

Biotoxin report:

- ASP toxins:** Three samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.
- AZA toxins:** Nineteen samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.
- DSP toxins:** Nineteen 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, Sand-sound Voe, Burra Holm, East of Linga, Seggi Bight, Slyde and Hamar Voe.
- PSP toxins:** Thirteen samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.
- YTX toxins:** Nineteen samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

Harmful algae report:

- Alexandrium:** Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Alexandrium* was detected above trigger lev-els in Scarvar Ayre, Parkgate, and Busta Voe Lee, and at warning level in Slyde.
- Dinophysis:** Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Dinophysis* was detected at warning levels in Scarvar Ayre and in low numbers in Baltasound mussels, Braewick Voe, Parkgate, East of Linga, 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 in low numbers in Stream sound, East of Linga, and Sandsound Voe.
- Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima:** Twelve samples were analysed this week. *P. delicatissima* was de-tected above trigger levels in Parkgate, at warning levels in Busta Voe Lee, and found in low numbers in all other sites except Braewick Voe.
- Pseudo-nitzschia seriata:** Twelve samples were analysed this week. *P. seriata* was detected above trigger level in Stream Sound, Braewick Voe, East of Linga and North flotta and in low numbers in all other sites.

Shetland: trends and forecast

- Alexandrium/PSP:** *Alexandrium* was detected above trigger level in three sites and at warning level in one site. Toxins were not detected. However, numbers were low and it is unlikely there will be a toxic bloom this week.
- Dinophysis/DSP:** *Dinophysis* was detected at warning levels in one site and in low numbers at six sites. Toxins were detected at warning levels in one site and in low concentrations in nine. Care should be taken.
- Pseudo-nitzschia/ASP:** *P. delicatissima* was detected above trigger at one site, at warning levels at one site and in low numbers in nine sites. *P. seriata* was detected above trigger in four sites, and in low numbers in eight sites. Numbers were relatively low with the exception of Braewick Voe, East of Linga & North flotta, and toxins were not de-tected. 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 one site and at low num-bers in three. This is a benthic species and numbers are low, with the exception of 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 re-sponsibility for harvesting or husbandry decisions. Those remain the responsi-bility of the industry.



Toxin concentrations provided cour-tesy of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science



Funding for these bulletins is kindly pro-vided by Seafood Shetland

Primary data for biotoxins and biotoxin producing phytoplankton available at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/shellfish/algatoxin/#.UY0TkcgTQ6O>

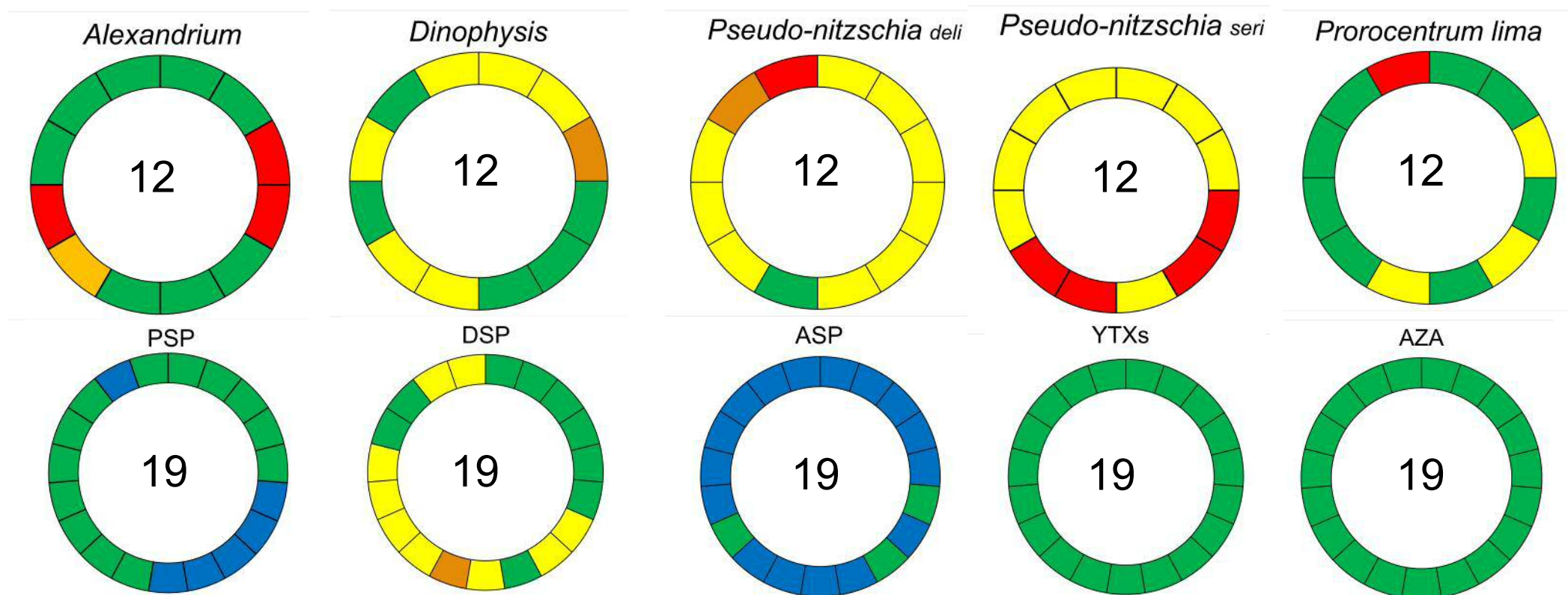
Warning/Threshold Levels

<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
<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 35, 24th - 30th Aug 2026

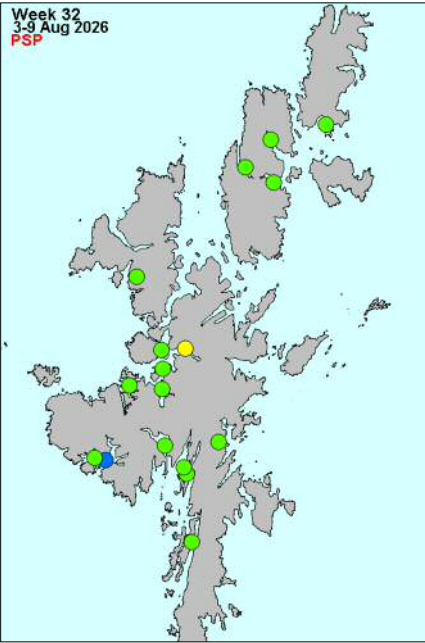
Paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton

