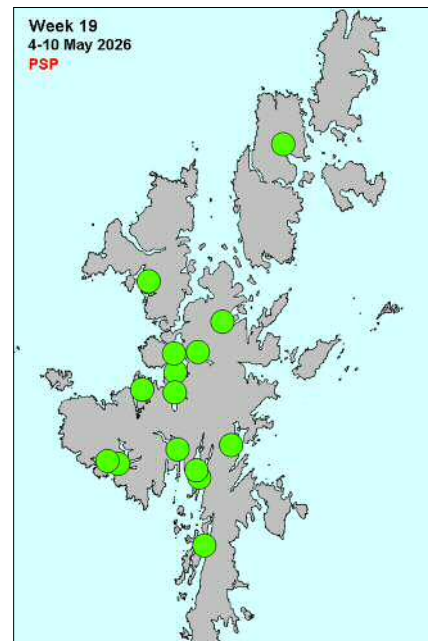
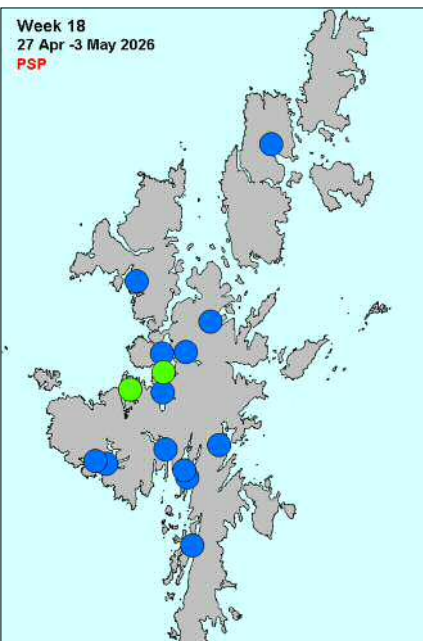
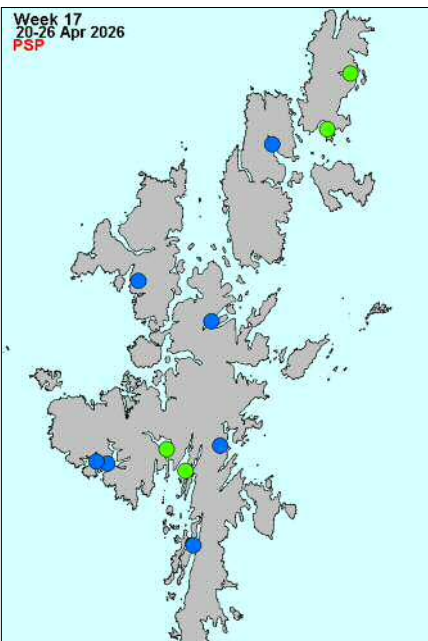
NOTE:
 This page is intended as a quick overview of the situation in the Shetland Islands. If the status for a particular species or biotoxin is amber or red please check the relevant pages in the bulletin for more details and specific locations.
 RL- reporting limit;
 LOQ – Limit of quantification

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 20, 11th - 17th May 2026

Paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton

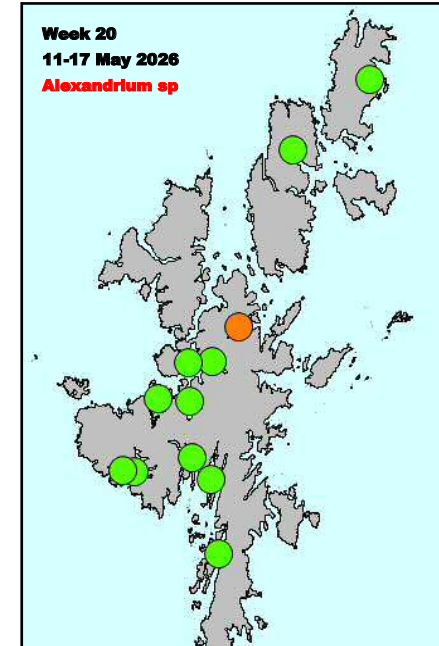
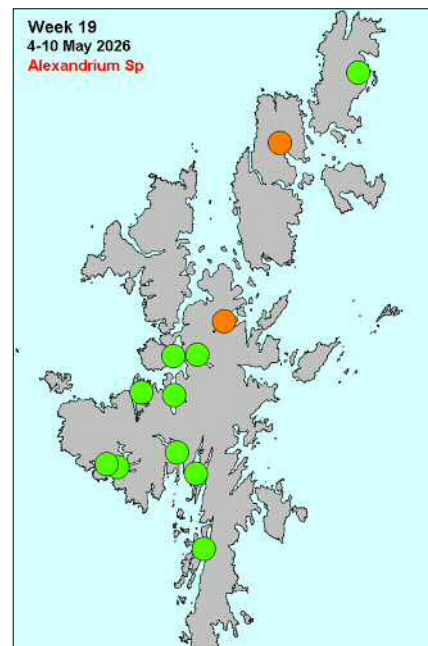
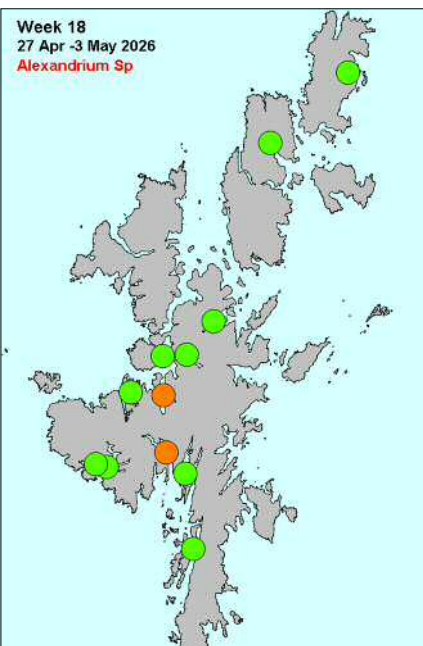
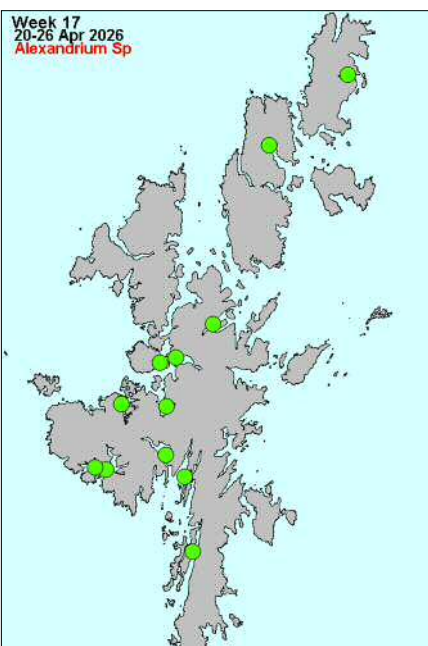
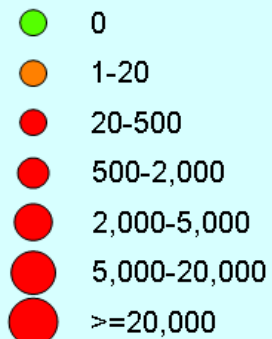
PSP

