Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 44, 26th - 1st Nov 2026

SHETLAND BULLETIN ON THE STATUS OF HARMFUL & TOXIC ALGAE

BIOTOXIN REPORT:

Auto-resizing | Edit Text

ASP toxins: No sites were analysed this week.

AZA toxins: Twelve sites were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

DSP toxins: Twelve sites were analysed this week. Toxins were detected at low levels in Sandsound Voe, Burra Holm, Busta Voe Lee and Hamar Voe.

PSP toxins: No sites were analysed this week.

YTX toxins: Twelve sites were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

ADDITIONAL TEXT & GENERAL SUMMARY:

HARMFUL ALGAE REPORT:

Auto-resizing | Edit Text

Alexandrium: No sites were analysed this week.

Dinophysis: No sites were analysed this week.

Karenia mikimotoi: No sites were analysed this week.

Prorocentrum lima: No sites were analysed this week.

Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima: No sites were analysed this week.

Pseudo-nitzschia seriata: No sites were analysed this week.

ADDITIONAL TEXT & GENERAL SUMMARY:

SHETLAND: TRENDS AND FORECAST

Auto-resizing | Edit Text

Alexandrium/PSP: *No samples were analysed this week. It is very unlikely that there will be a toxic bloom of Alexandrium this week.*

Dinophysis/DSP: *Toxins were present at low levels in four sites, however it is unlikely that there will be a toxic bloom of Dinophysis this week.*

Pseudo-nitzschia/ASP: *No samples were analysed this week. It is very unlikely that there will be a toxic bloom of Pseudo-nitzschia this week.*

AZA and YTX: *It is very unlikely that there will be a toxic bloom this week.*

Risk PSP: **LOW**	Risk DSP: **LOW**	Risk ASP: **LOW**
Risk YTX: **LOW**	Risk AZA: **LOW**	

ADDITIONAL TEXT & OVERALL COMMENTARY:

Overall low risk across all aquaculture sites. Hydrographic conditions, tidal flushing, and offshore wind regimes suggest minimal advective risk of harmful algal transport into coastal voes over the upcoming week.

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

WARNING/THRESHOLD LEVELS

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

The maximum permitted levels of biotoxins in shellfish are:

PSP: 800 µg/kg

LIPOPHILIC TOXINS (TESTED BY LC-MS):
OA/DTXs/PTXs: 160 ug/kg of Okadaic acid equivalents
AZAs: 160 micrograms of azaspiracids equivalents/kilogram

ASP: 20 mg/kg

YTXs: 3.75 milligram of yessotoxin equivalent/kilogram

SAMS MARINE SCIENCE

SeafoodShetland

FUNDING FOR THESE BULLETINS IS KINDLY PROVIDED BY SEAFOOD SHETLAND

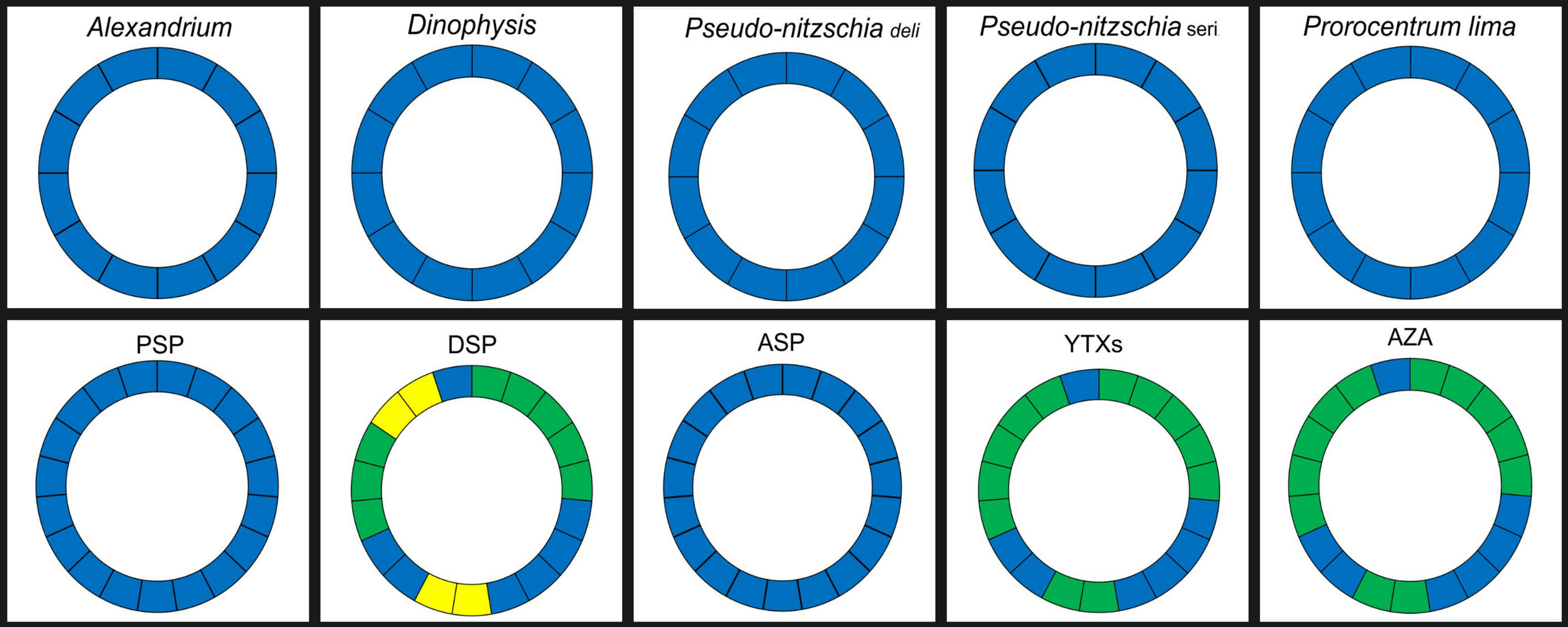
Cefas Executive Agency

Toxin concentrations provided courtesy of Cefas

PRIMARY DATA FOR BIOTOXINS AVAILABLE AT:
http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/shellfish/algaltoxin/

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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	<RL	RL - 399 µg/kg	400 - 800 µg/kg	>800 µg/kg	Not analysed
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.

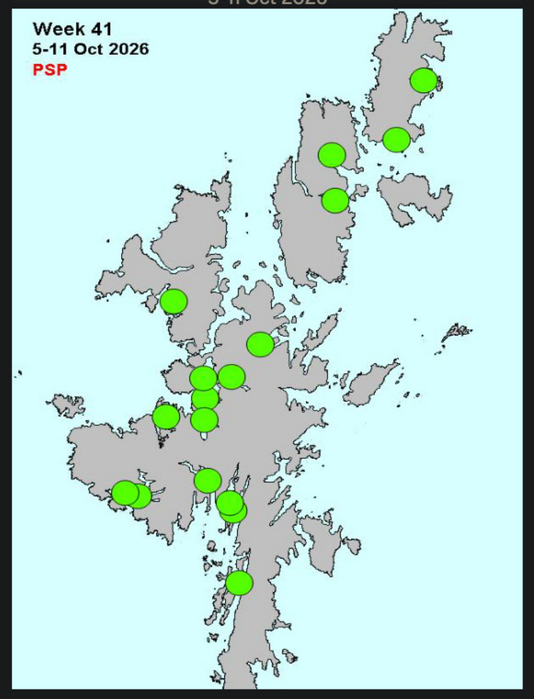
RL- reporting limit;
LOQ – Limit of quantification

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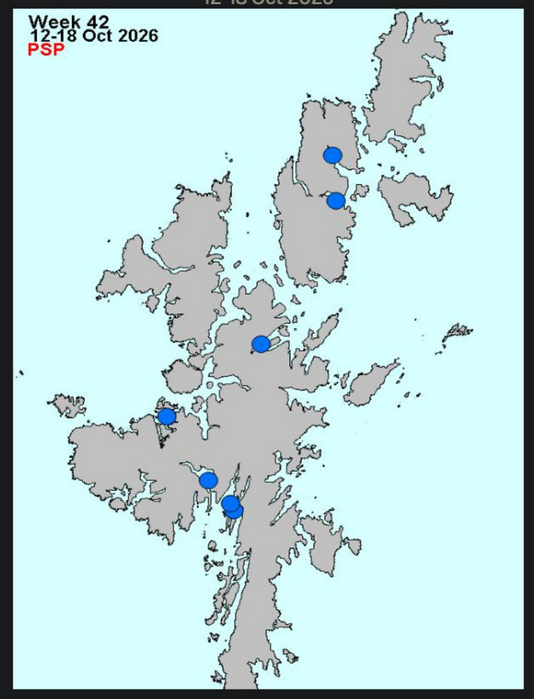
PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING TOXINS & CAUSATIVE PHYTOPLANKTON

PSP
µg STX eq/kg
- Not Analyzed
- 0
- 0-400
- 400-800
- 800-1,600
- 1,600-2,000
- 2,000-3,000
- 3,000-4,000
- >=4,000