PSP

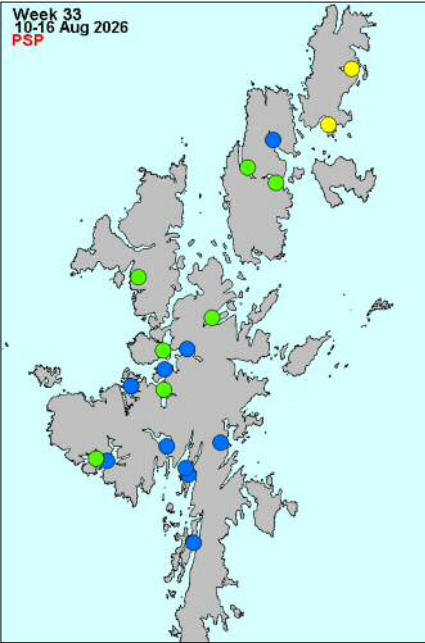
µg STX eq/kg



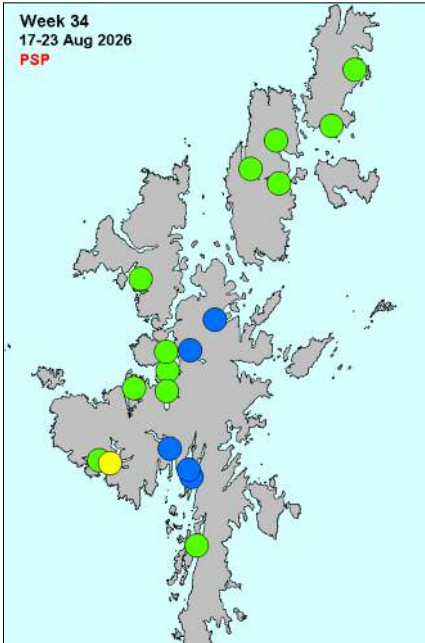
Week 32
3-9 Aug 2026
PSP



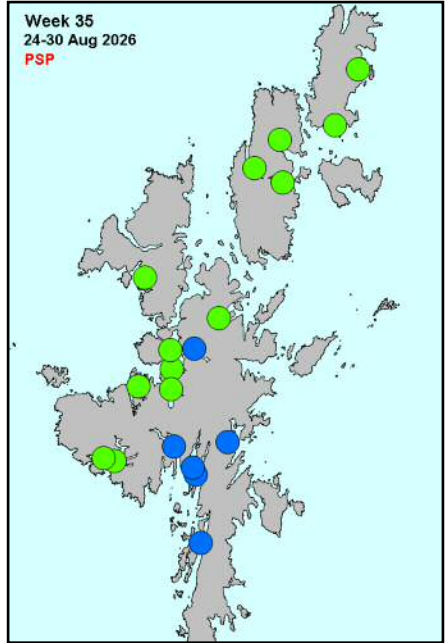
Week 33
10-16 Aug 2026
PSP



Week 34
17-23 Aug 2026
PSP



Week 35
24-30 Aug 2026
PSP

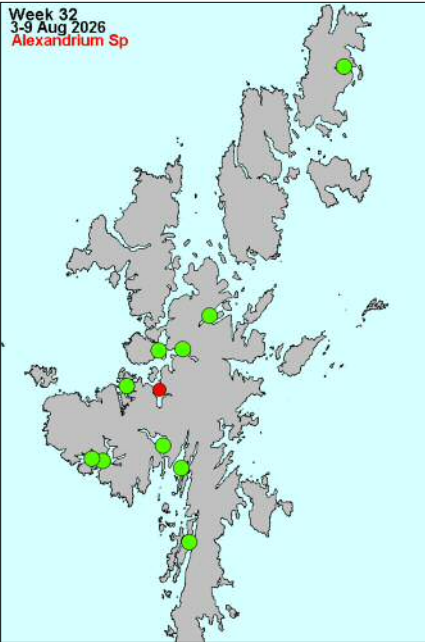


Alexandrium Sp.

