

Biotoxin report:

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

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

DSP toxins: Eighteen samples were analysed this week. Toxins were detected at warning concentrations in Braewick Voe and in low concentrations in Stream Sound, Scarvar Ayre, Cole Deep, East of Linga, Seggi Bight and Busta Voe Lee.

PSP toxins: Thirteen samples were analysed this week. Toxins were detected in low concentrations in Braewick Voe.

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

Harmful algae report:

Alexandrium: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Alexandrium* was detected above trigger levels in Scarvar Ayre and Inner-Site-1, and at warning level in Stream Sound and Sandsound Voe.

Dinophysis: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Dinophysis* was detected above trigger level in Scarvar Ayre and Parkgate, at warning levels in Busta Voe Lee, and in low numbers in Stream Sound, Braewick Voe, East of Linga, North Flotta, Seggi Bight, Inner-Site-1 and Slyde.

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

Prorocentrum lima: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *P. lima* was detected above trigger level in Scarvar Ayre and Inner-Site-1, at warning level in East of Linga, and in low numbers in Baltasound, Braewick Voe, Sandsound Voe, North Flotta and Seggi Bight.

Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *P. delicatissima* was found in low numbers in all sites except Inner-Site-1.

Pseudo-nitzschia seriata: Twelve samples were analysed this week. *P. seriata* was detected above trigger level in Stream Sound, at warning level in East of Linga, and in low numbers in all other sites except for Baltasound Mussels and Inner-Site-1.

Shetland: trends and forecast

Alexandrium/PSP: *Alexandrium* was detected above trigger level in two sites and at warning level in two sites. Toxins were detected in low concentrations in one site. However, numbers were low and it is unlikely there will be a toxic bloom this week.

Dinophysis/DSP: *Dinophysis* was detected at trigger level in two sites, at warning levels in one and in low numbers at seven sites. Toxins were detected at warning levels in one site and in low concentrations in six. Care should be taken.

Pseudo-nitzschia/ASP: *P. delicatissima* was detected in low numbers in eleven sites. *P. seriata* was detected above trigger in one site, at warning level in one site and in low numbers in eight sites. Numbers were relatively low with the exception of Stream Sound, and toxins were not detected. It is 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 level in two sites, at warning level in one and at low numbers in five. This is a benthic species and numbers are low, with the exception of Inner-Site-1 so we don't generally think there will be a toxic bloom this week.

Risk for **PSP:** Low Risk for **YTX:** Low

Risk for **DSP:** High Risk for **AZA:** Low

Risk for **ASP:** Low/Med

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



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/algatoxin/#.UY0TkcgTQ6O>

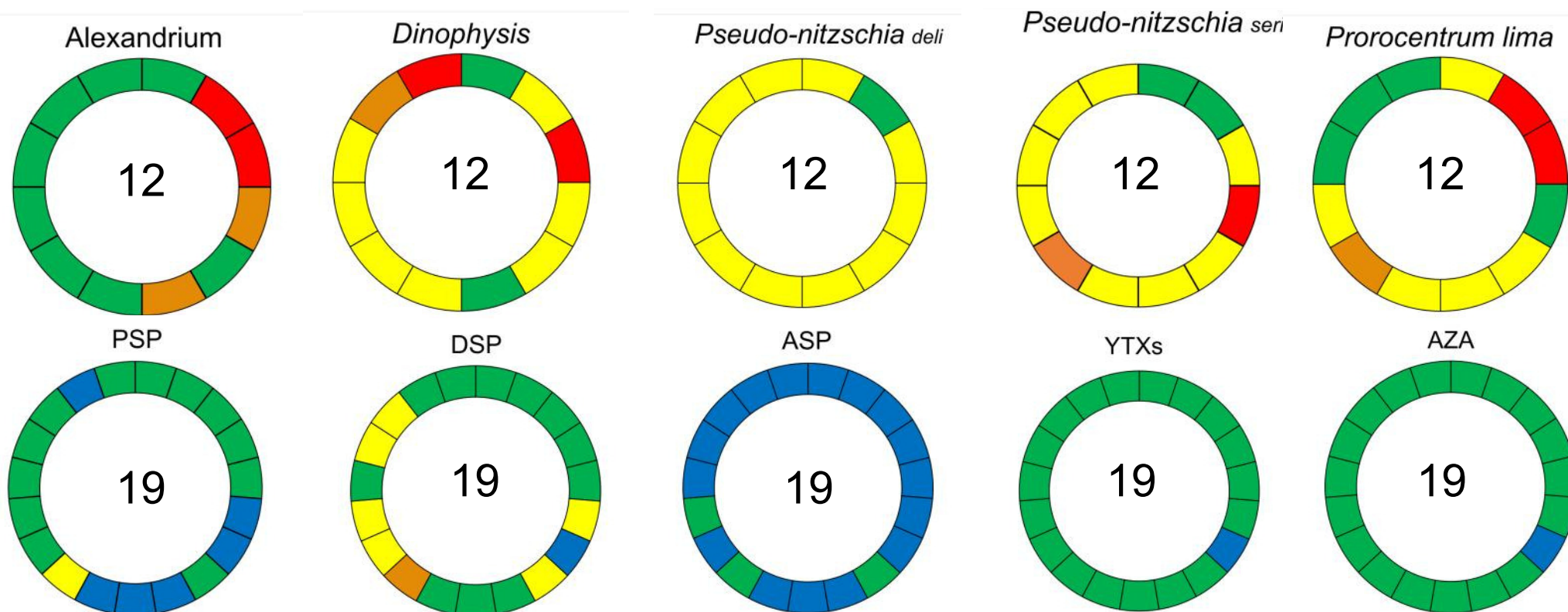
Warning/Threshold Levels

<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 ug/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					
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.