µg STX eq/kg



Alexandrium Sp.

cells/l

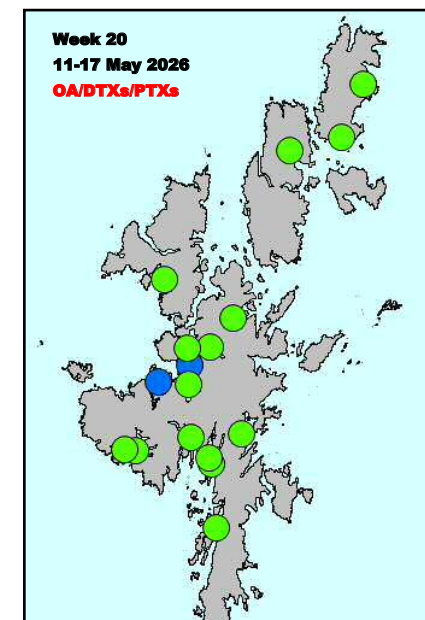
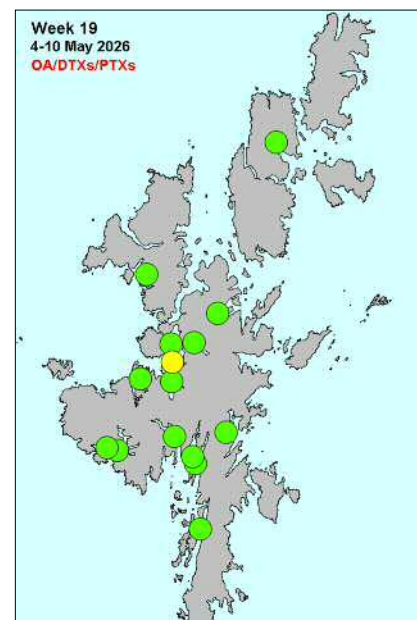
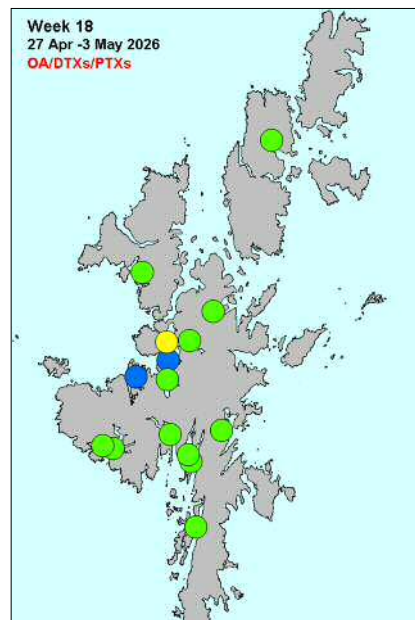
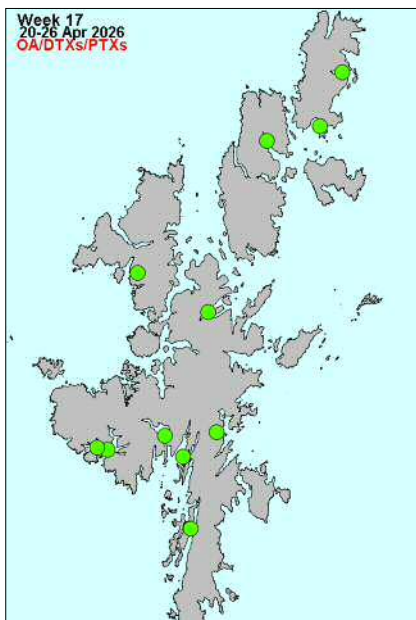
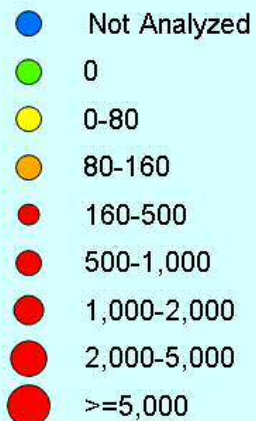


Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 20, 11th - 17th May 2026

Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton

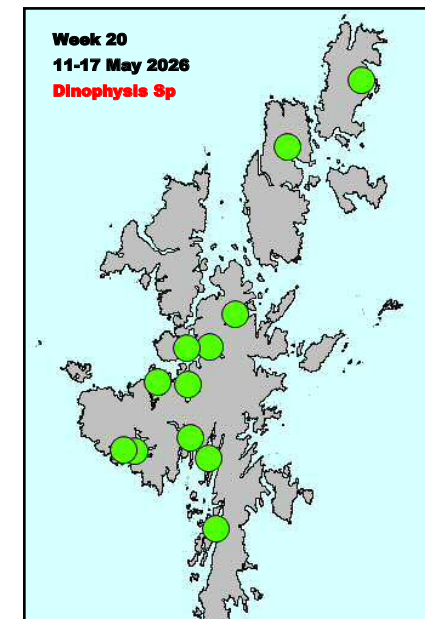
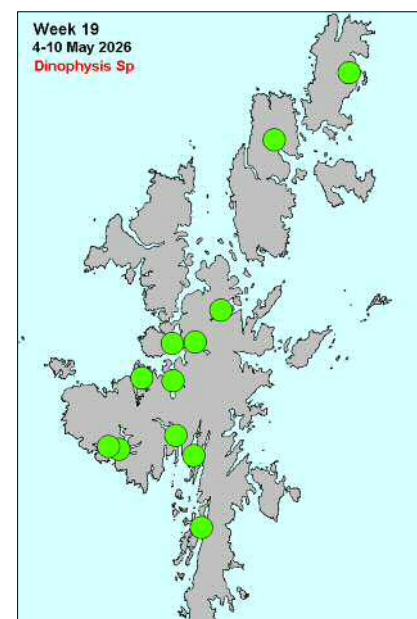
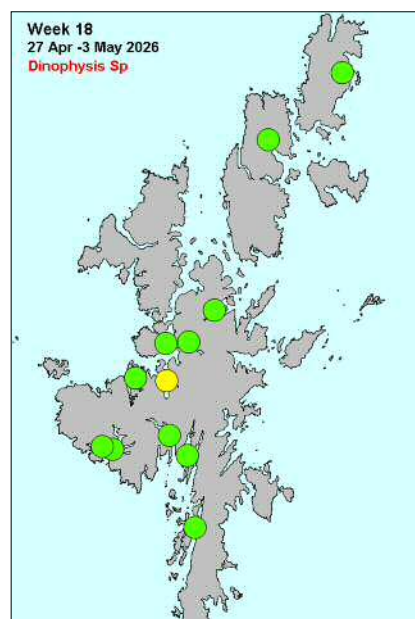
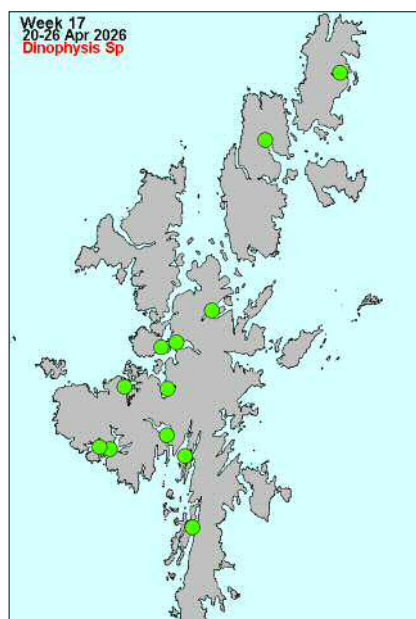
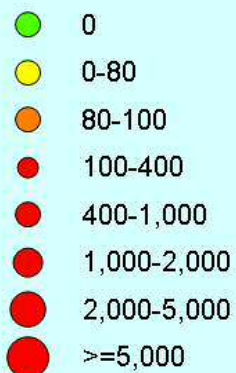
OA/DTXs/PTXs