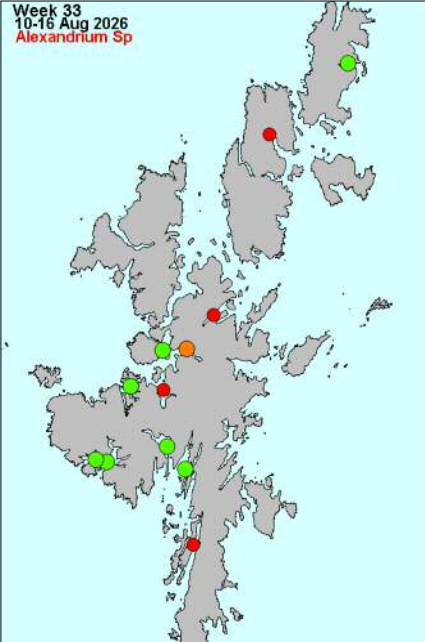
cells/l



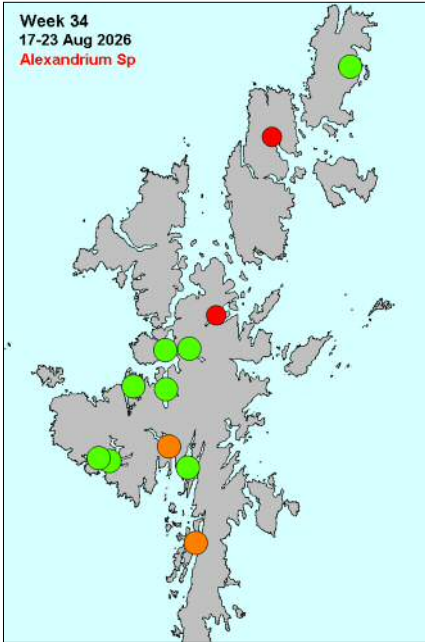
Week 32
3-9 Aug 2026
Alexandrium Sp



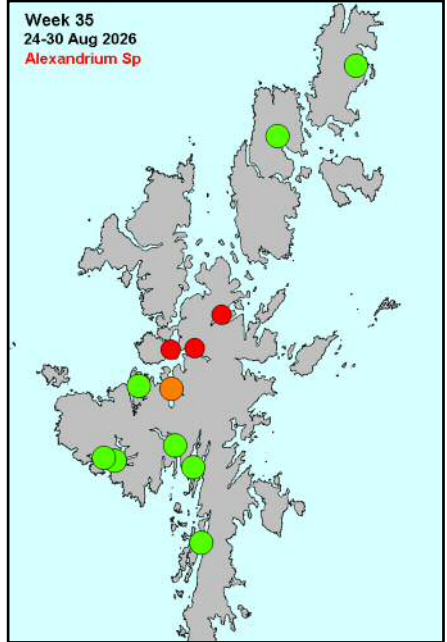
Week 33
10-16 Aug 2026
Alexandrium Sp



Week 34
17-23 Aug 2026
Alexandrium Sp



Week 35
24-30 Aug 2026
Alexandrium Sp



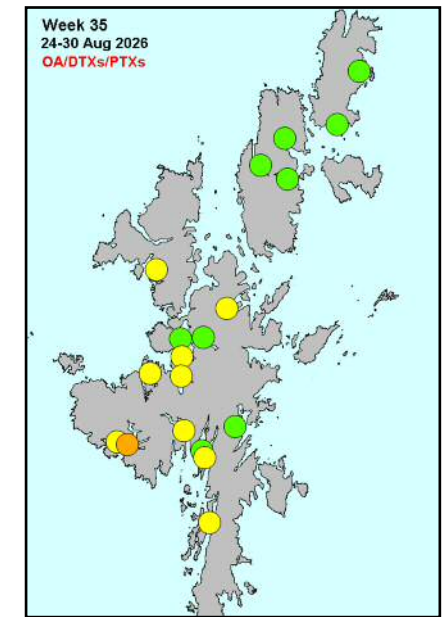
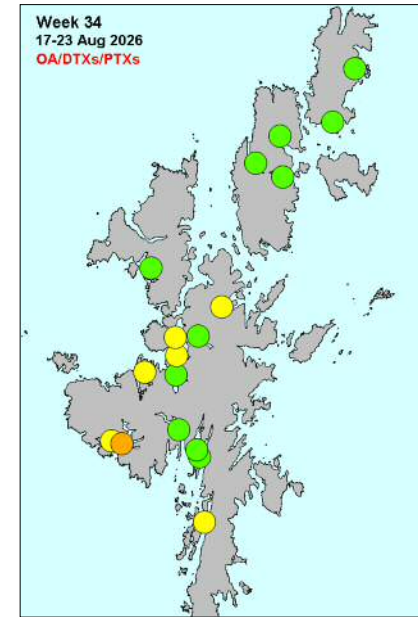
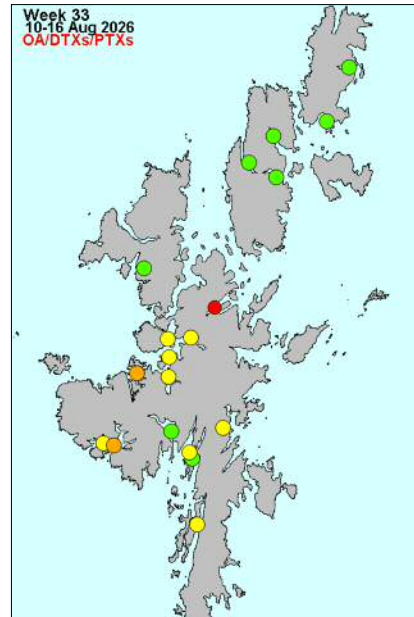
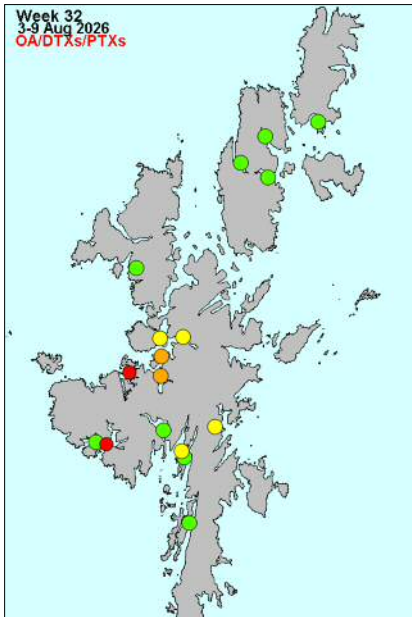
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Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton

OA/DTXs/PTXs

µg OA eq/kg

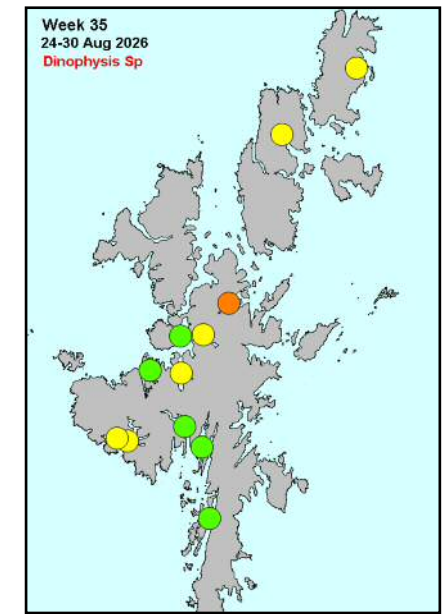
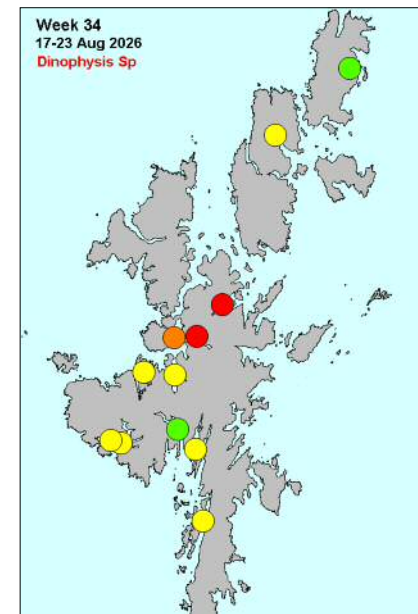
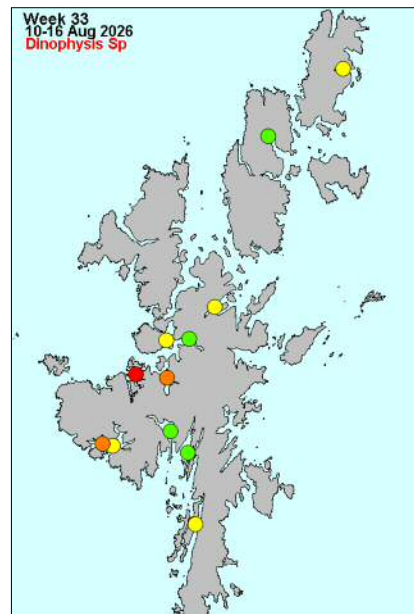
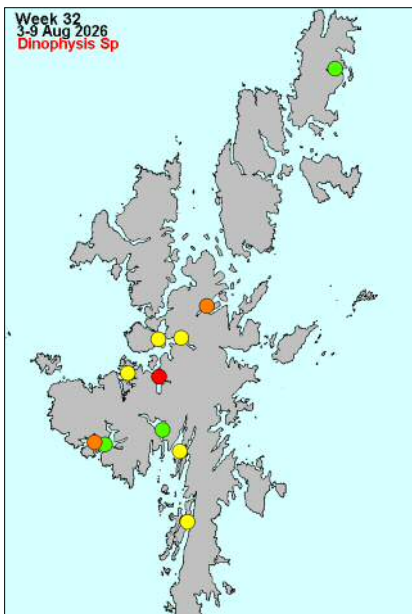
- Not Analyzed
- 0
- 0-80
- 80-160
- 160-500
- 500-1,000
- 1,000-2,000
- 2,000-5,000
- >=5,000



Dinophysis Sp.