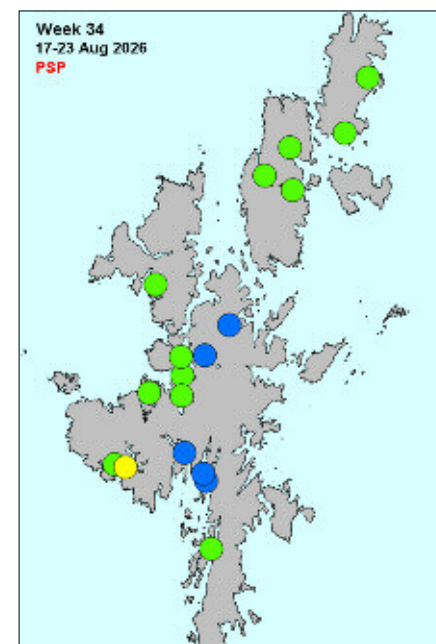
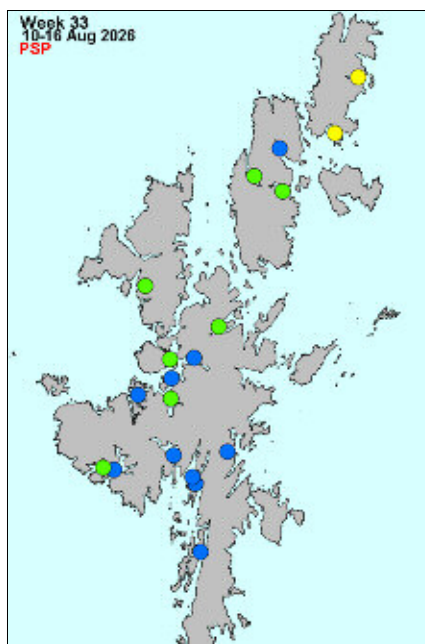
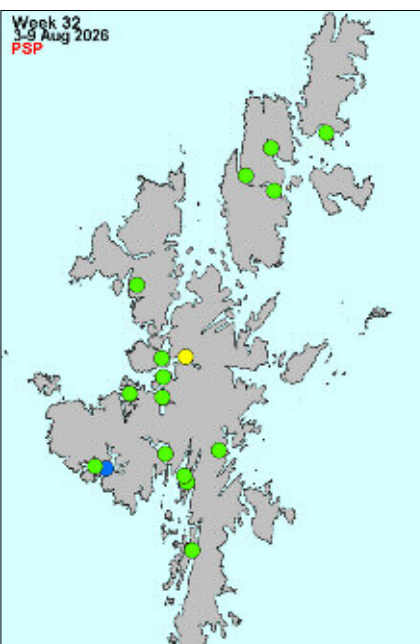
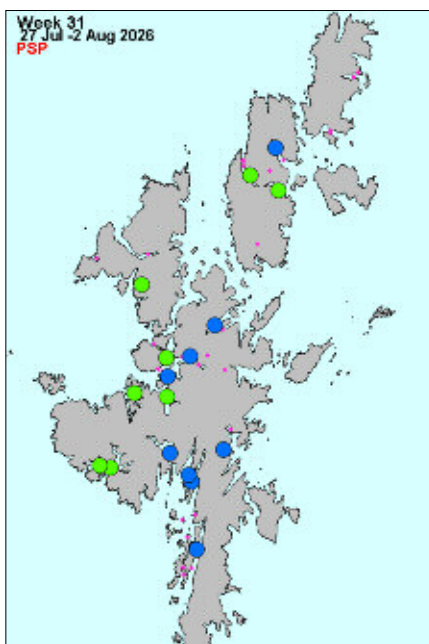
RL- reporting limit;
LOQ – Limit of quantification

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 34, 17th - 23rd Aug 2026

Paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton

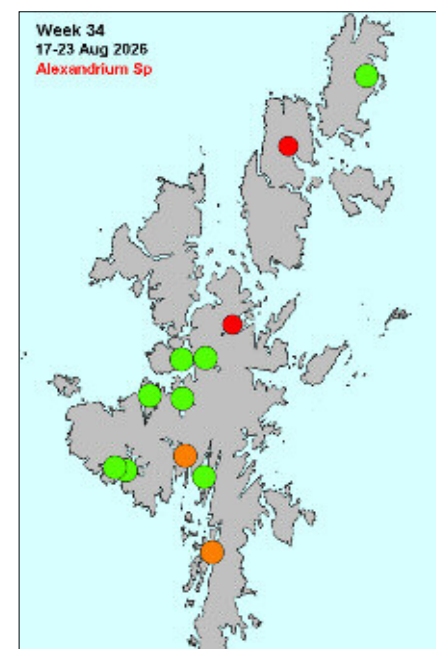
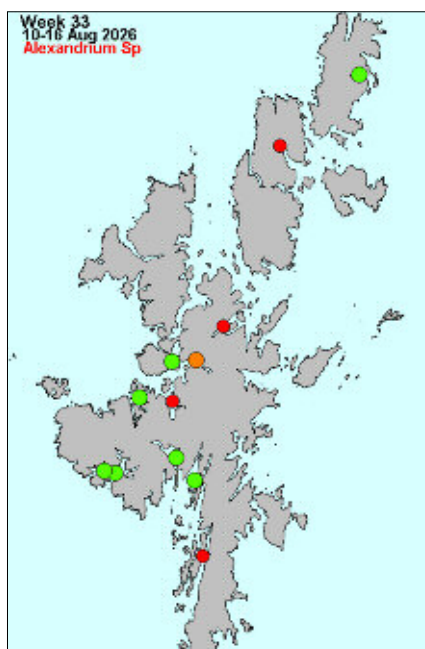
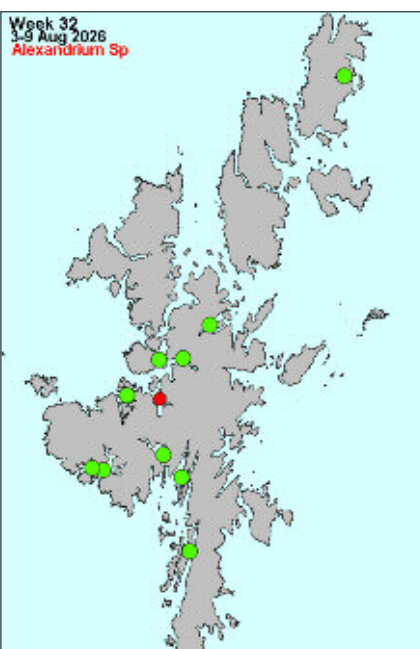
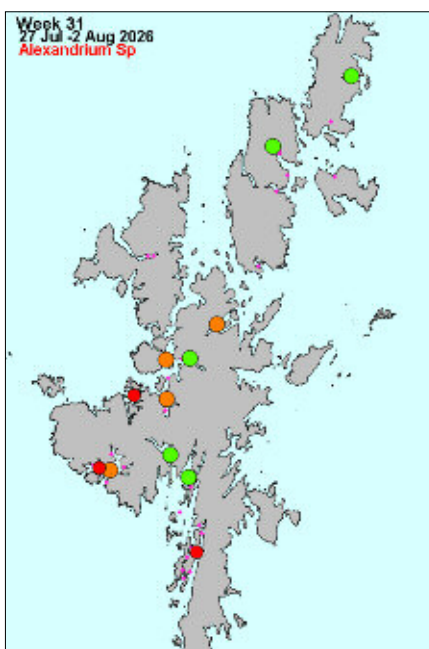
PSP

µg STX eq/kg



Alexandrium Sp.