µg OA eq/kg

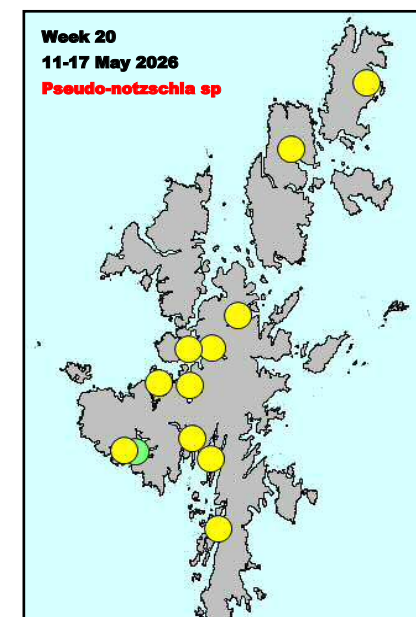
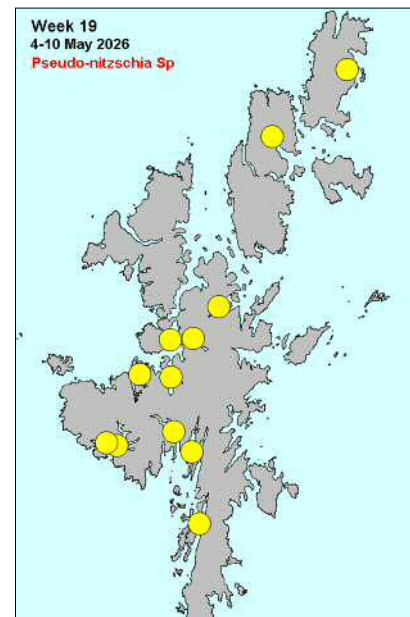
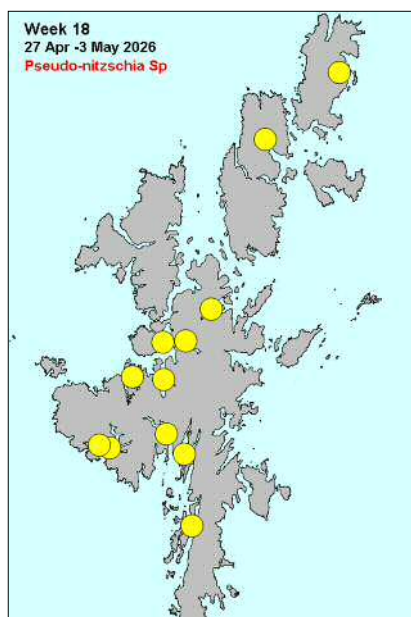
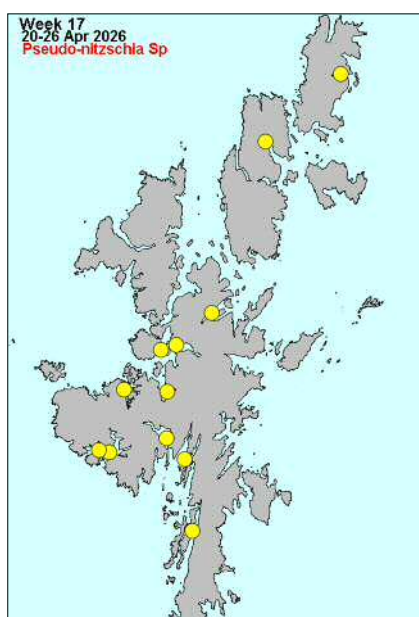
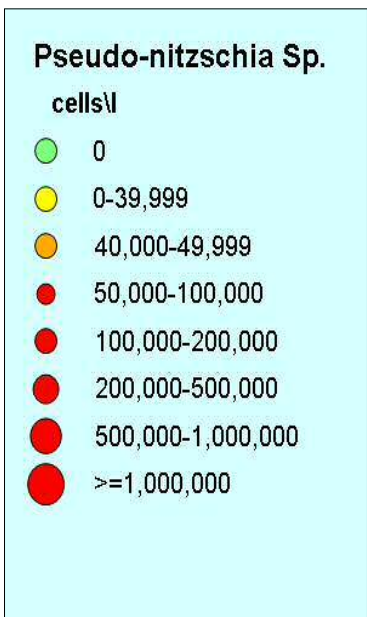
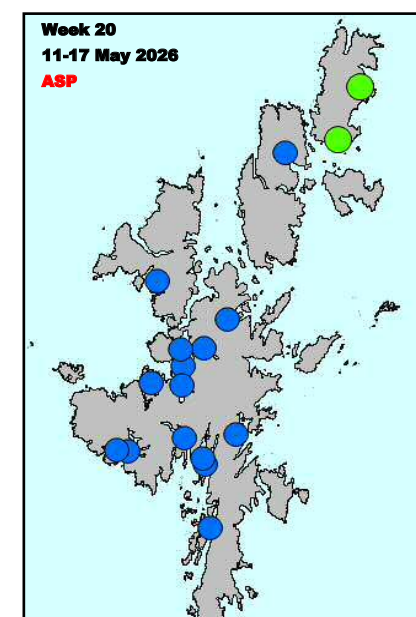
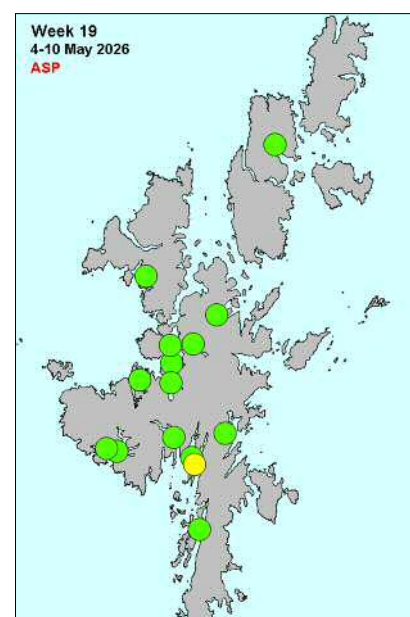
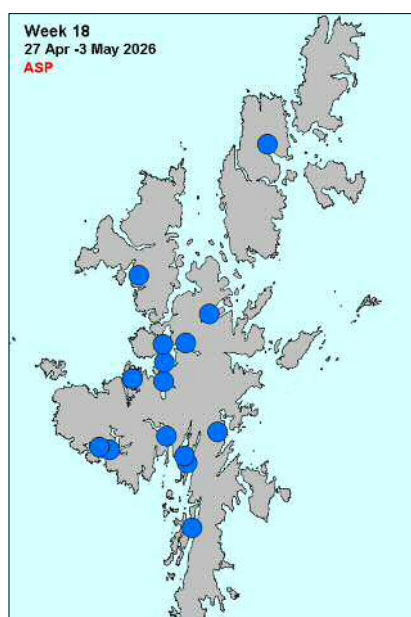
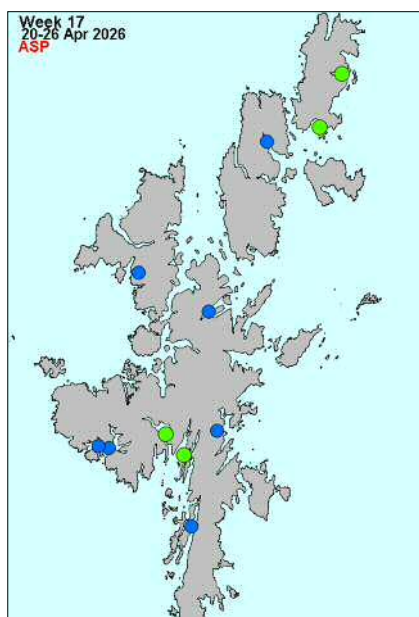
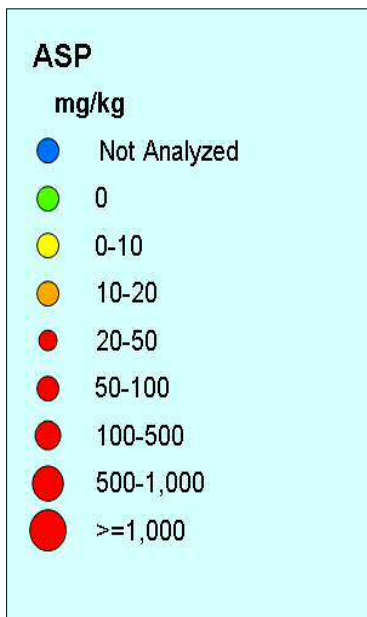