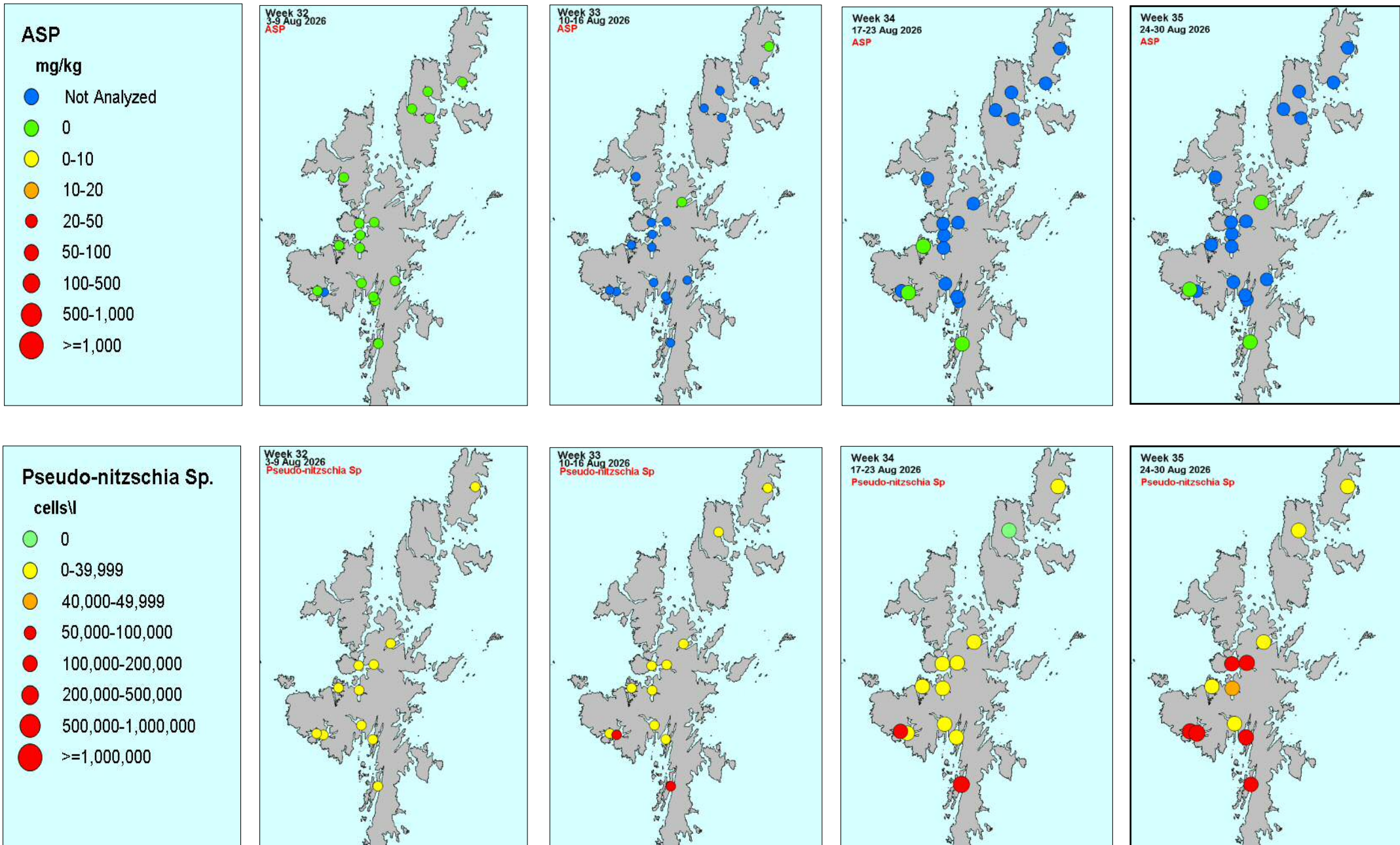
cells/l

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



Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 35, 24th - 30th Aug 2026

Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning & causative phytoplankton



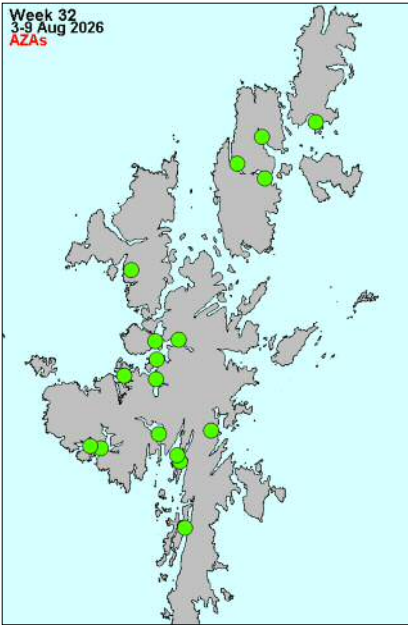
Azaspiracid & Yessotoxin shellfish poisoning toxins