cells/l

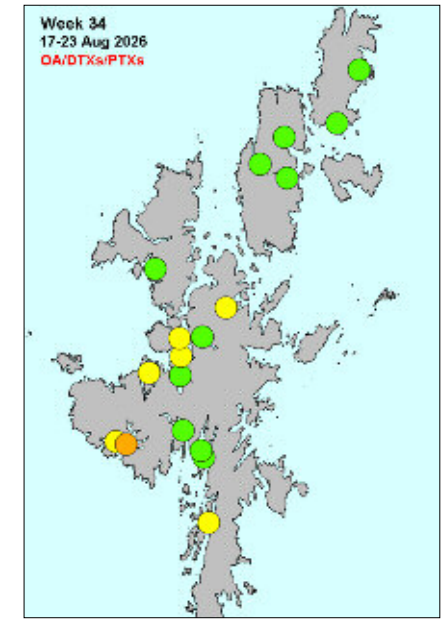
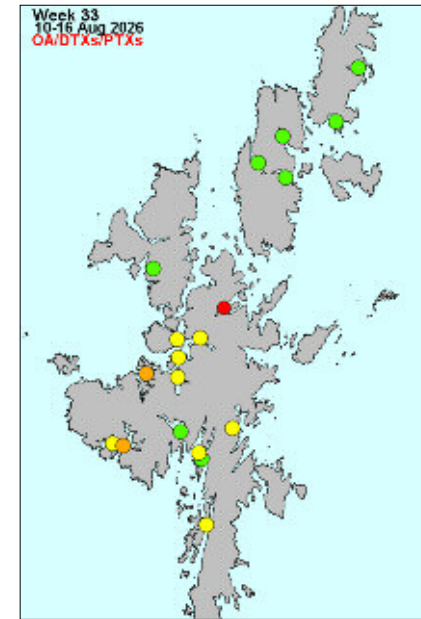
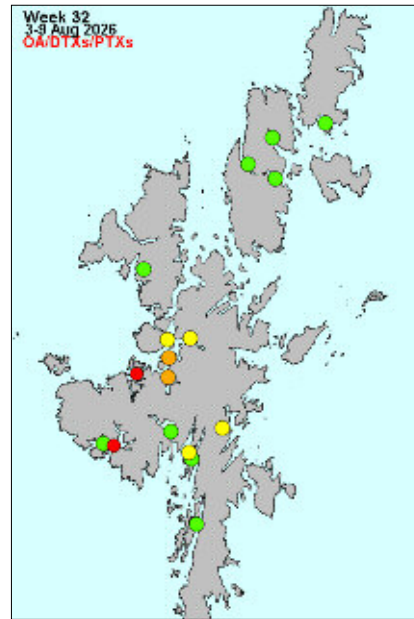
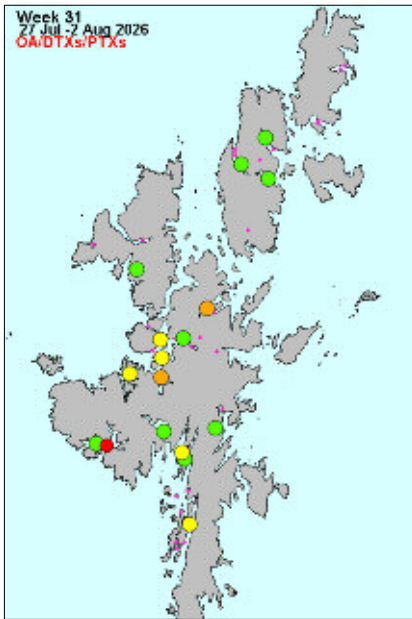


Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton

OA/DTXs/PTXs

µg OA eq/kg

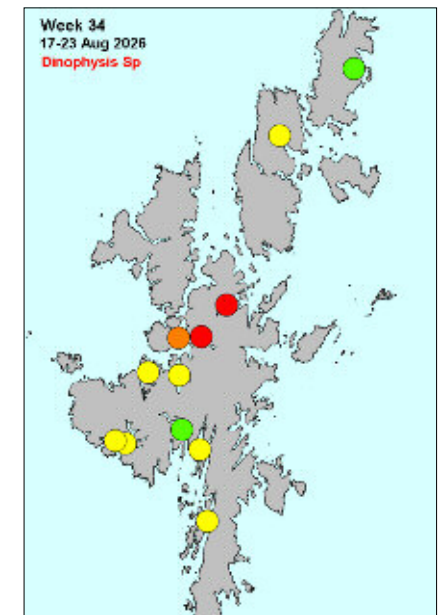
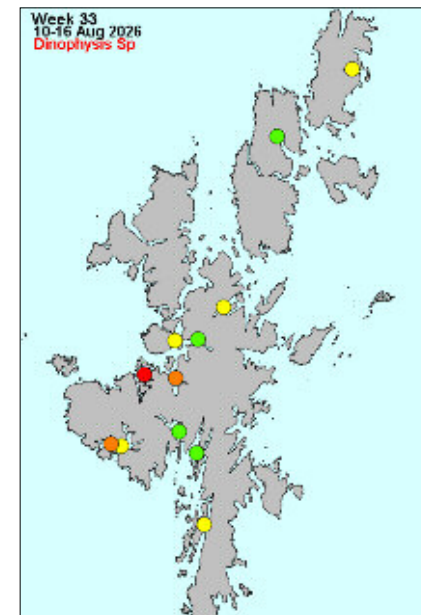
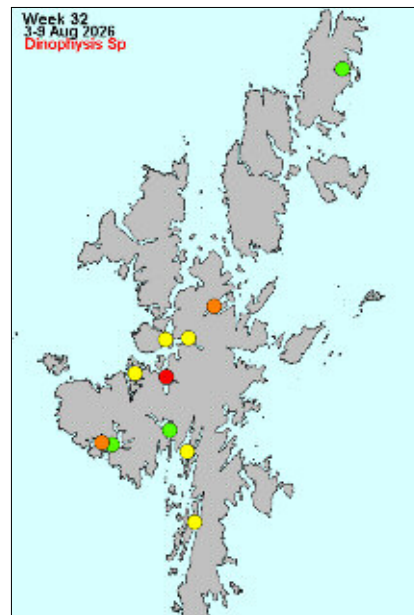
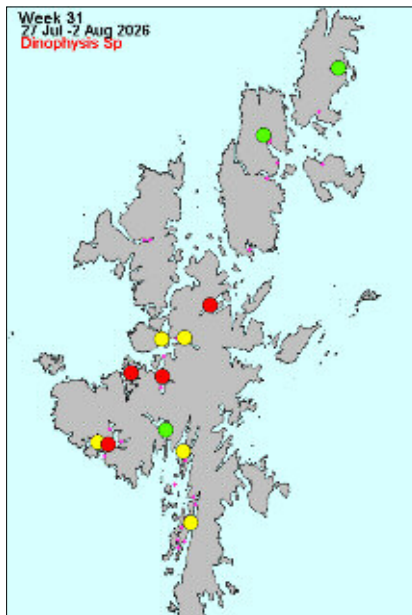
- Not Analyzed
- 0
- 0-80
- 80-160
- 160-500
- 500-1,000
- 1,000-2,000
- 2,000-5,000
- >=5,000



Dinophysis Sp.