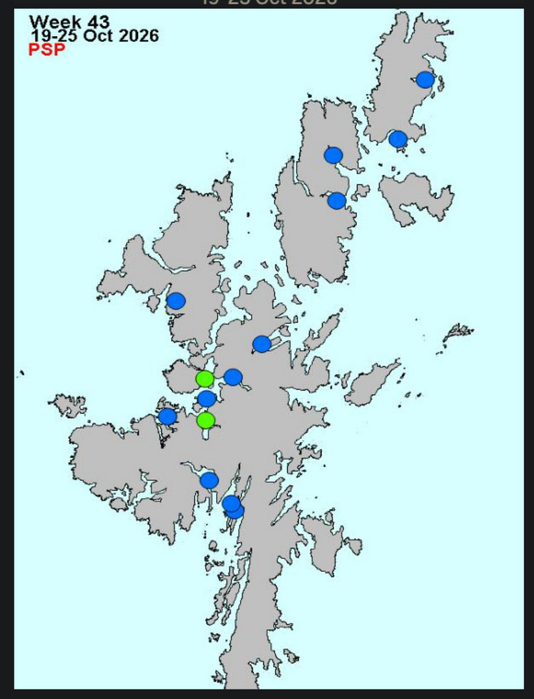
Week 41
5-11 Oct 2026



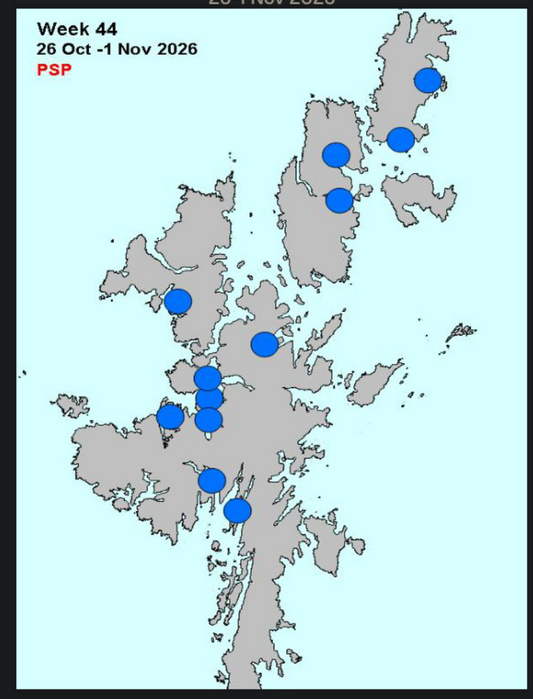
Week 42
12-18 Oct 2026



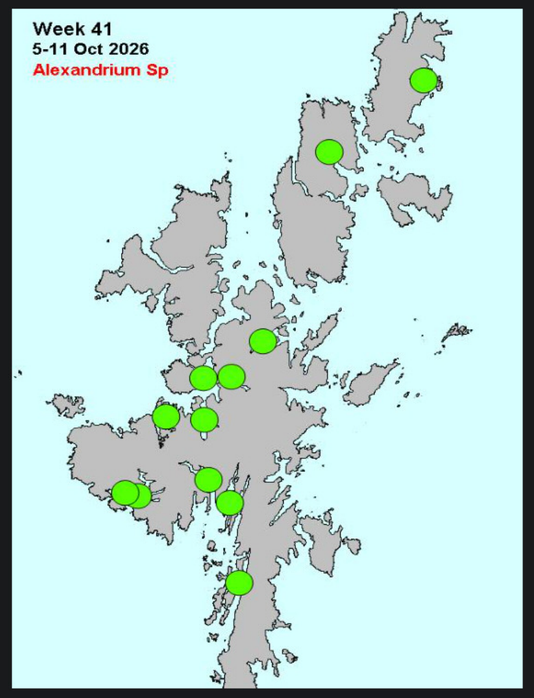
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19-25 Oct 2026

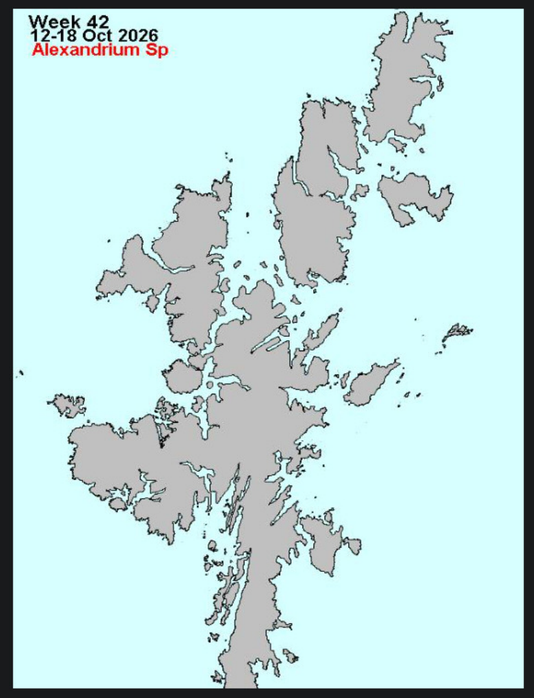


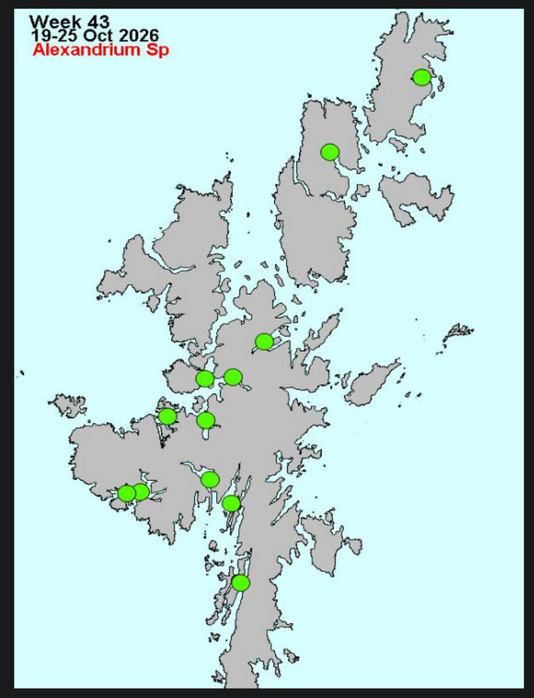
Week 44 CURRENT
26-1 Nov 2026

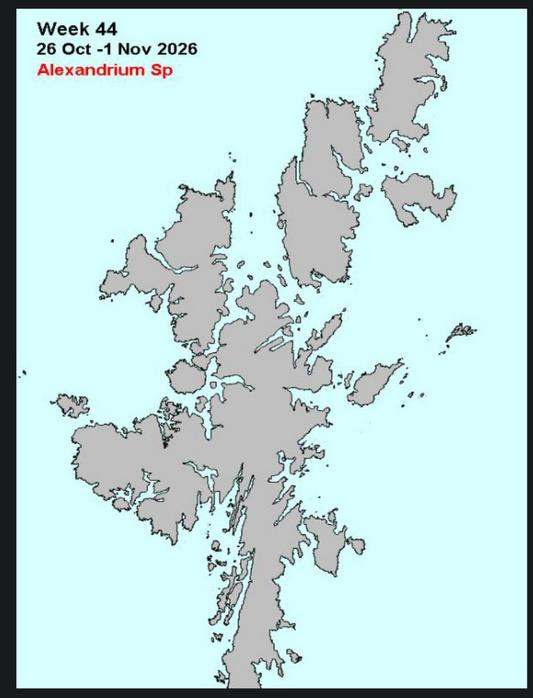


ALEXANDRIUM SP.
cells\l
- 0
- 1-20
- 20-500
- 500-2,000
- 2,000-5,000
- 5,000-20,000
- >=20,000







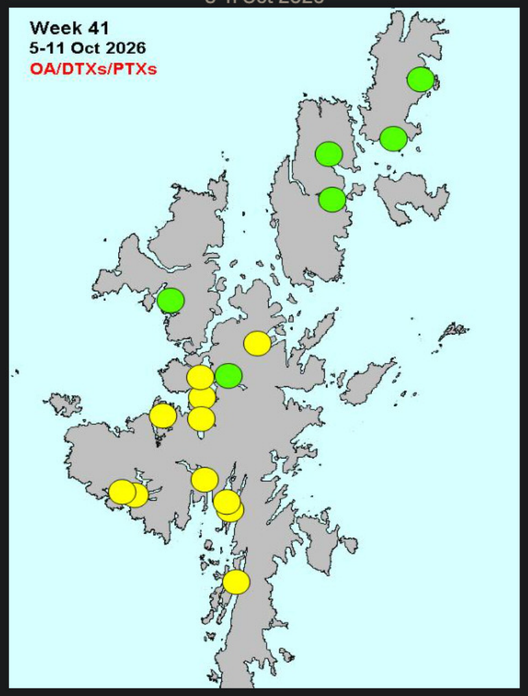


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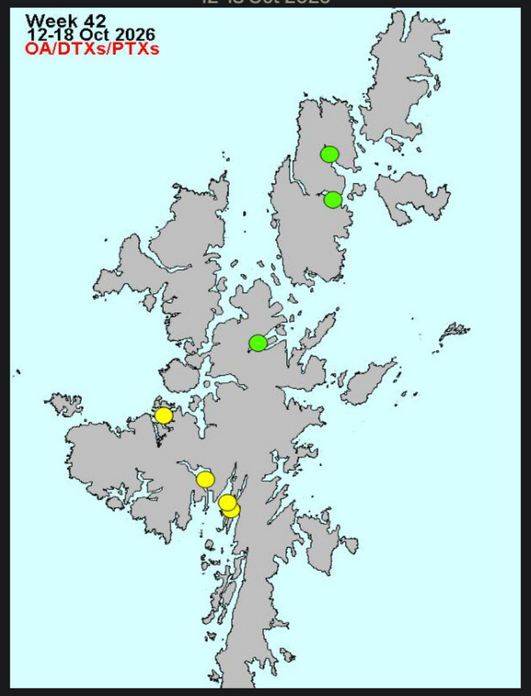
DIARRHETIC SHELLFISH POISONING TOXINS & CAUSATIVE PHYTOPLANKTON