Dinophysis Sp.

cells/l



Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning & causative phytoplankton

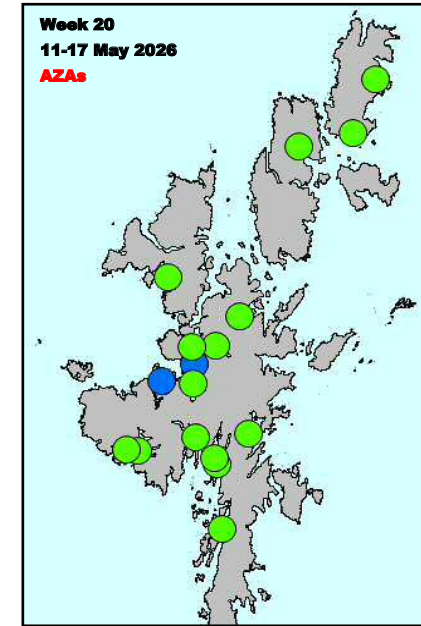
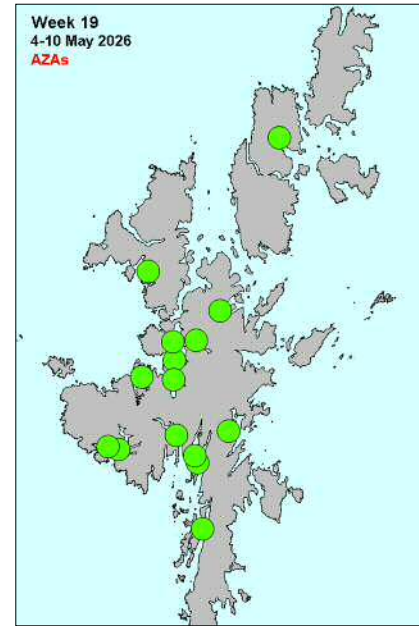
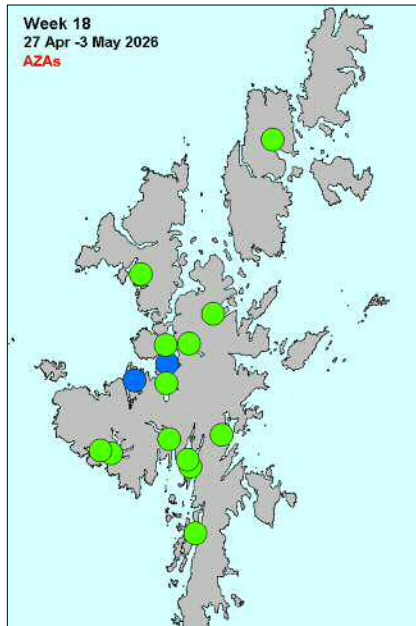
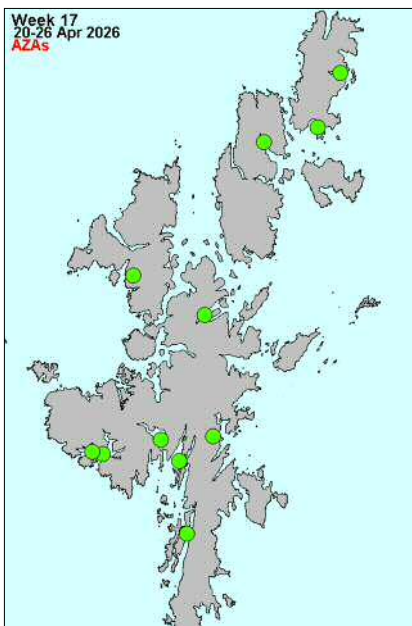


Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 20, 11th - 17th May 2026

Azaspiracid & Yessotoxin shellfish poisoning toxins

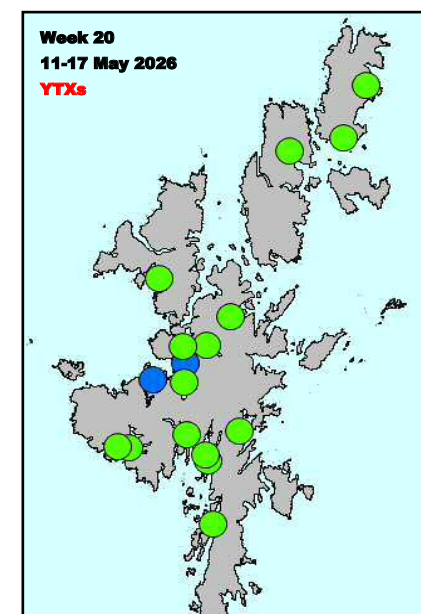
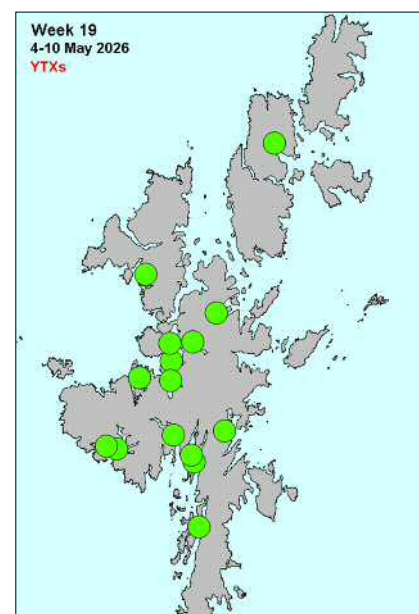
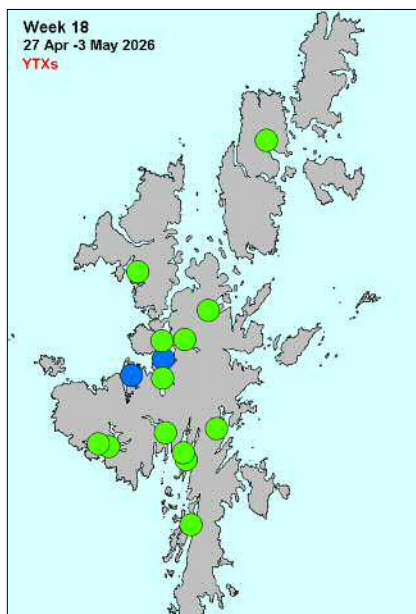
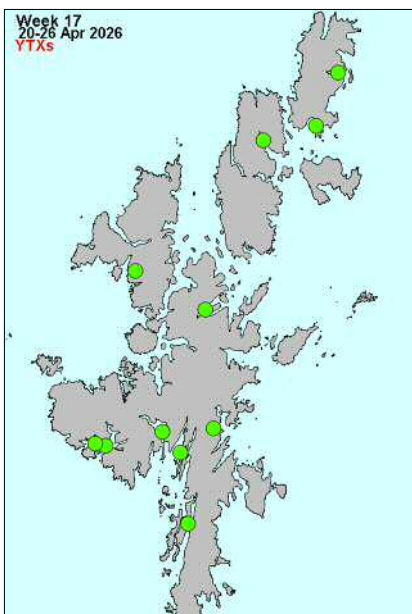
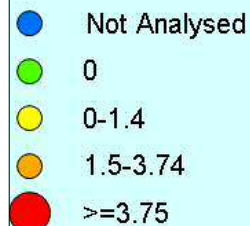
AZAs

µg AZA1 eq/kg

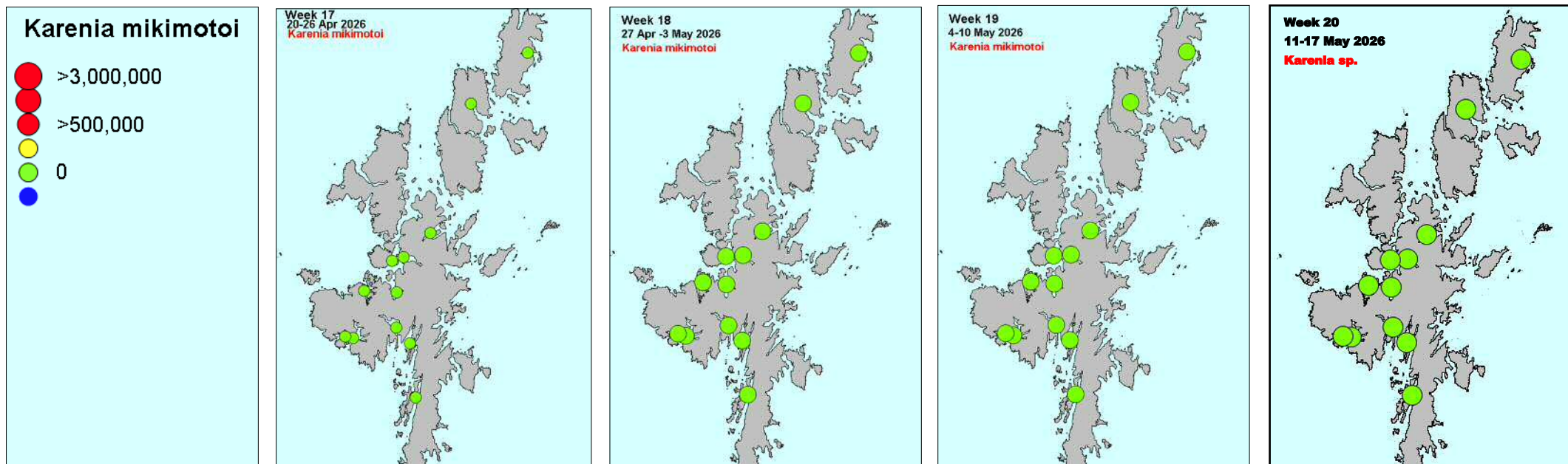


YTXs

mg YTX eq/kg



Karenia mikimotoi



Chain forming Phytoplankton

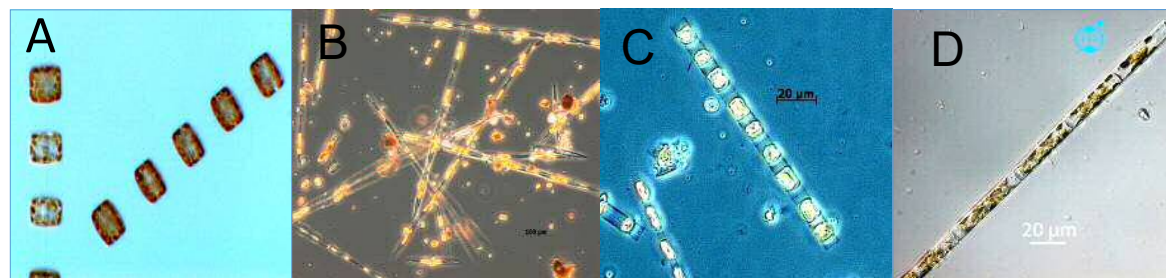
High densities of chain forming diatoms including, but not limited to the genus, *Chaetoceros*, *Skeletonema*, *Leptocylindrus*, *Rhizosolenia*, *Thalassiosira*, *Corethron* and *Pseudo-nitzschia*, the centric species *Coscinodiscus wailesii*, and species with long spines such as *Ceratium* (*Tripos*)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