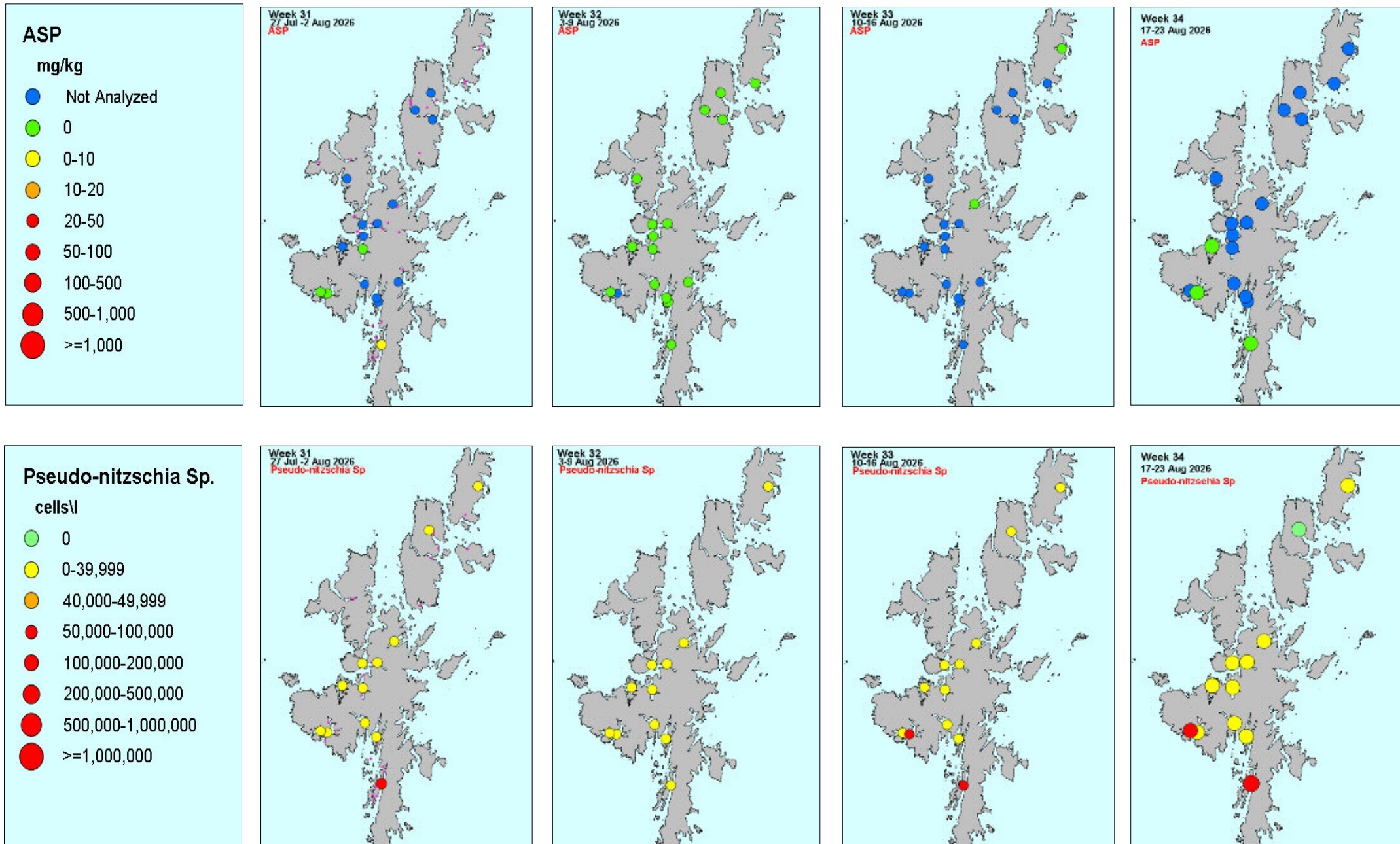
cells/l

- 0
- 0-80
- 80-100
- 100-400
- 400-1,000
- 1,000-2,000
- 2,000-5,000
- >=5,000



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Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning & causative phytoplankton



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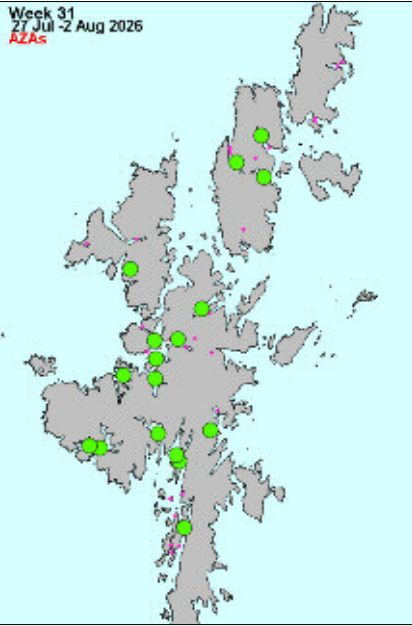
Azaspiracid & Yessotoxin shellfish poisoning toxins