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

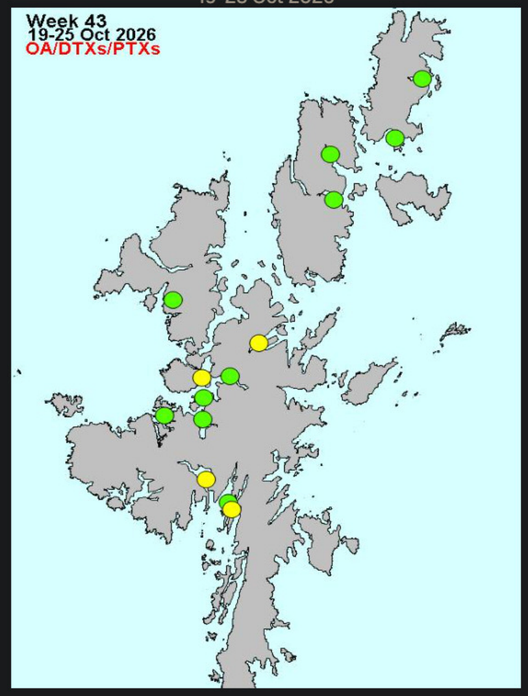
Week 41
5-11 Oct 2026



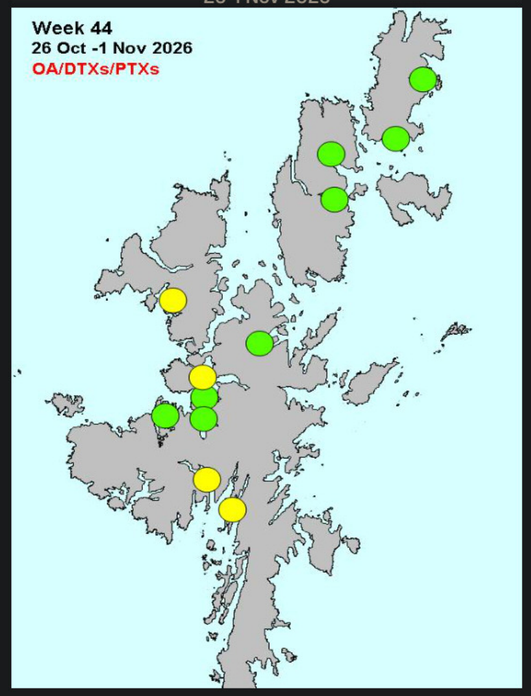
Week 42
12-18 Oct 2026



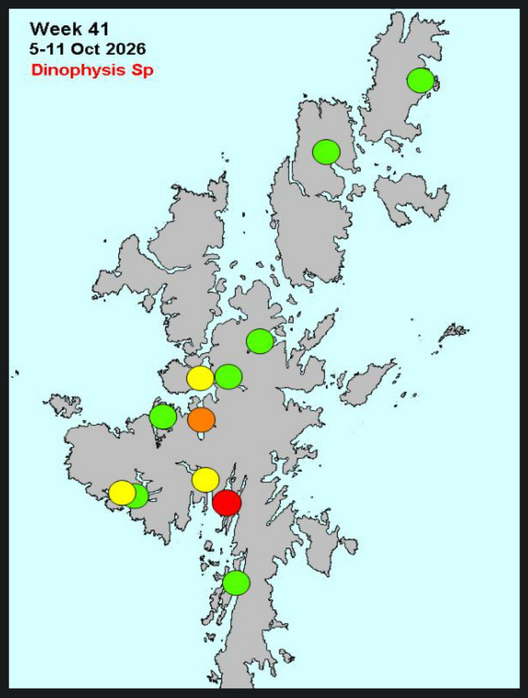
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19-25 Oct 2026

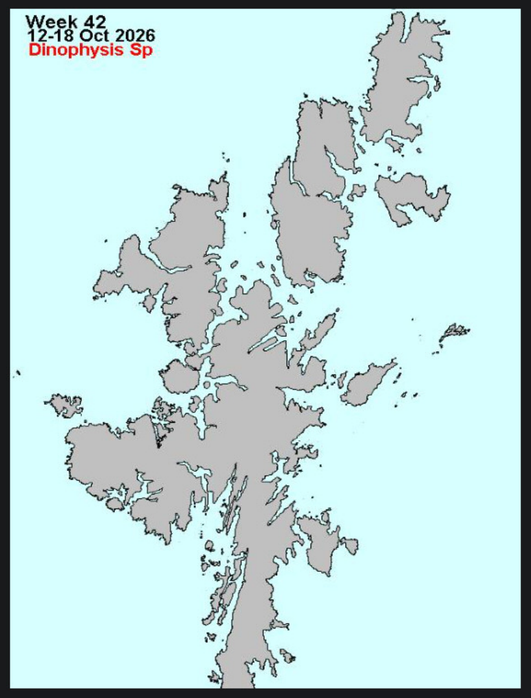


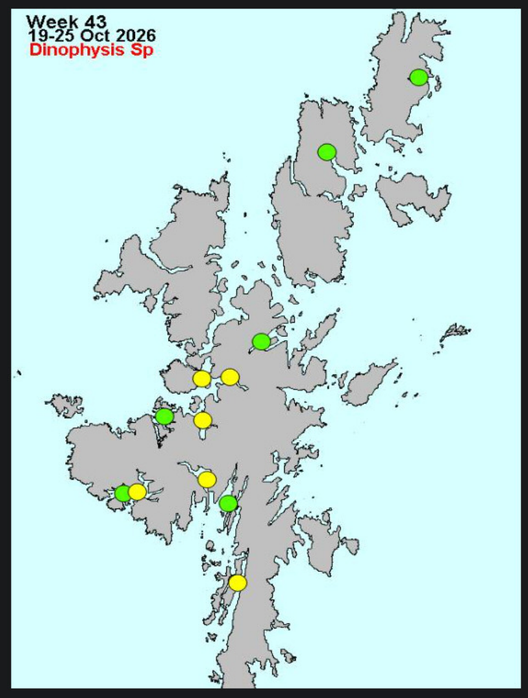
Week 44 CURRENT
26-1 Nov 2026

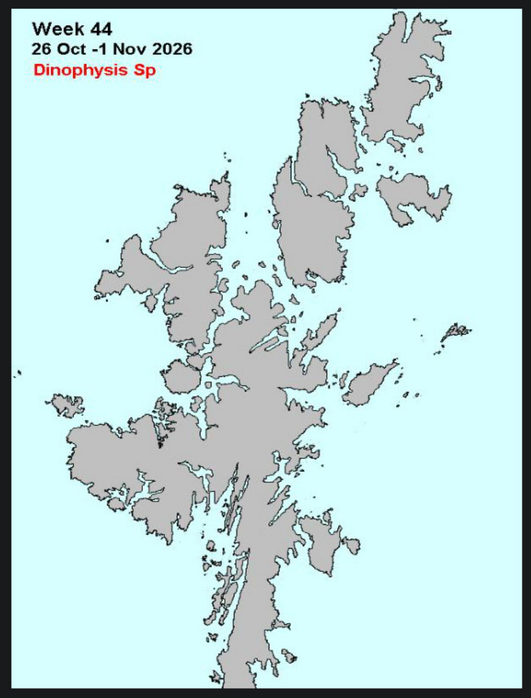


DINOPHYSIS SP.
cells\l
- 0
- 0-80
- 80-100
- 100-400
- 400-1,000
- 1,000-2,000
- 2,000-5,000
- >=5,000