AZAs

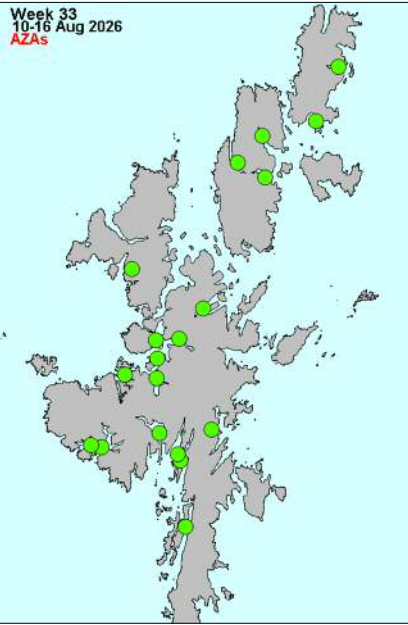
µg AZA1 eq/kg

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

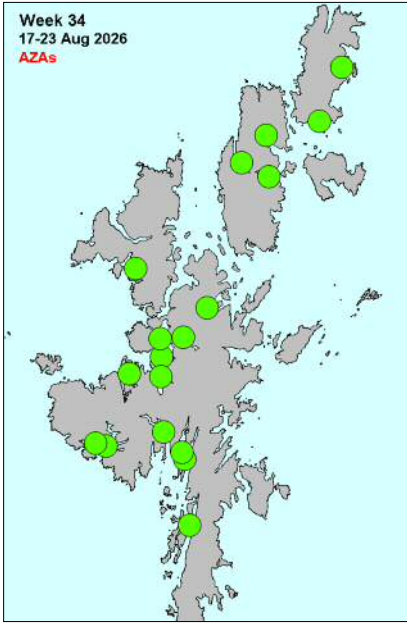
Week 32
3-9 Aug 2026
AZAs



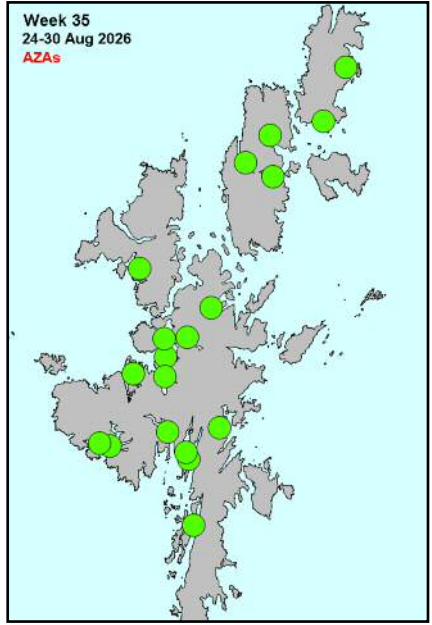
Week 33
10-16 Aug 2026
AZAs



Week 34
17-23 Aug 2026
AZAs



Week 35
24-30 Aug 2026
AZAs

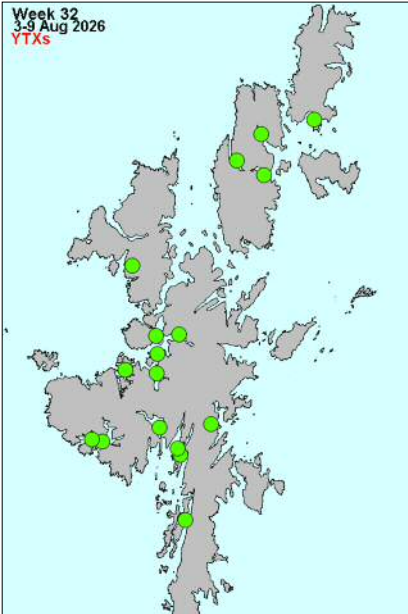


YTXs

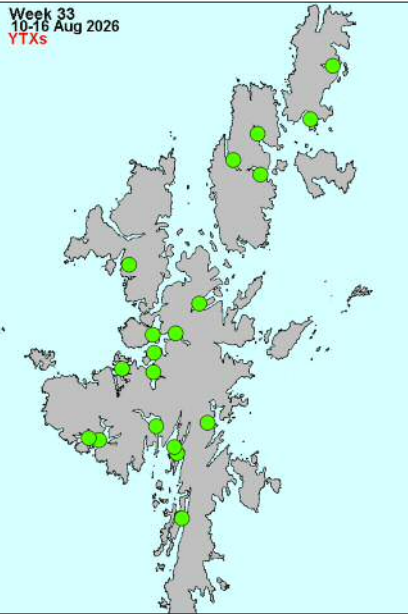
mg YTX eq/kg

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

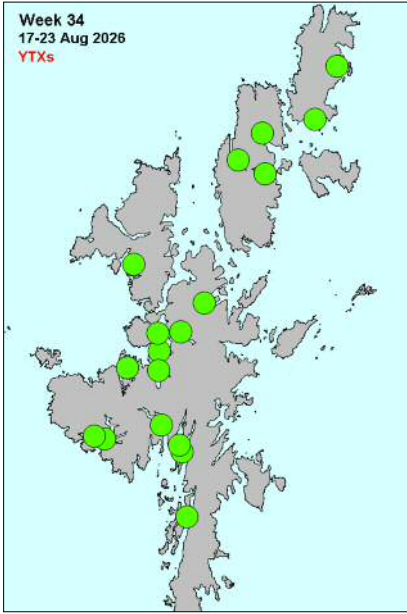
Week 32
3-9 Aug 2026
YTXs



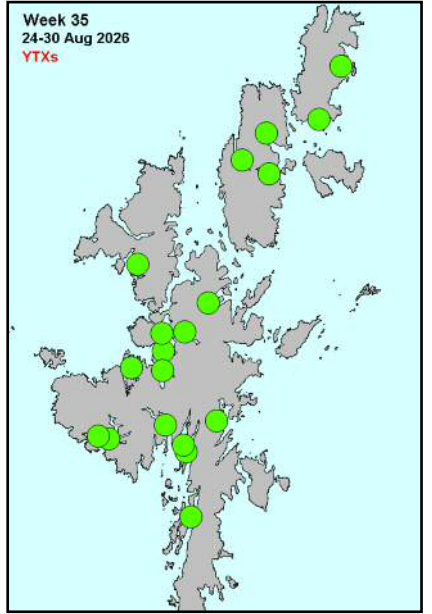
Week 33
10-16 Aug 2026
YTXs



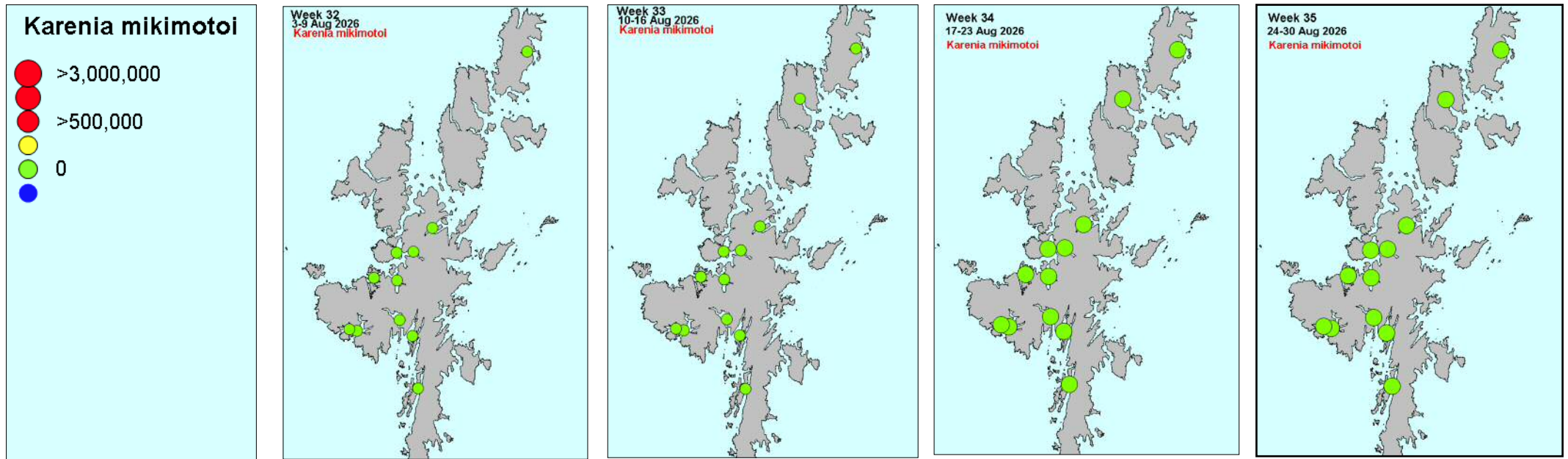
Week 34
17-23 Aug 2026
YTXs



Week 35
24-30 Aug 2026
YTXs



Karenia mikimotoi



Chain forming Phytoplankton

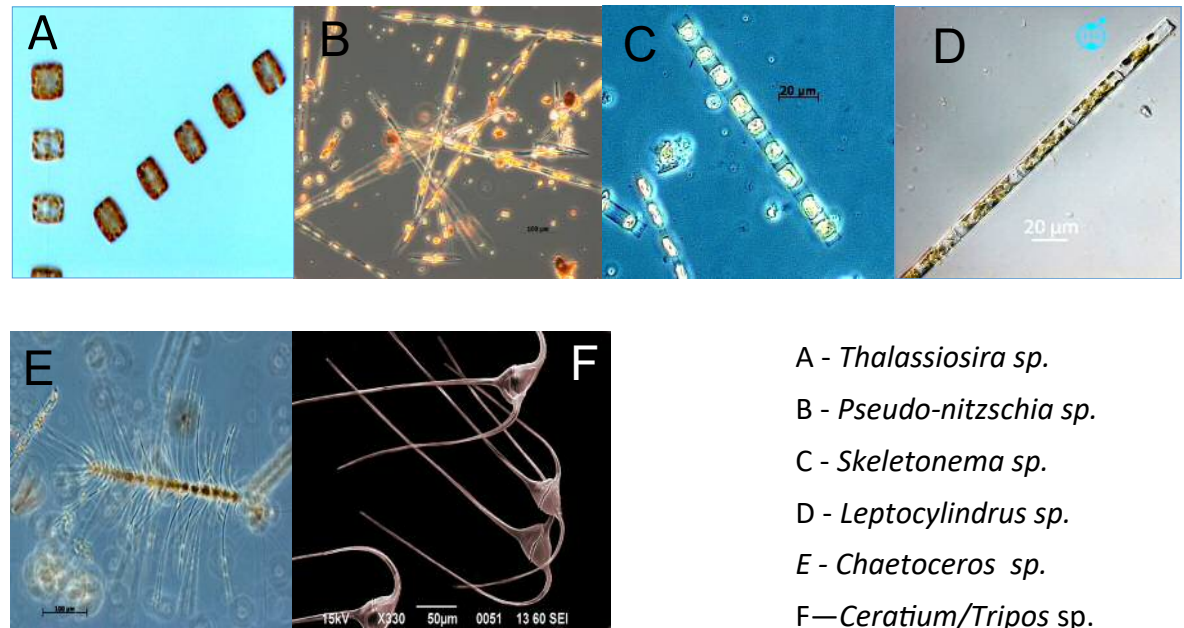