AZAs

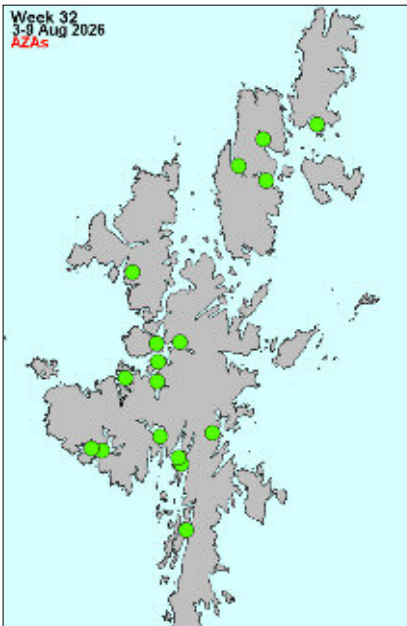
µg AZA1 eq/kg

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

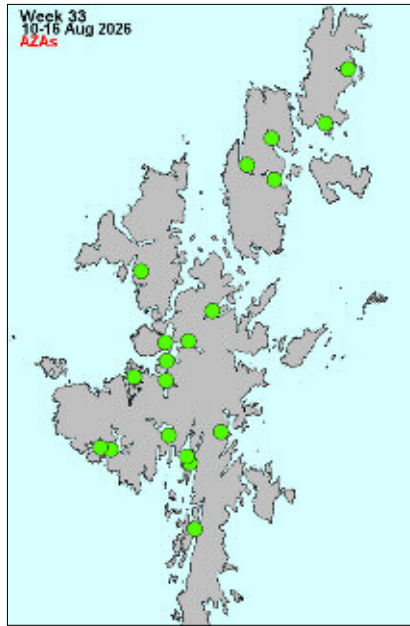
Week 31
27 Jul - 2 Aug 2026
AZAs



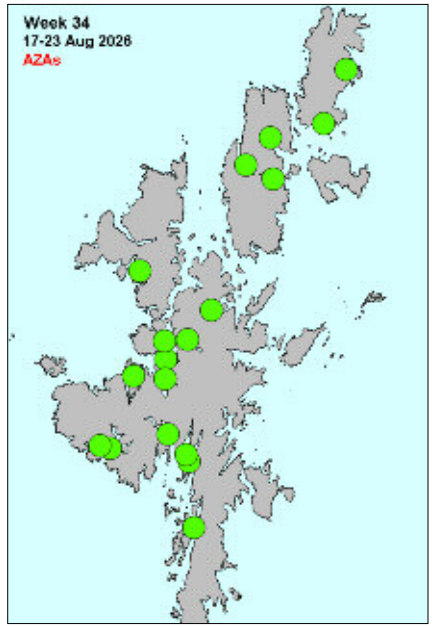
Week 32
3-9 Aug 2026
AZAs



Week 33
10-16 Aug 2026
AZAs



Week 34
17-23 Aug 2026
AZAs

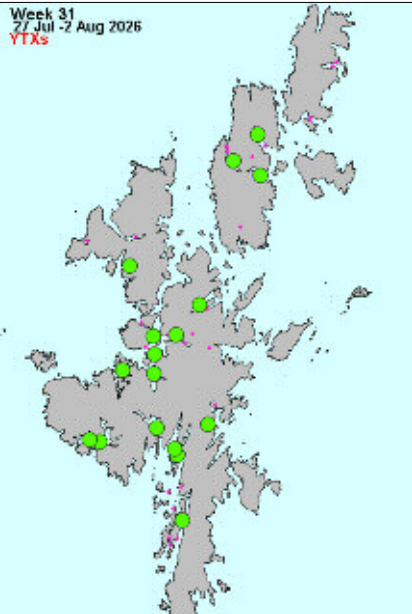


YTXs

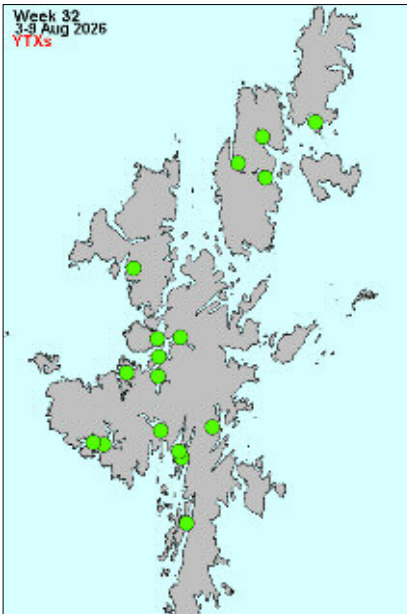
mg YTX eq/kg

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

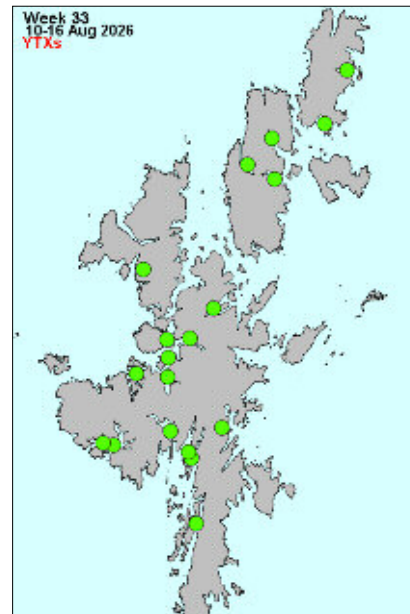
Week 31
27 Jul - 2 Aug 2026
YTXs



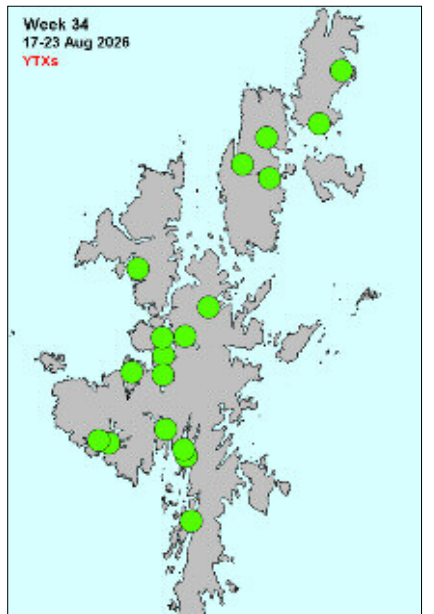
Week 32
3-9 Aug 2026
YTXs



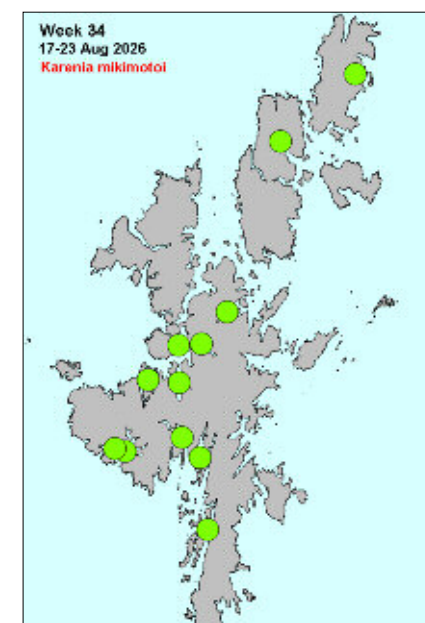
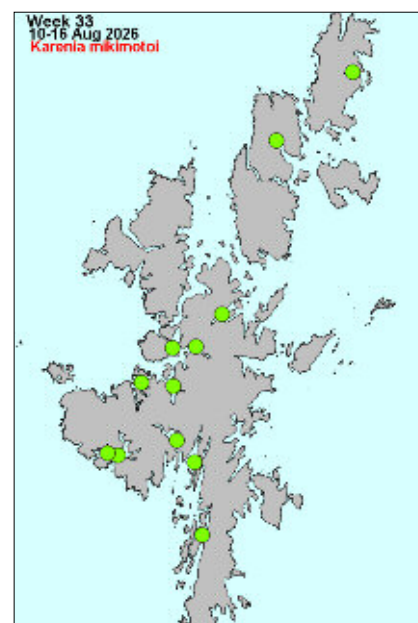
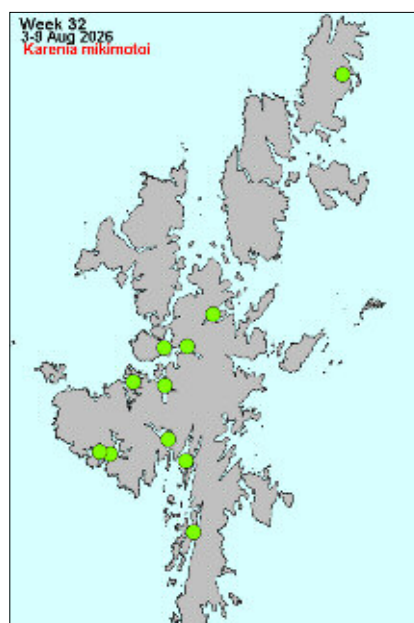
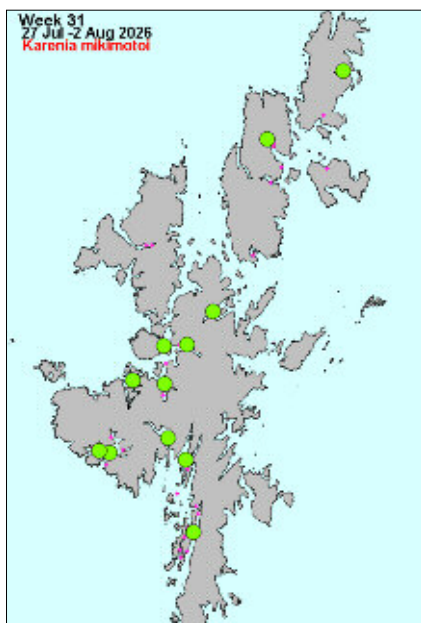
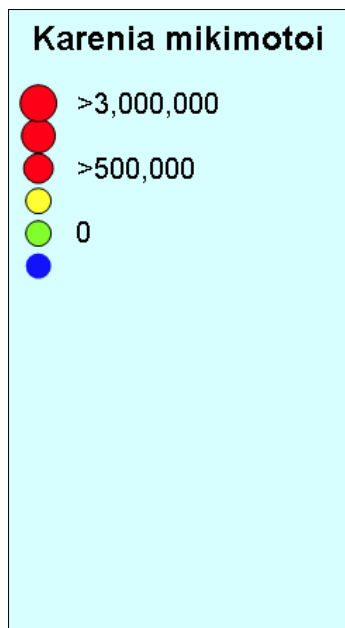
Week 33
10-16 Aug 2026
YTXs



Week 34