Status

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

The IFCB at Cole Deep is detecting chains of *Thalassiosira* and *Guinardia sp.* The one at Scalloway is detecting *Guinardia sp.*, *Cheatoceous sp* and *Rhizosolenia sp.*

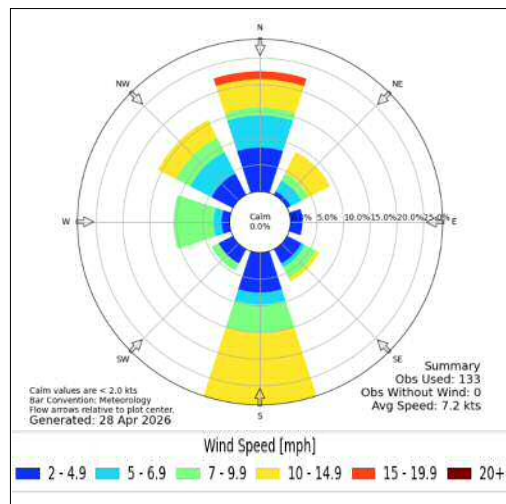
<https://www.habreports.org/ifcb-nafc.php>



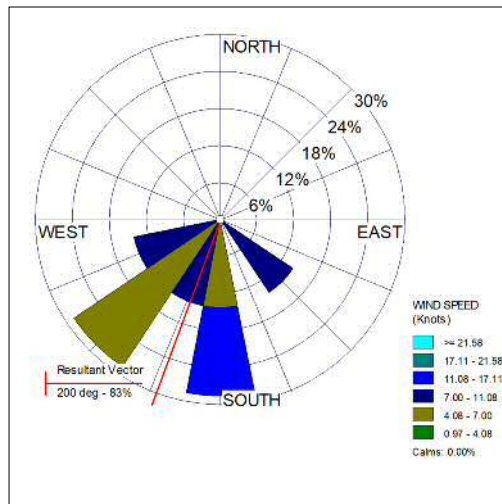
A - *Thalassiosira sp.*
 B - *Pseudo-nitzschia sp.*
 C - *Skeletonema sp.*
 D - *Leptocylindrus sp.*
 E - *Chaetoceros sp.*
 F - *Ceratium/Tripos sp.*

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

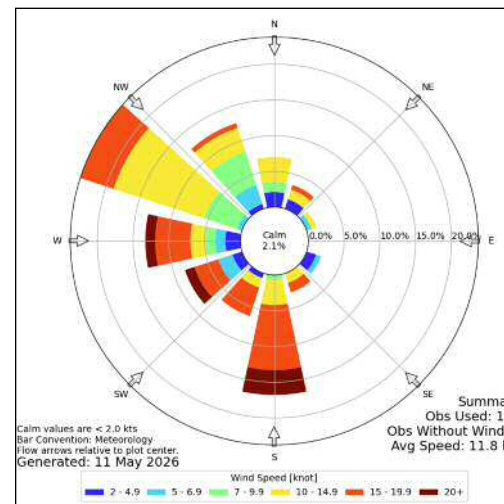
Week 17



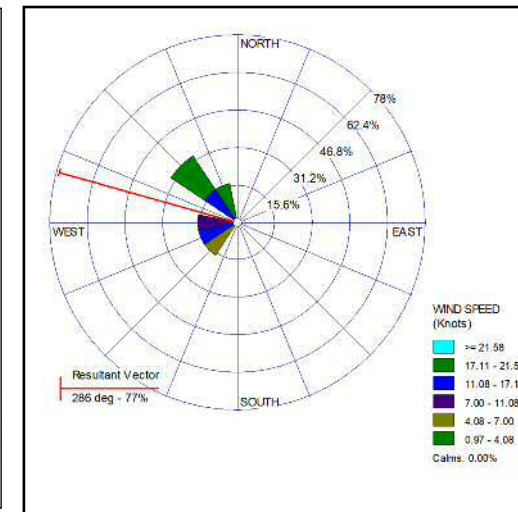
Week 18



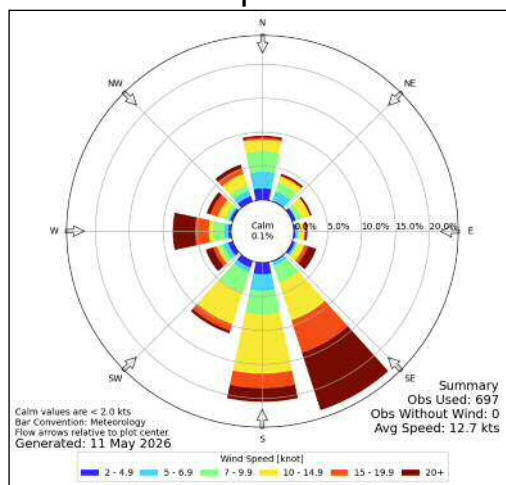
Week 19



Week 20



April



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 north west.

Predictions:

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

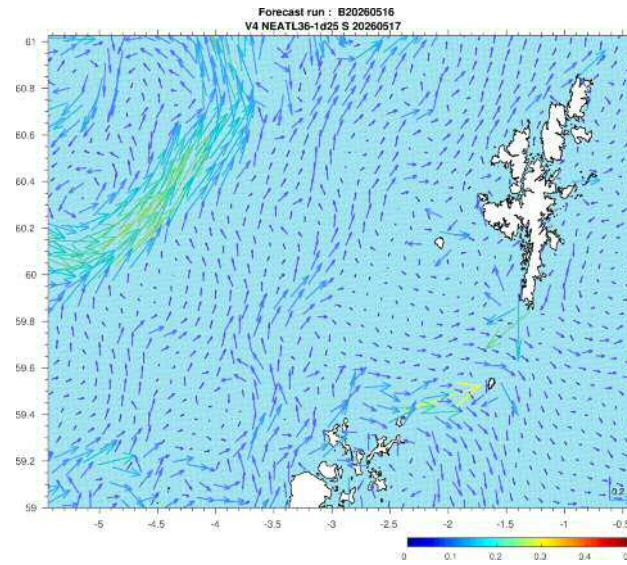
Why do we think this?

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 on average from the north west. It is unlikely that there will be an advected bloom of *Dinophysis* in the coming week.