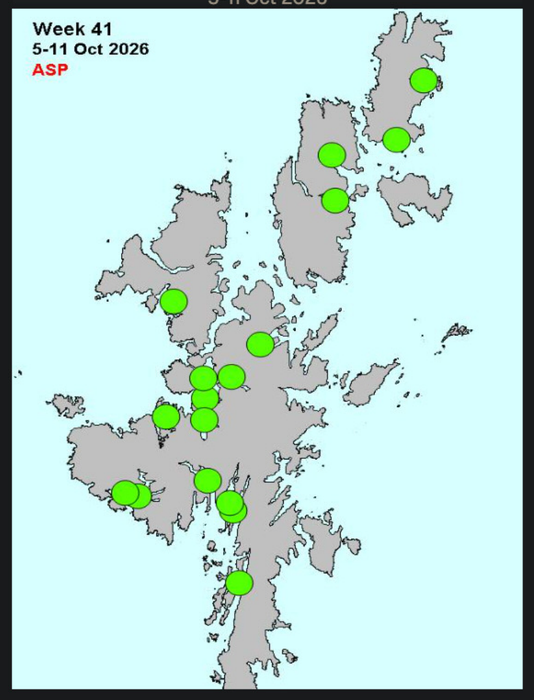


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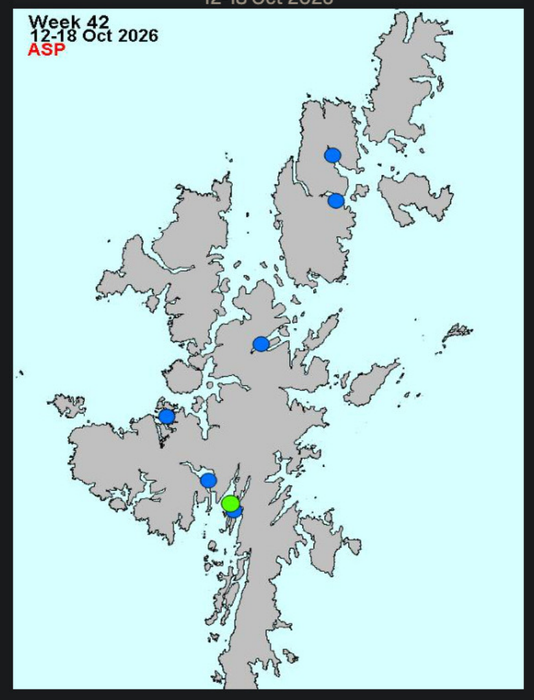
AMNESIC SHELLFISH POISONING & CAUSATIVE PHYTOPLANKTON

ASP
mg/kg
- Not Analyzed
- 0
- 0-10
- 10-20
- 20-50
- 50-100
- 100-500
- 500-1,000
- >=1,000

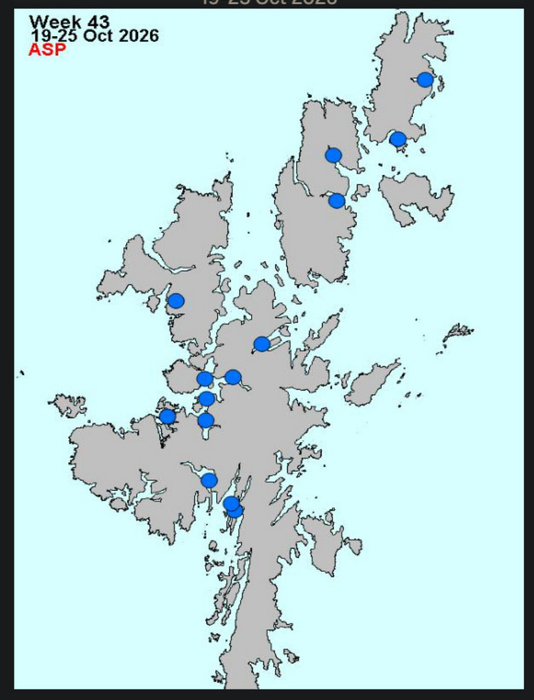
Week 41
5-11 Oct 2026



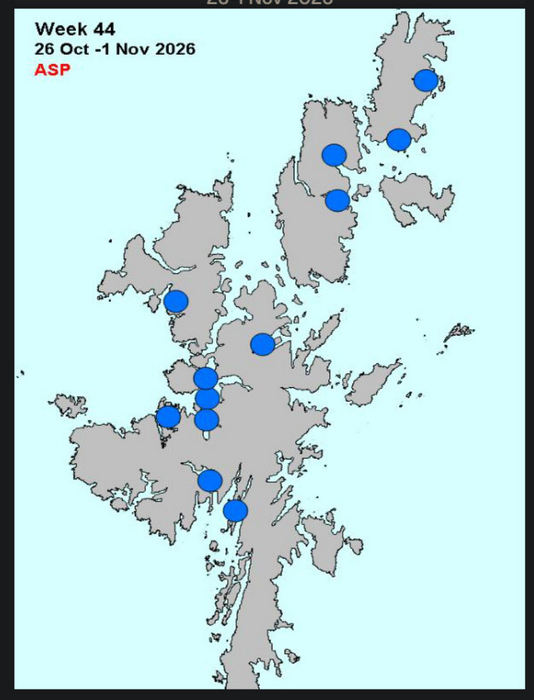
Week 42
12-18 Oct 2026



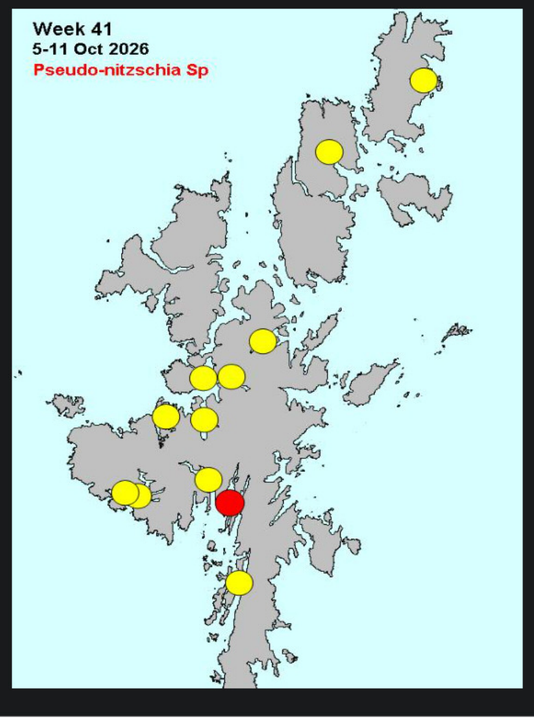
Week 43
19-25 Oct 2026

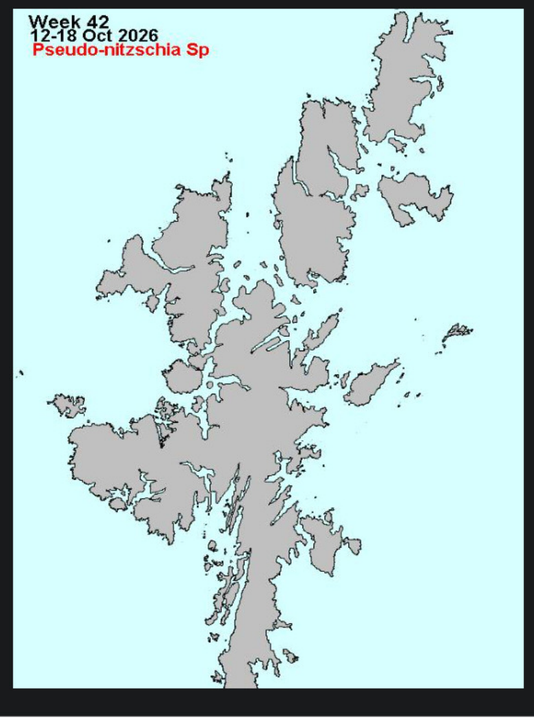


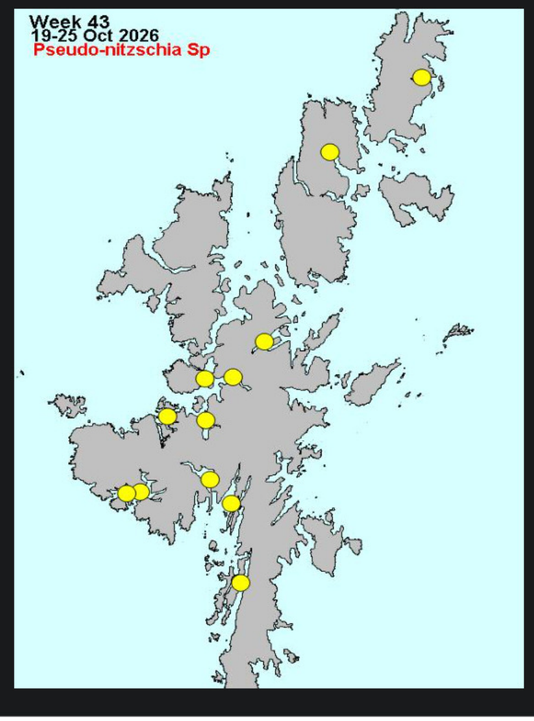
Week 44 CURRENT
26-1 Nov 2026

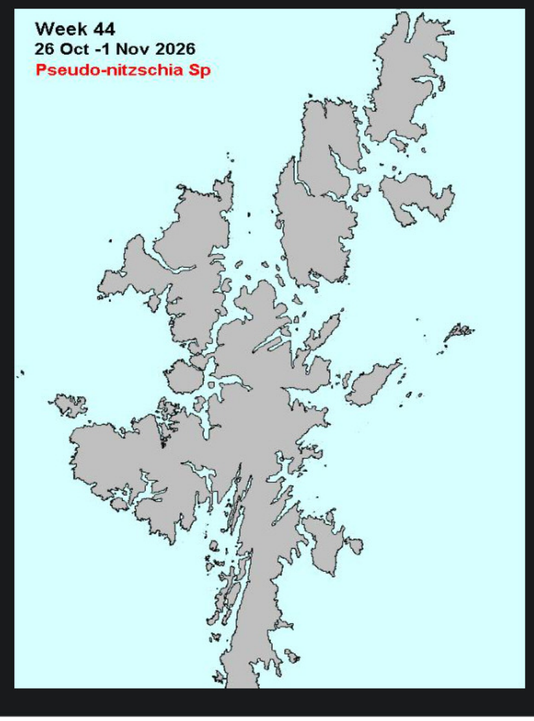


PSEUDO-NITZSCHIA SP.
cells\l
- 0
- 0-39,999
- 40,000-49,999
- 50,000-100,000
- 100,000-200,000
- 200,000-500,000
- 500,000-1,000,000
- >=1,000,000