17-23 Aug 2026
YTXs



Karenia mikimotoi



Chain forming Phytoplankton

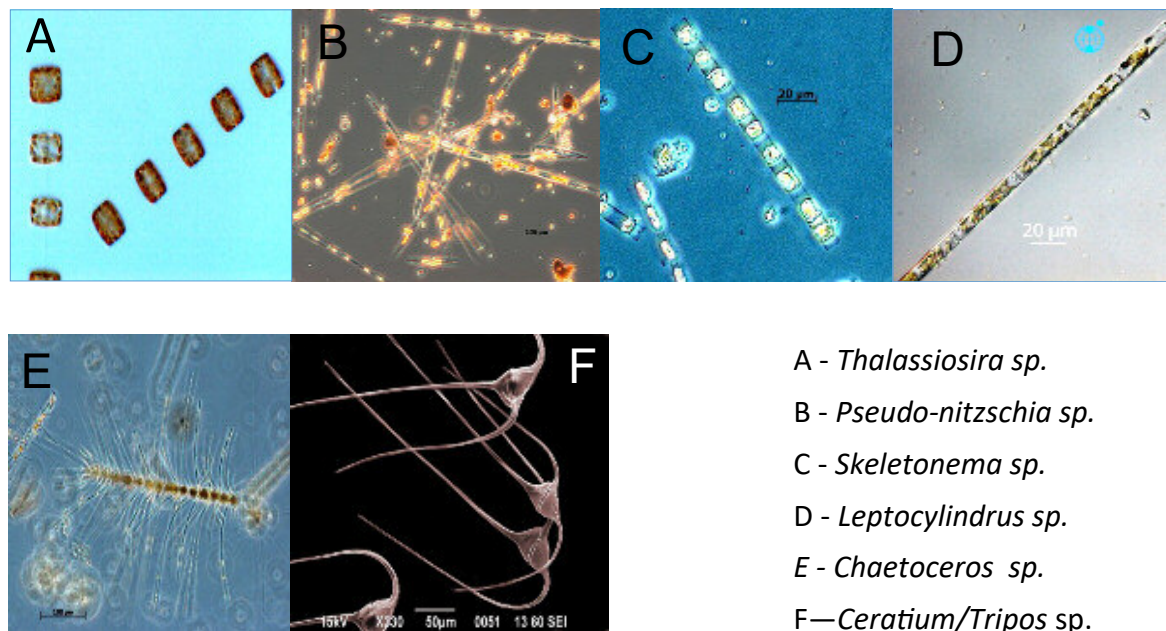
High densities of chain forming diatoms including, but not limited to the genus, *Chaetoceros*, *Skeletonema*, *Leptocylindrus*, *Rhizosolenia*, *Thalassiosira*, *Corethron* and *Pseudo-nitzschia*, the centric species *Coscinodiscus wailesii*, and species with long spines such as *Ceratium* (*Tripos*)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

Status

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

The IFCB's at Cole Deep and Scalloway are both offline for maintenance.

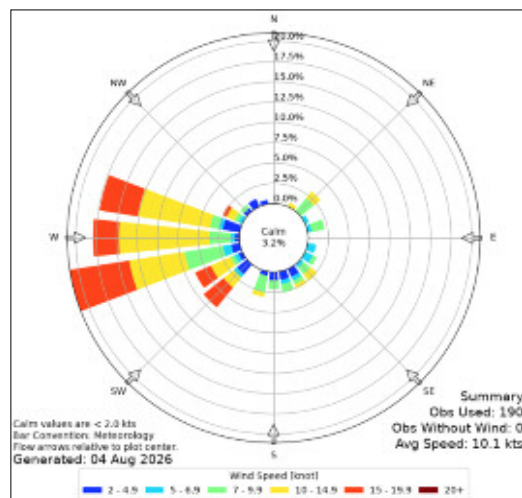
<https://www.habreports.org/ifcb-nafc.php>



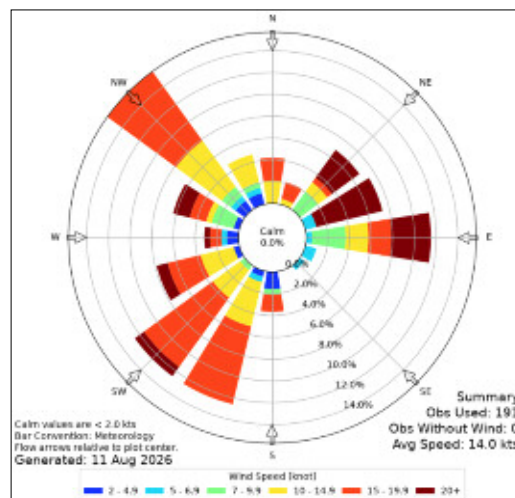
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Mean wind direction observed in Shetland for current and three preceding weeks