High densities of chain forming diatoms including, but not limited to the genus, *Chaetoceros*, *Skeletonema*, *Leptocylindrus*, *Rhizosolenia*, *Thalassiosira*, *Corethron* and *Pseudo-nitzschia*, the centric species *Coscinodiscus wailesii*, and species with long spines such as *Ceratium* (*Tripos*)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

Status

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

The IFCB's at Cole Deep are showing *Chaetoceros* species, *Guinardia*, *Pseudo-nitzschia* and small flagellates. The IFCB at Scalloway remains offline for maintenance.

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

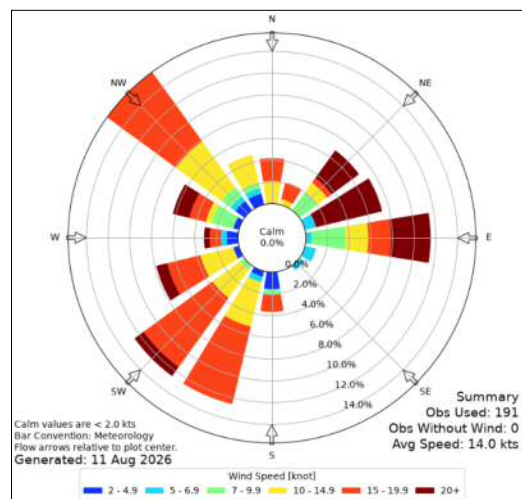


A - *Thalassiosira* sp.
B - *Pseudo-nitzschia* sp.
C - *Skeletonema* sp.
D - *Leptocylindrus* sp.
E - *Chaetoceros* sp.
F - *Ceratium/Tripos* sp.

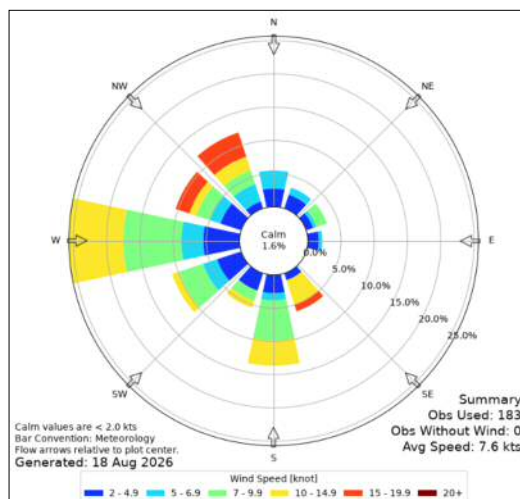
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Mean wind direction observed in Shetland for current and three preceding weeks