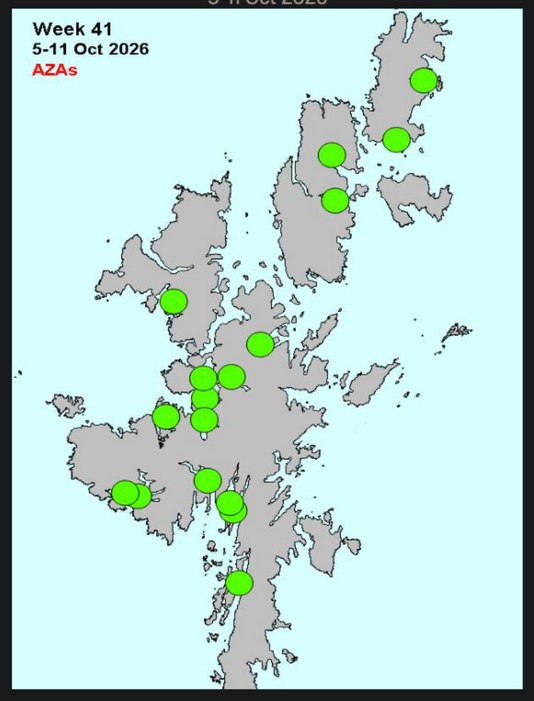
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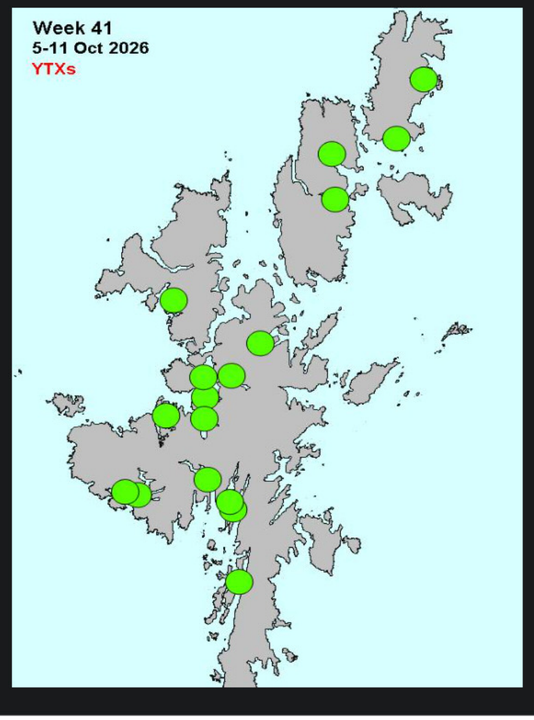
AZASPIRACID & YESSOTOXIN SHELLFISH POISONING TOXINS

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

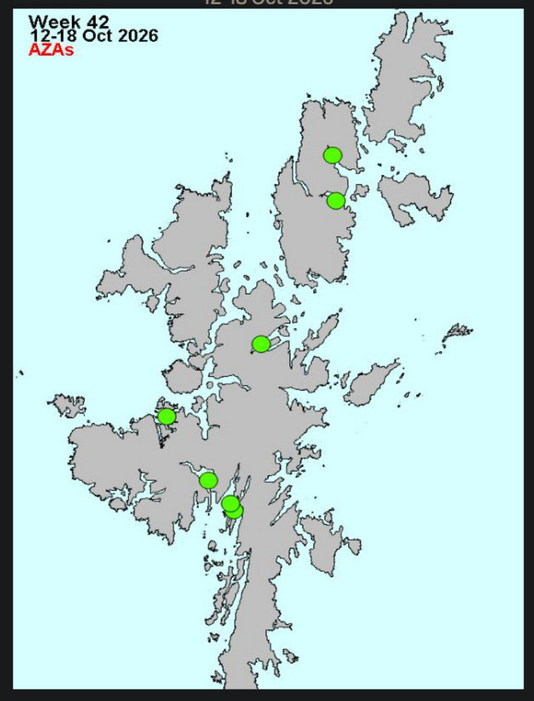
YTXS
mg YTX eq/kg
- Not Analyzed
- 0
- 0-1.4
- 1.5-3.74
- >=3.75