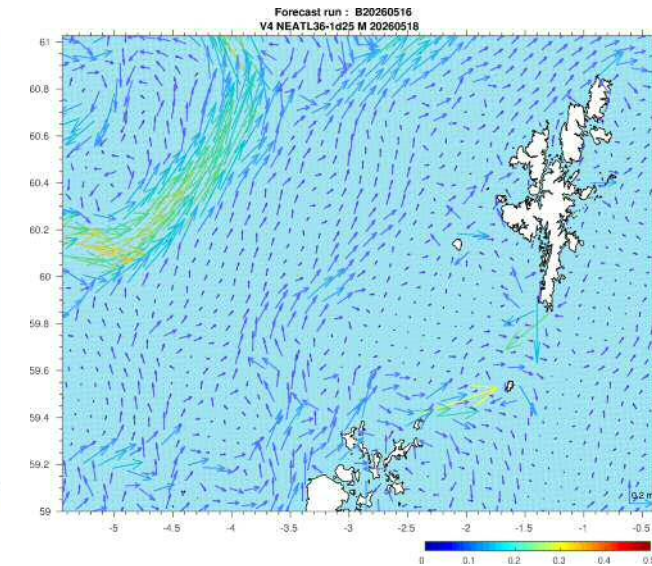
Forecasted Sea Surface currents

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.

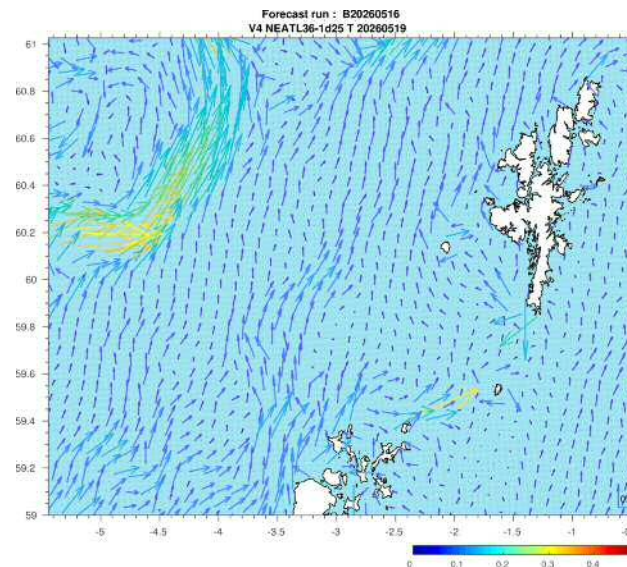
17 May 2026



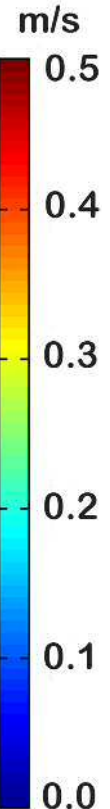
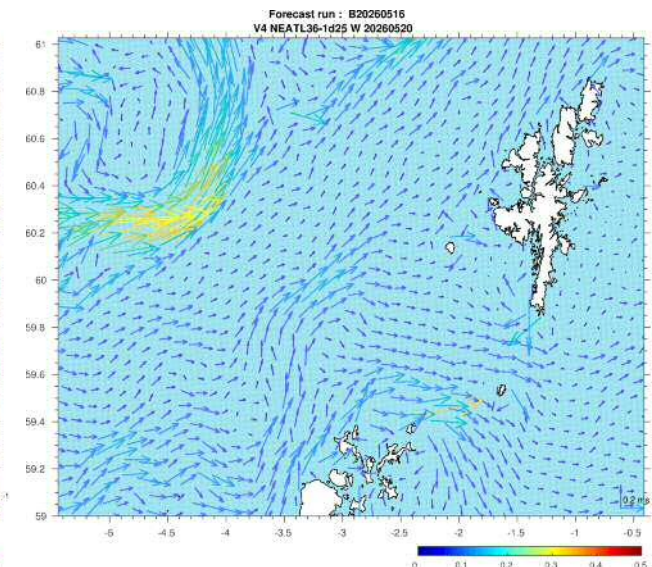
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19 May 2026



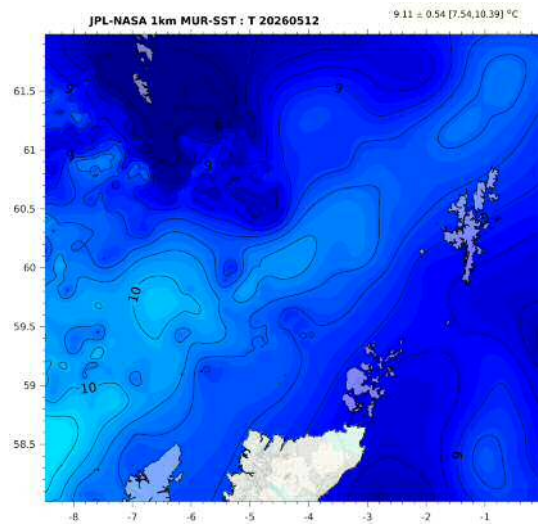
20 May 2026



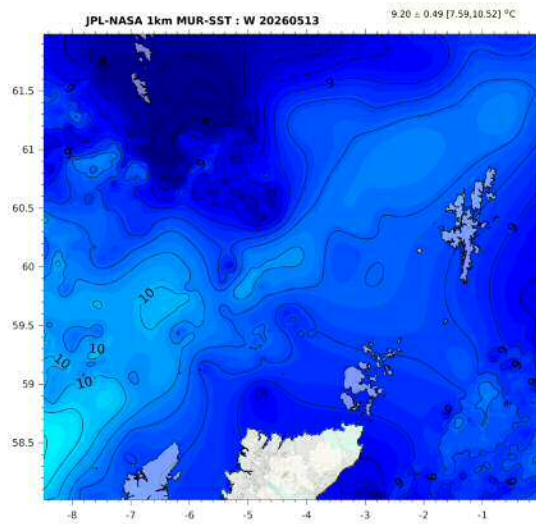
Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 20, 11th - 17th May 2026