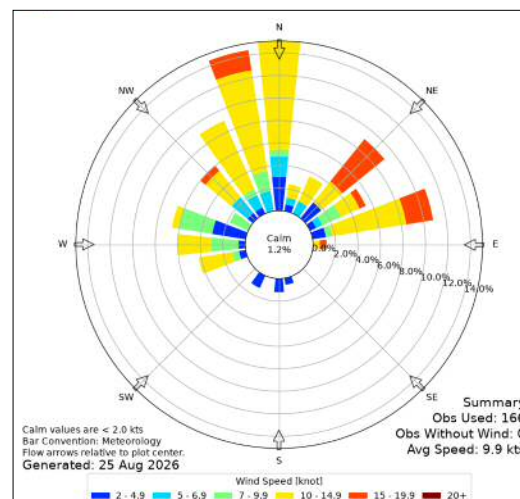
Week 32



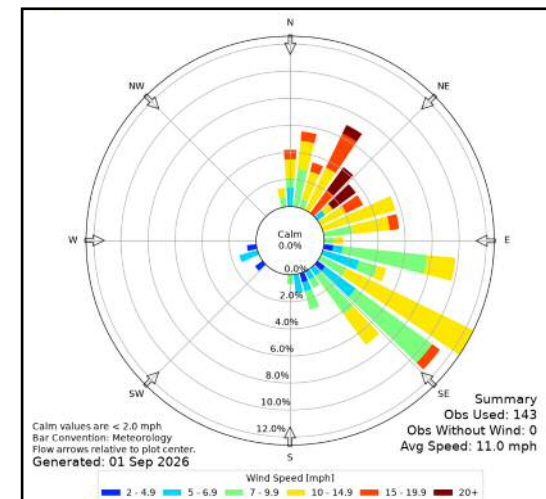
Week 33



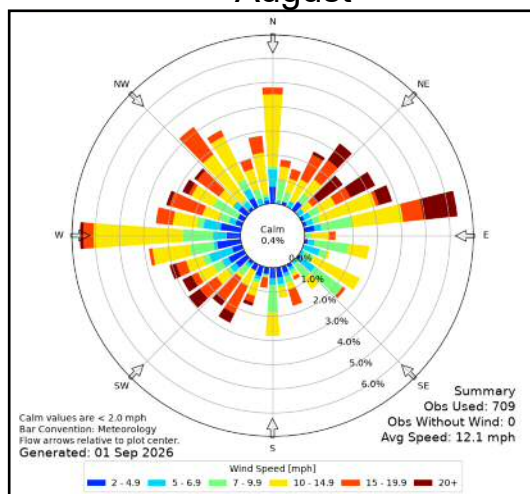
Week 34



Week 35



August



Status:

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

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:

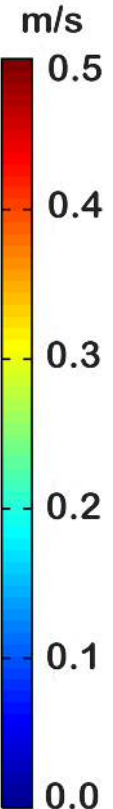
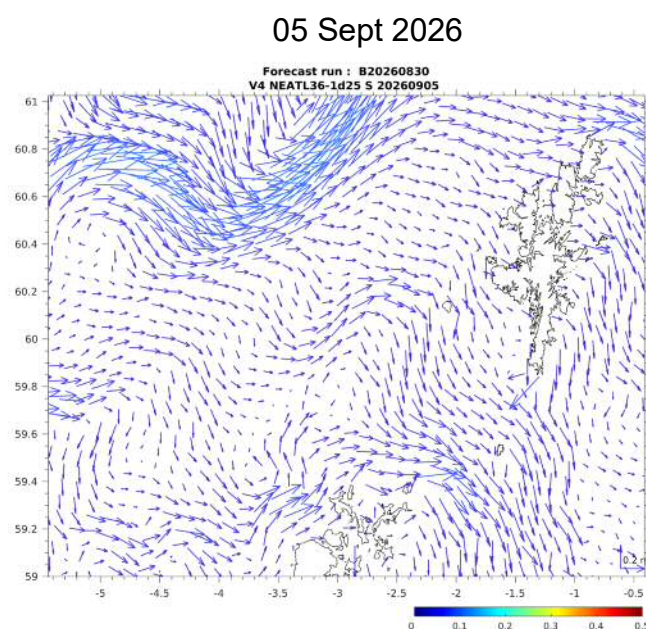
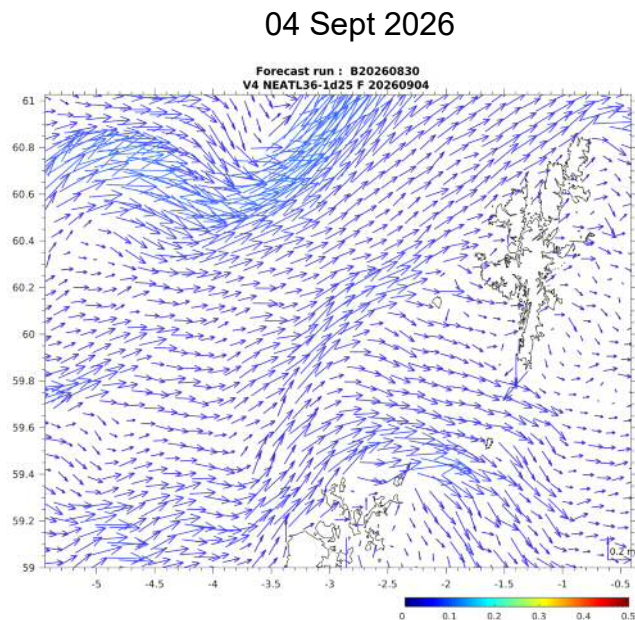
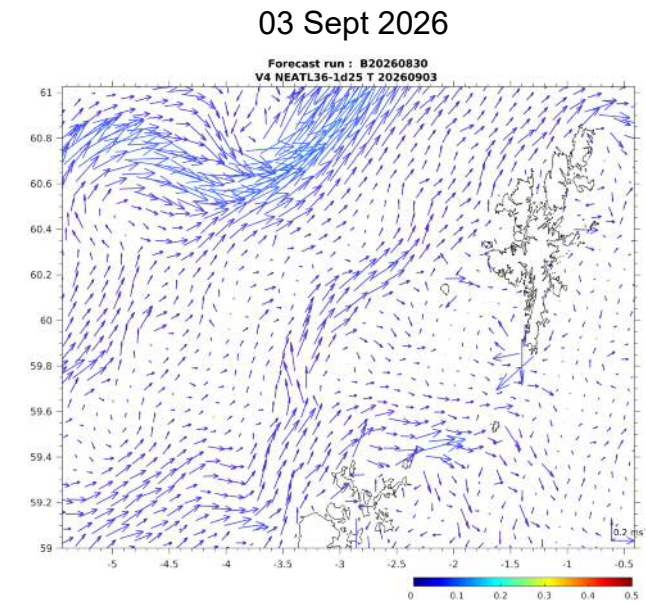
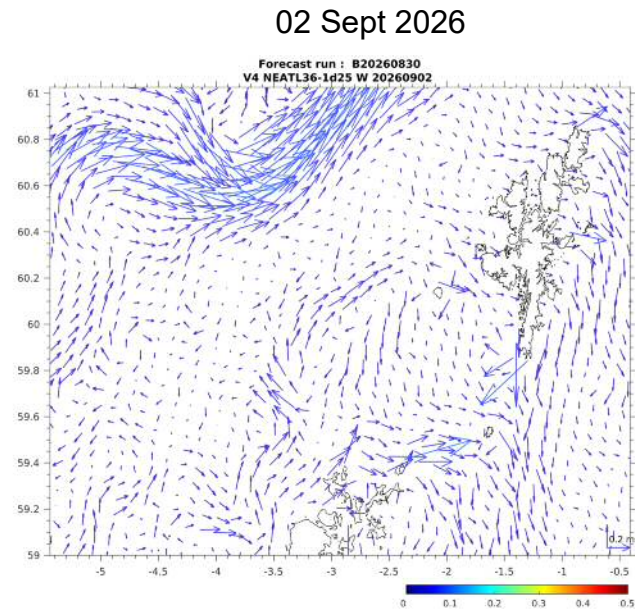
The risk of wind blown *Dinophysis* blooms in Shetland is **low** this week.

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.