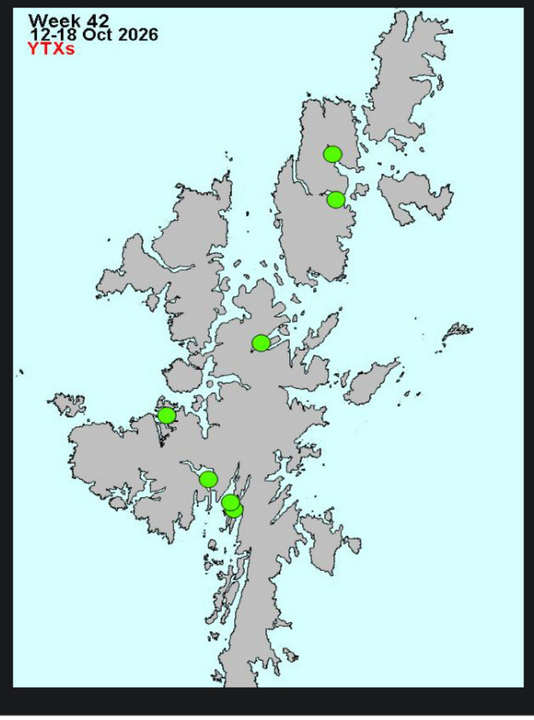
Week 41
5-11 Oct 2026



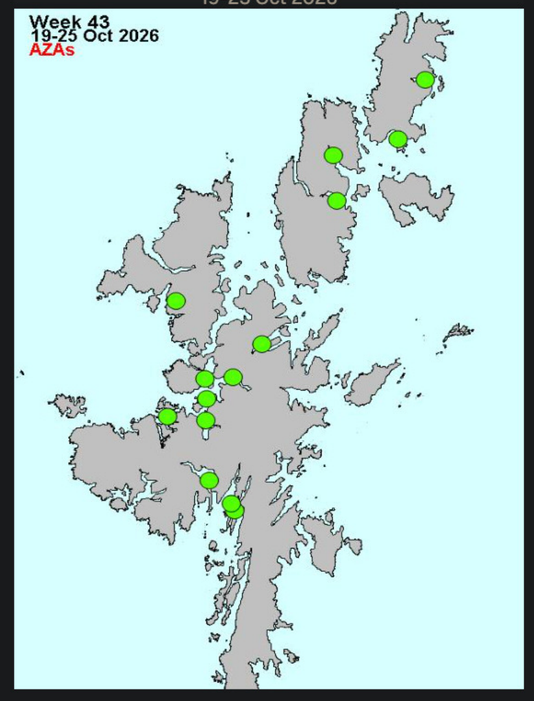


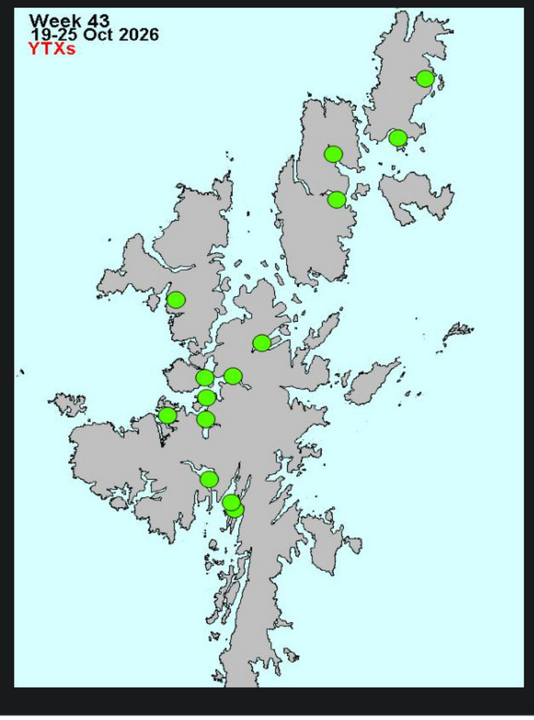
Week 42
12-18 Oct 2026



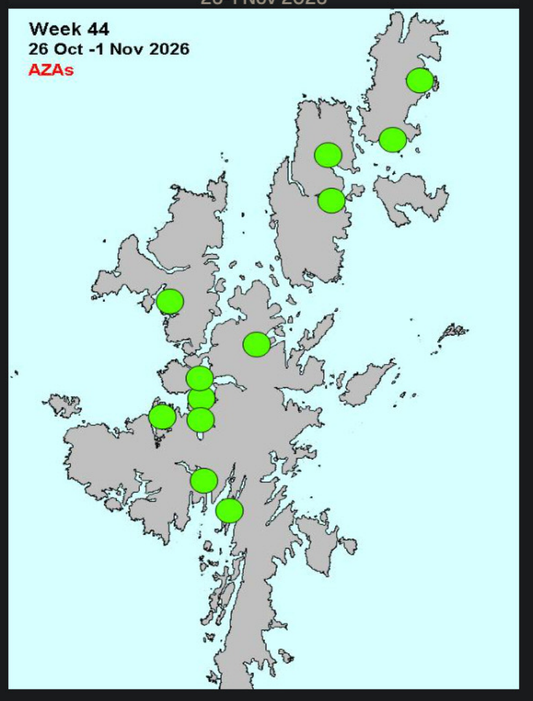


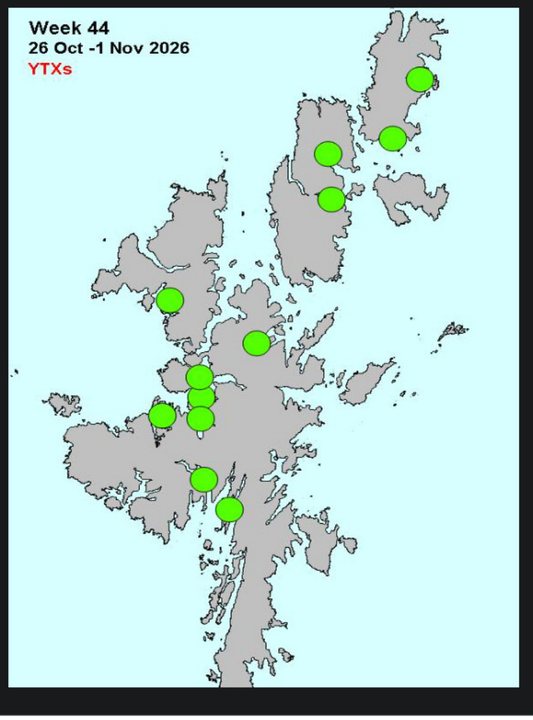
Week 43
19-25 Oct 2026





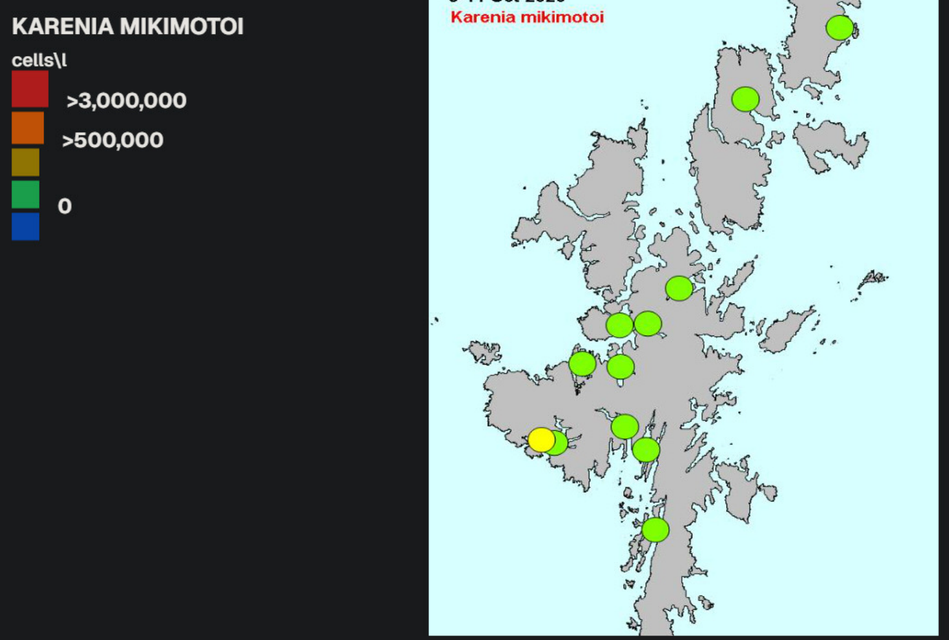
Week 44 CURRENT
26-1 Nov 2026

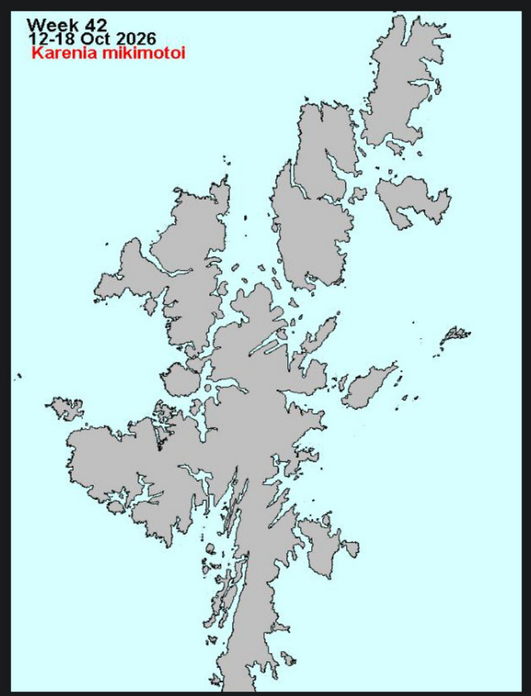


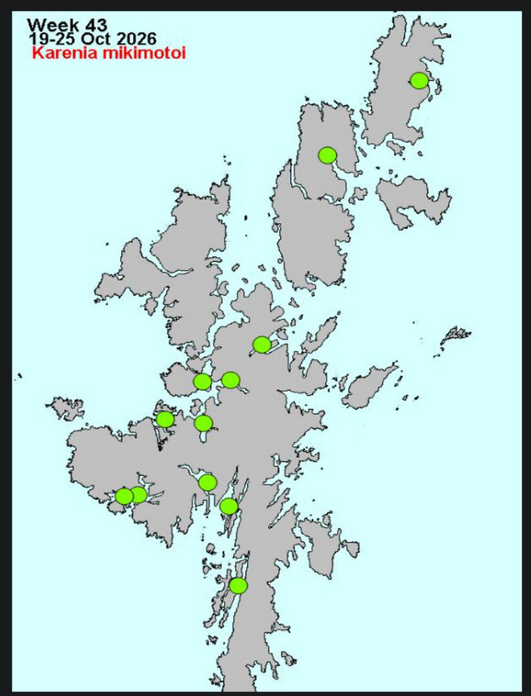


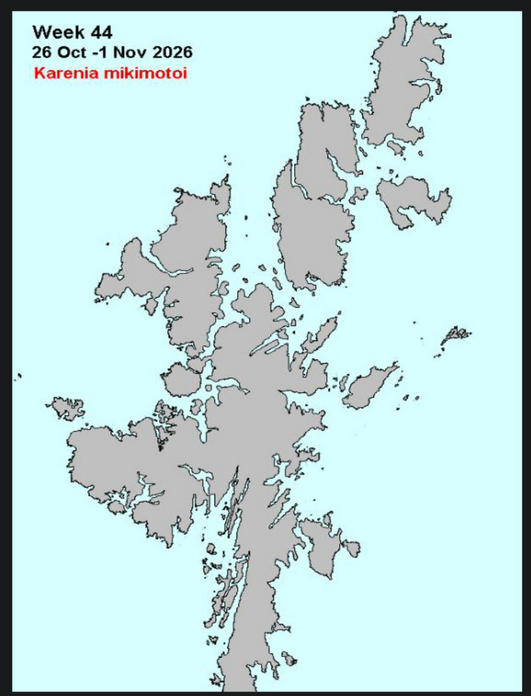
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KARENIA MIKIMOTOI









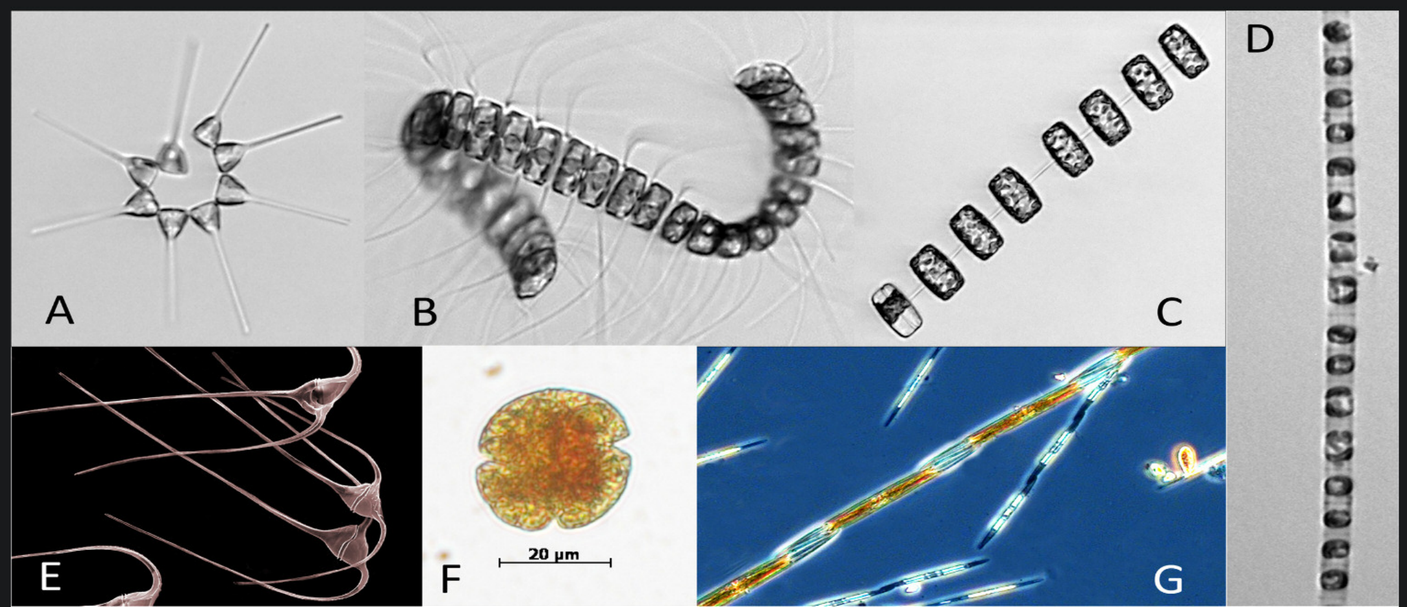
CHAIN FORMING PHYTOPLANKTON

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

No samples were analysed this week. The IFCB's at Cole Deep and Scalloway are offline for maintenance