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

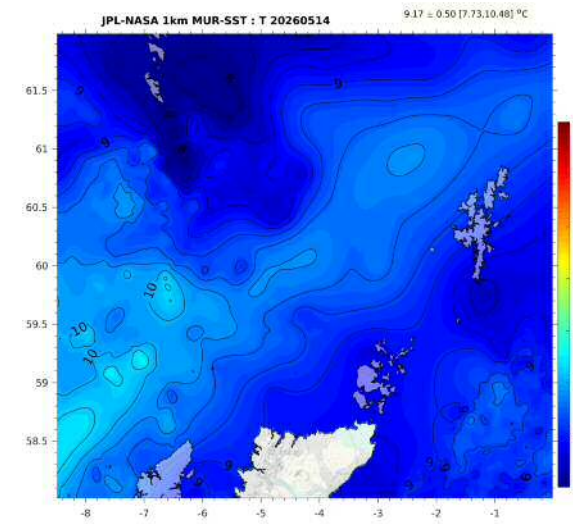
12 May 2026



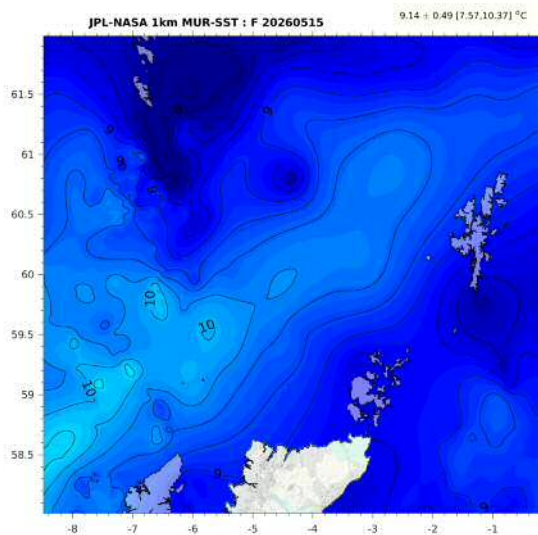
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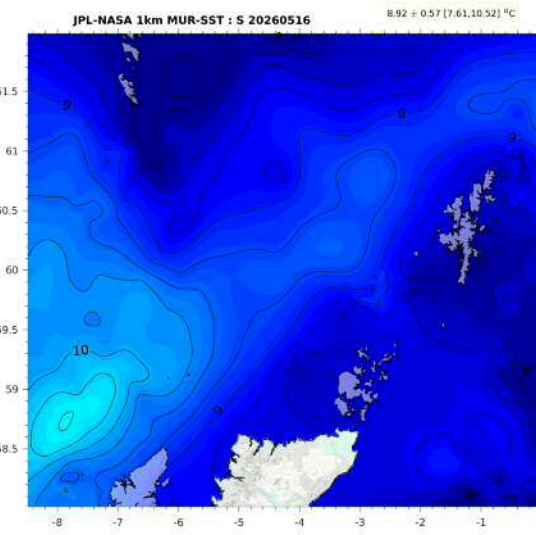
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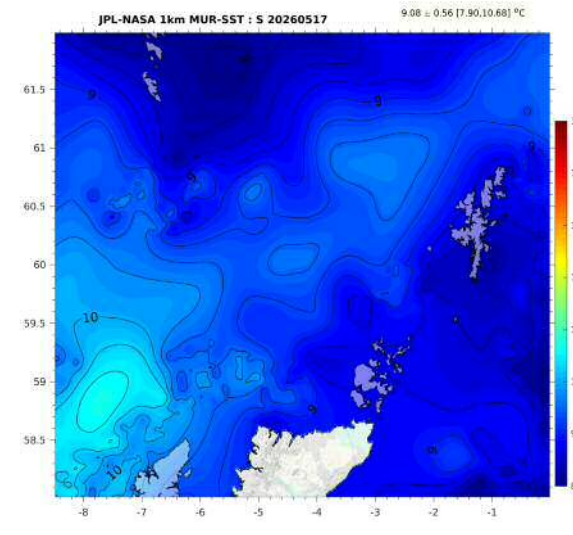
15 May 2026



16 May 2026



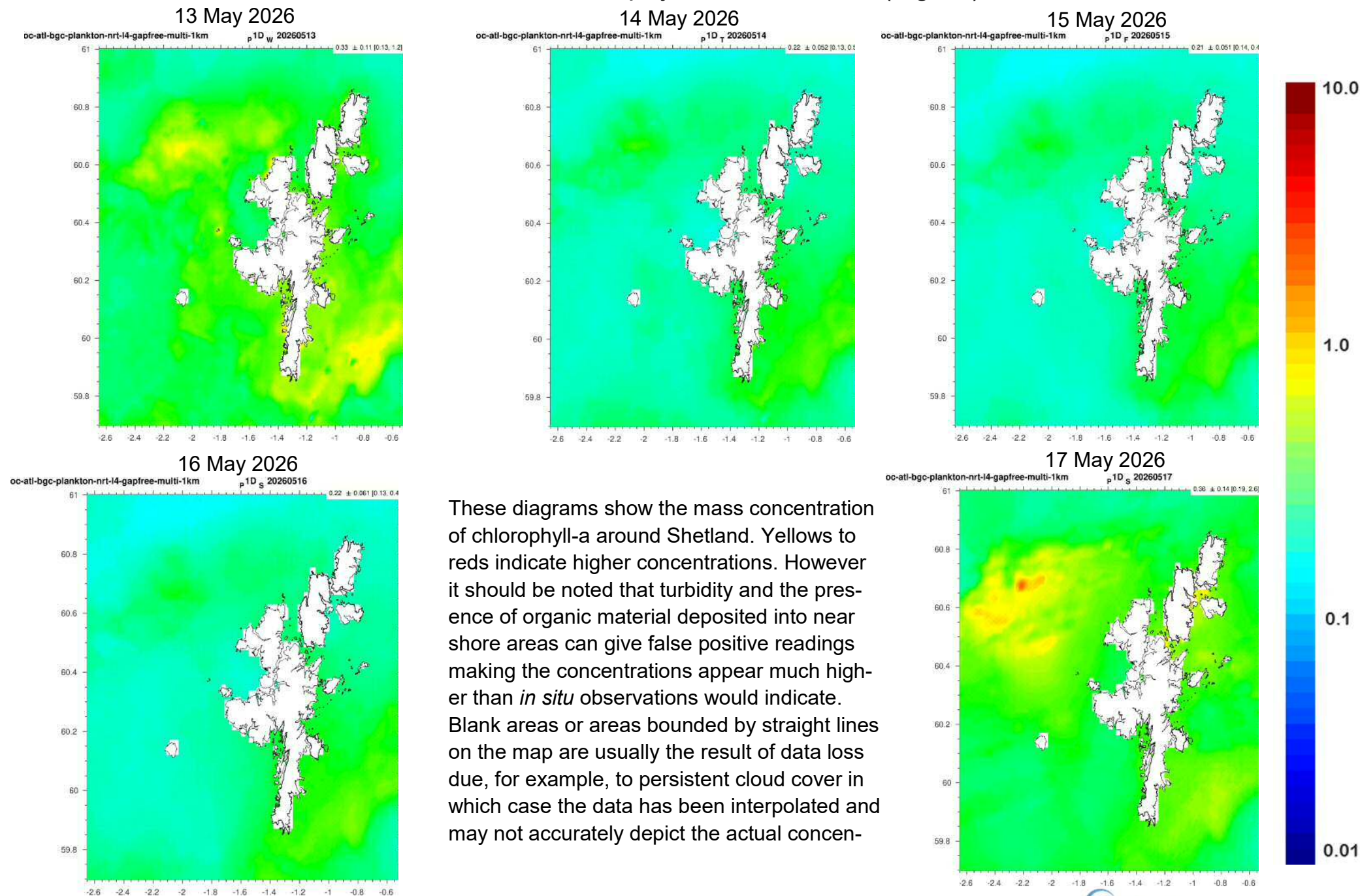
17 May 2026



Maps provided courtesy of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 20, 11th - 17th May 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. Blank areas or areas bounded by straight lines on the map are usually the result of data loss due, for example, to persistent cloud cover in which case the data has been interpolated and may not accurately depict the actual concen-