Forecasted Sea Surface currents

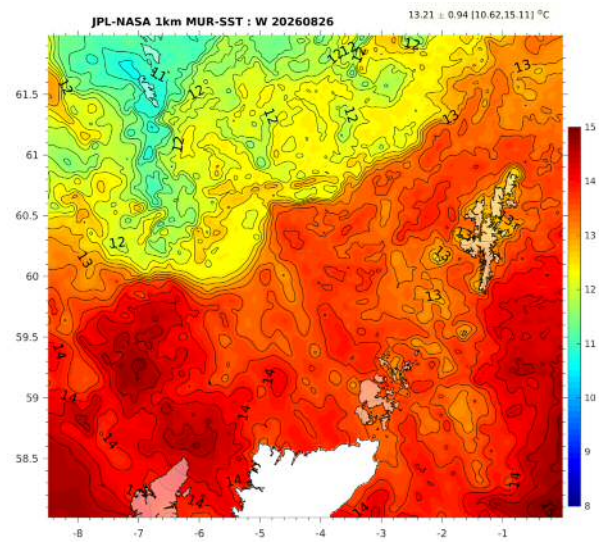
These diagrams show the predicted current directions around Shetland for the next couple of days. Greens to reds indicate stronger currents. In general strong currents run parallel to the deep water channel between the Faroes and Shetland. Problems can arise when these currents turn Eastwards potentially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



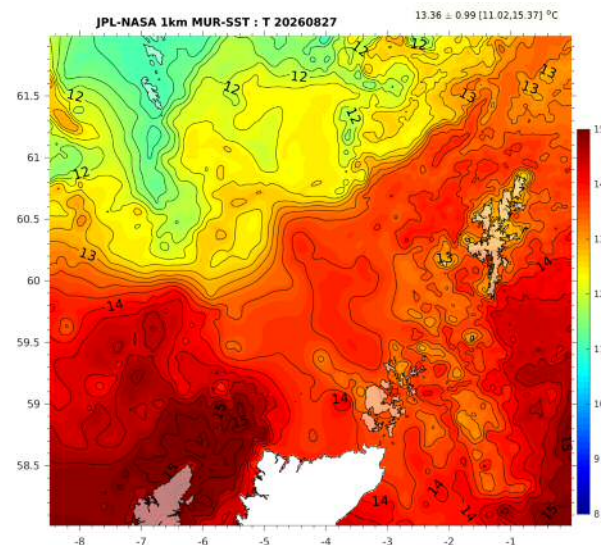
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Sea Surface temperature (°C) in preceding 6 days in the Shetland Islands

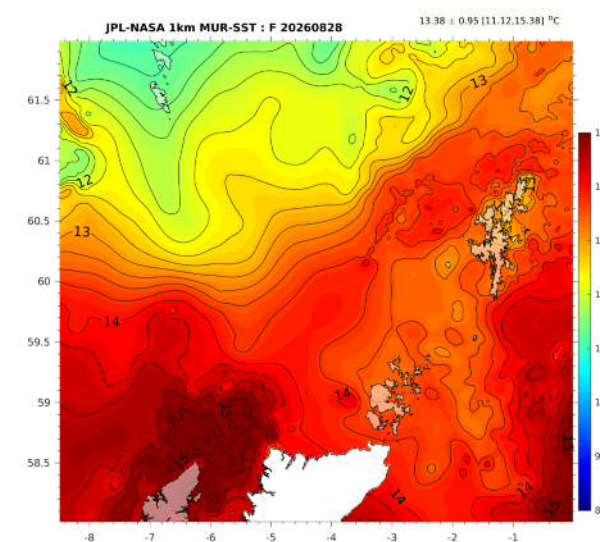
26 Aug 2026



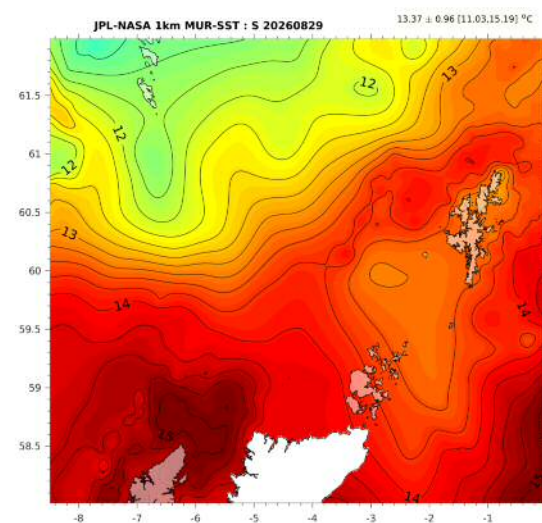
27 Aug 2026



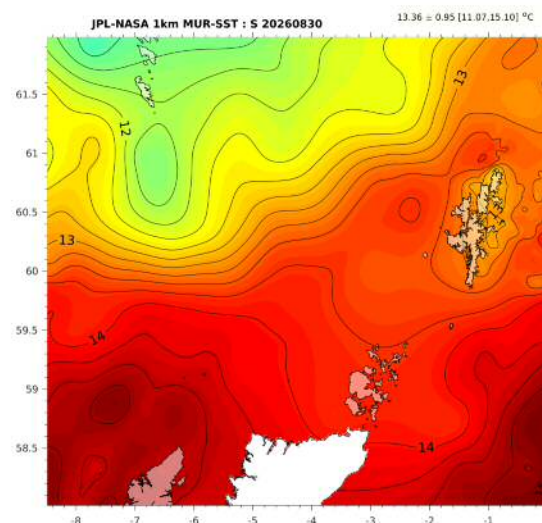
28 Aug 2026



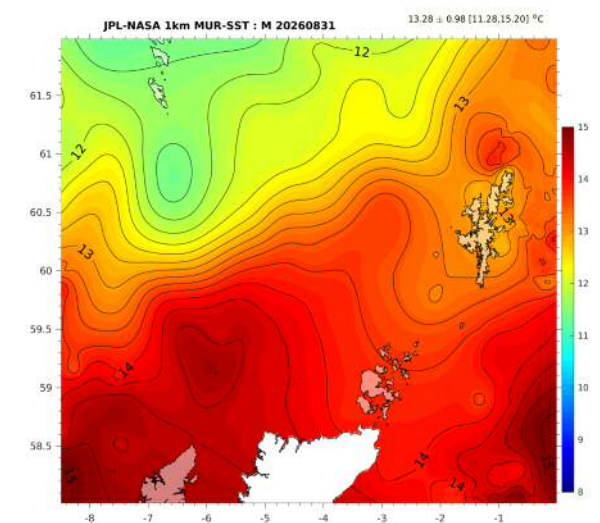
29 Aug 2026



30 Aug 2026



31 Aug 2026



Maps provided courtesy of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 35, 24th - 30th Aug 2026

Chlorophyll concentrations (mg/m³)