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

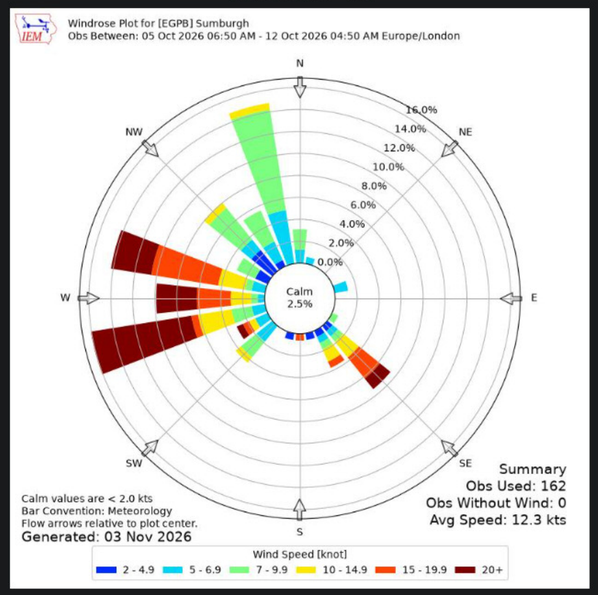


A. Asterionellopsis spp. B. Chaetoceros spp. C. Thalassiosira spp. D. Skeletonema spp. E. Ceratium Horridum F. Karenia mikimotoi G. Pseudo-nitzschia spp.

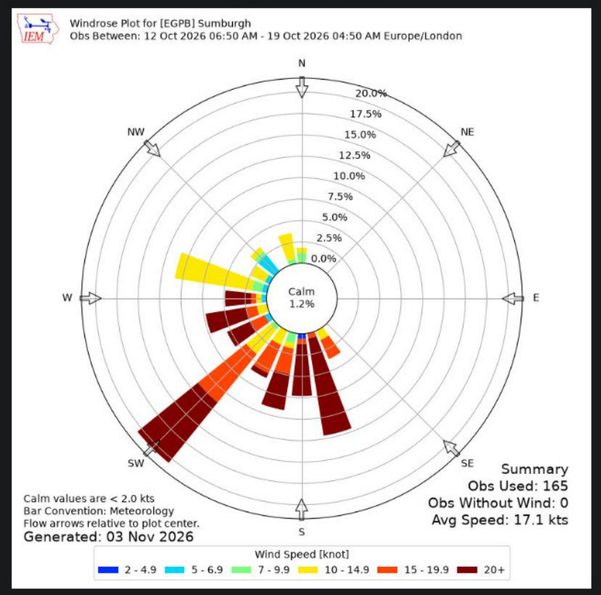
Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 44, 26th Oct - 1st Nov 2026

MEAN WIND DIRECTION OBSERVED IN SHETLAND FOR CURRENT AND THREE PRECEDING WEEKS

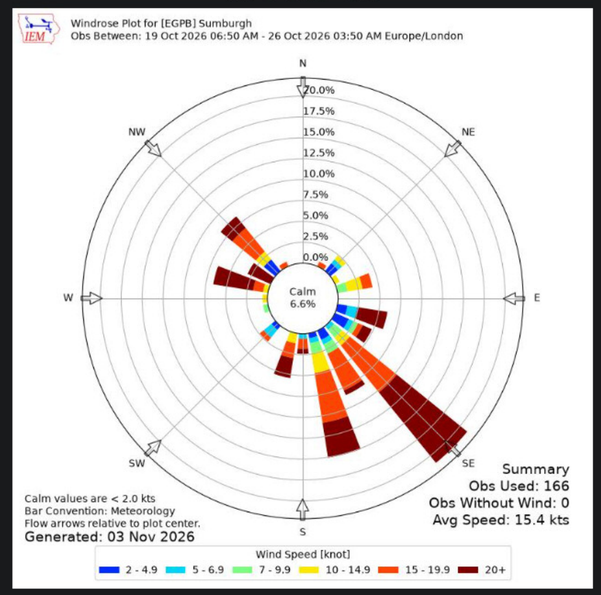
Week 41



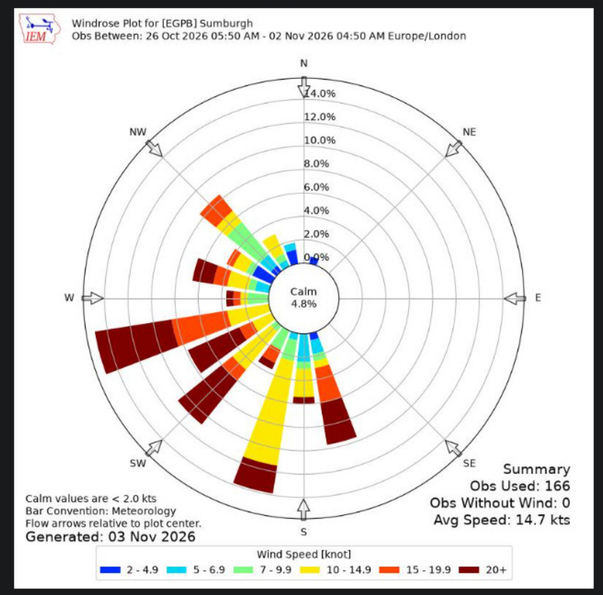
Week 42



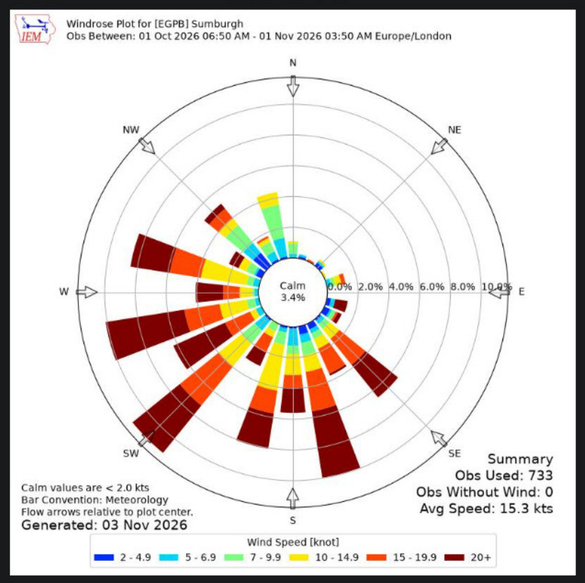
Week 43



Week 44



October



Mean wind direction and speed observed in Shetland over the past four weeks. Higher wind speeds are shown in lighter shades.

PREDICTIONS:

The risk of wind blown *Dinophysis* blooms in Shetland is <u>LOW</u> 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 in lets where their numbers may increase. Wind for the past week has been predominantly from the west.

STATUS:

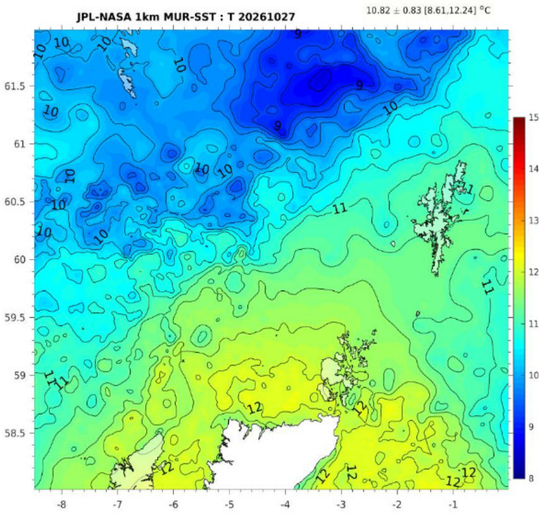
Over the past week the average wind direction has been from the west.