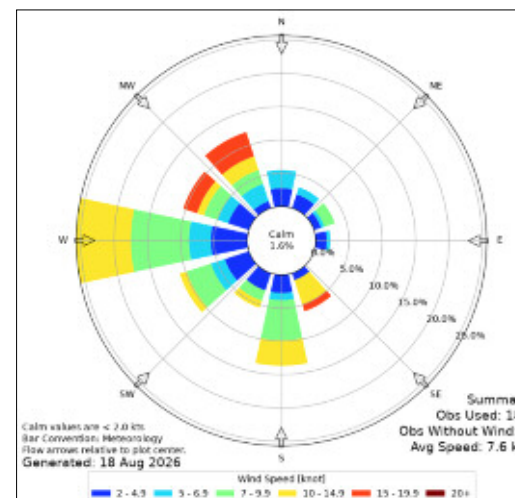
Week 31



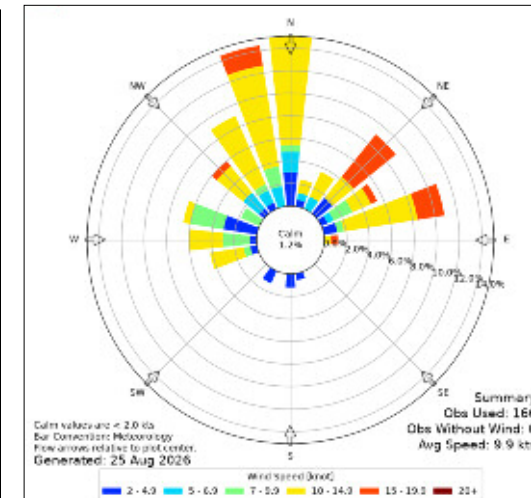
Week 32



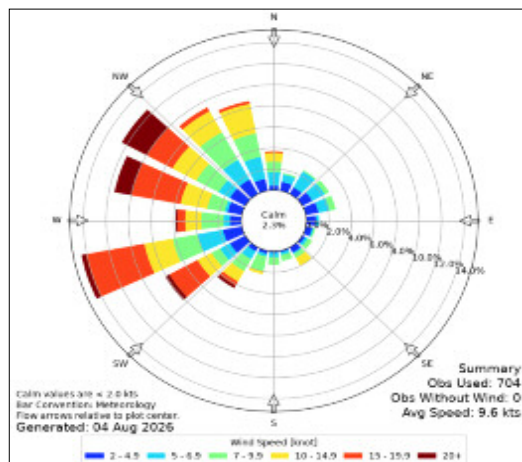
Week 33



Week 34



July



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.

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. Looking at the forecasted surface currents and chlorophyll concentrations, It is unlikely that there will be an advected bloom of *Dinophysis* in the coming week.

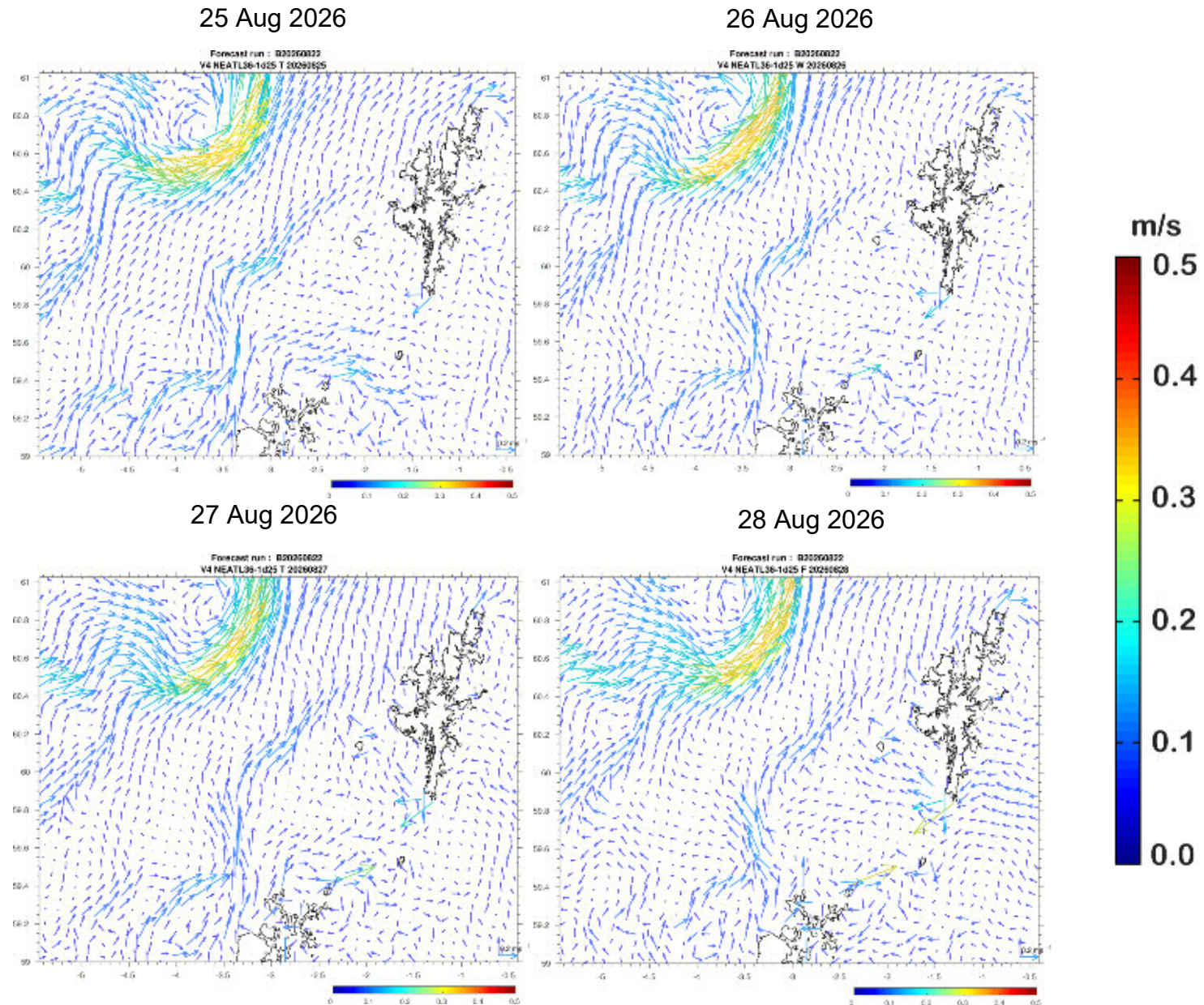
Status:

Over the past week the average wind direction has been from the north.

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 34, 17th - 23rd Aug 2026

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.

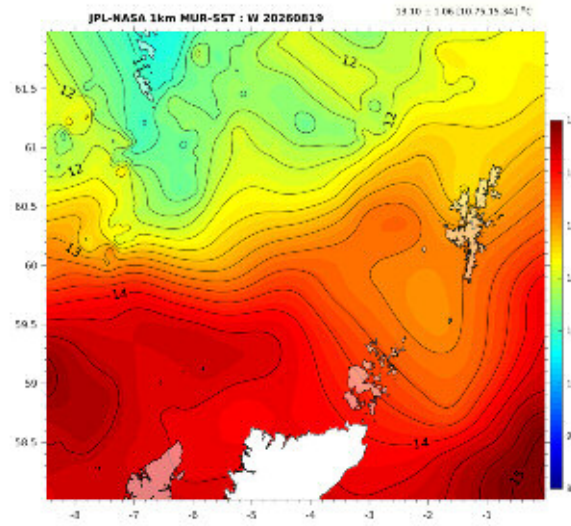


Forecast provided by the model-NEATL-PHY-1/36°-AF-D-PGS (IBI36QV4R1-PGS) courtesy of Mercator.

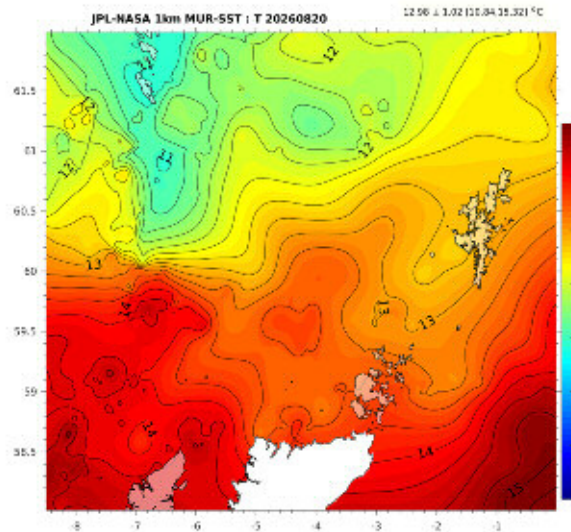
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Sea Surface temperature (°C) in preceding 6 days in the Shetland Islands

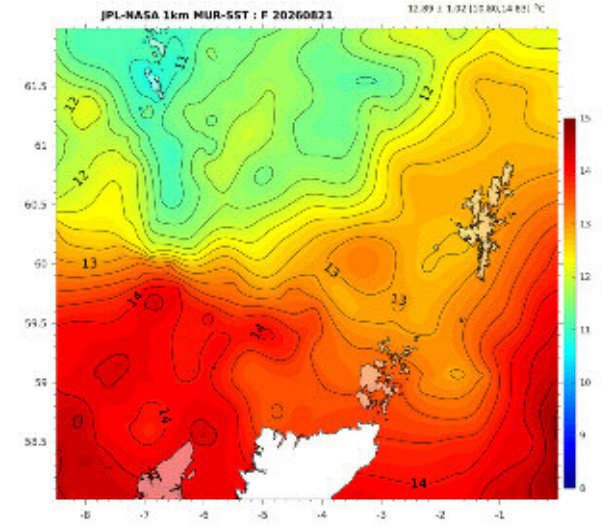
19 Aug 2026



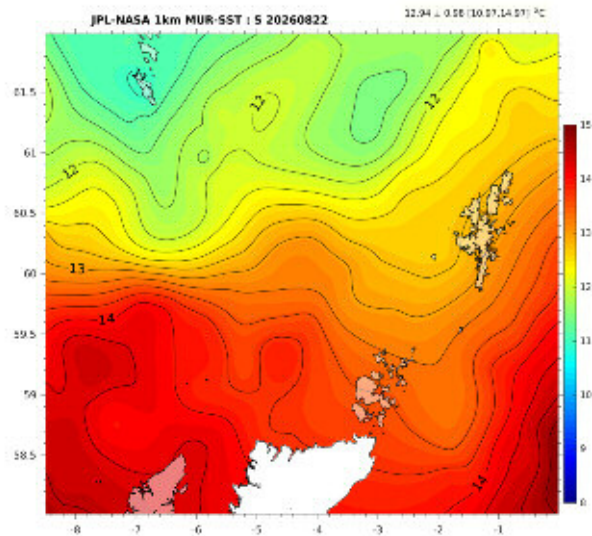
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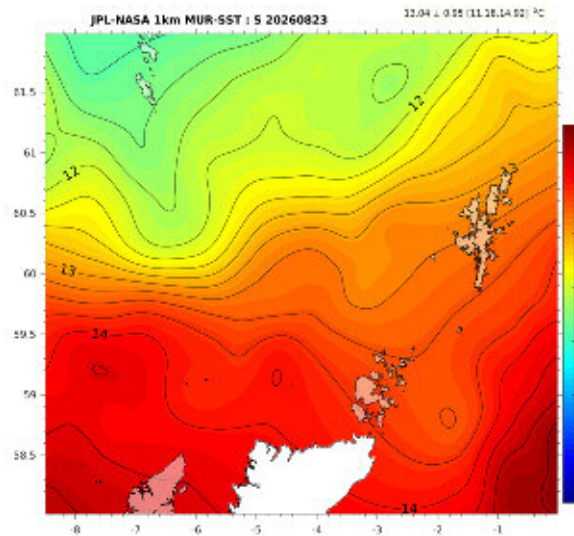
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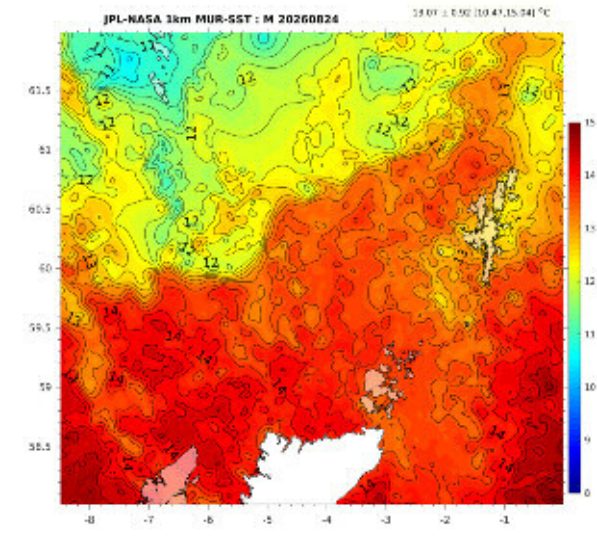
22 Aug 2026



23 Aug 2026



24 Aug 2026



Maps provided courtesy of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA

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Chlorophyll concentrations (mg/m³)