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 44, 26th Oct - 1st Nov 2026

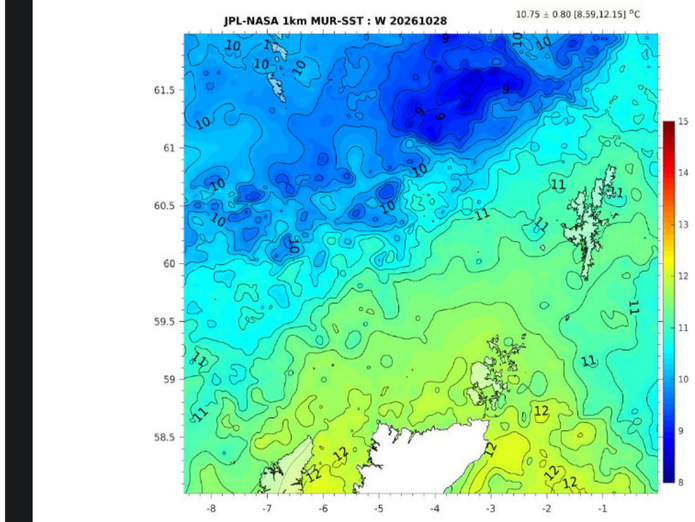
SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°C) IN PRECEDING 6 DAYS IN THE SHETLAND ISLANDS

TEMP °C
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8

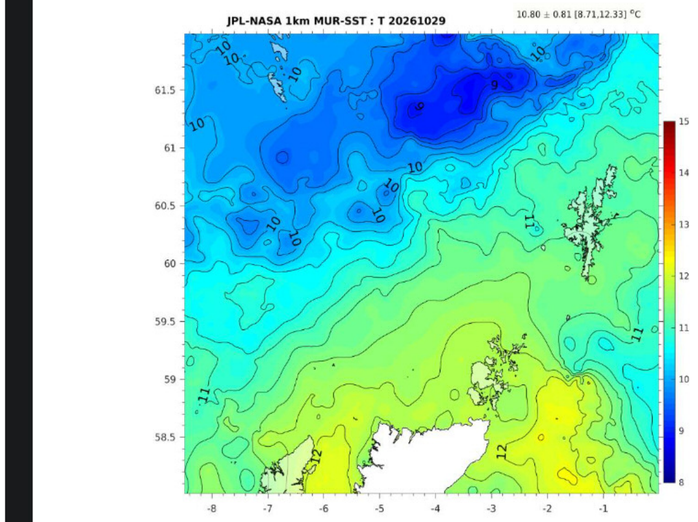
27 Oct 2026



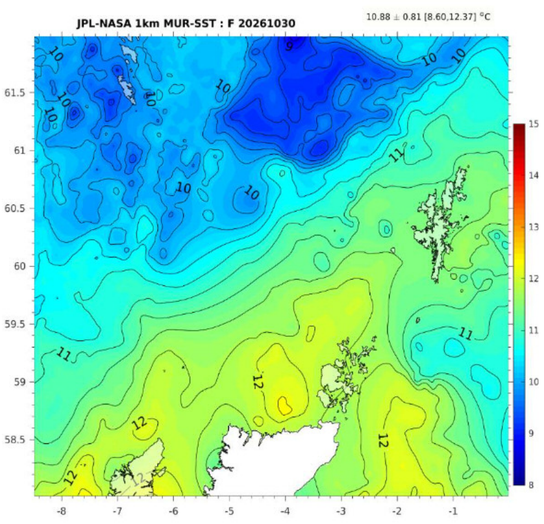
28 Oct 2026



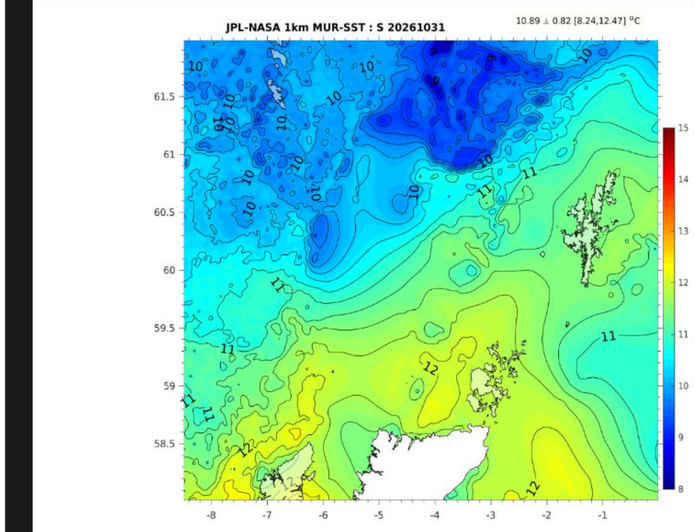
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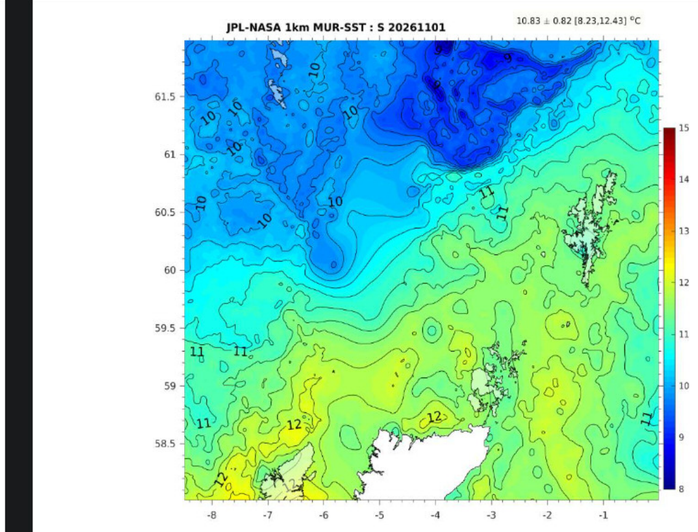
30 Oct 2026



31 Oct 2026



1 Nov 2026



Maps provided courtesy of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA

NASA JPL

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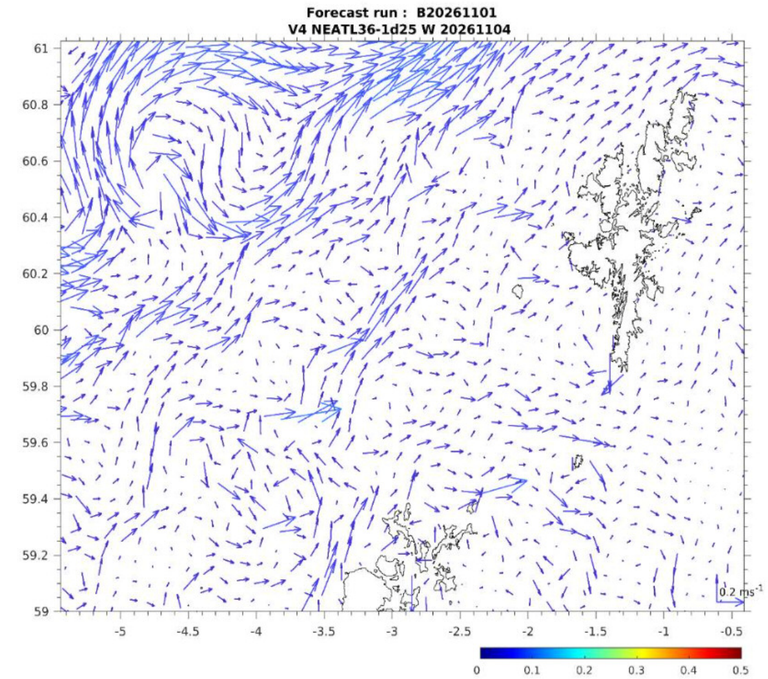
FORECASTED SEA SURFACE CURRENTS

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.

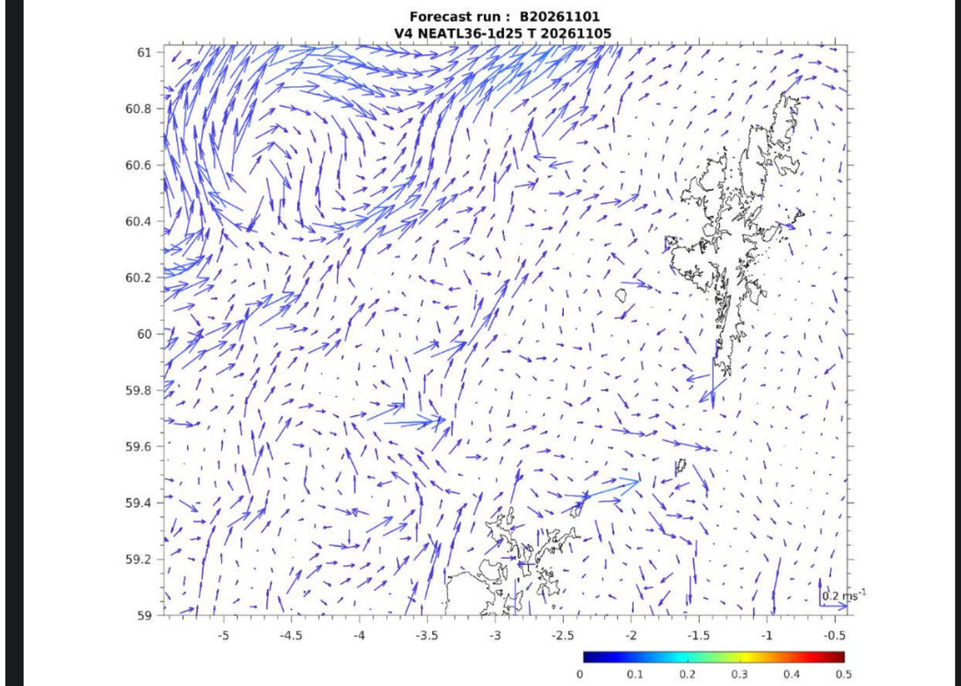
M/S

- 0.5
- 0.4
- 0.3
- 0.2
- 0.1
- 0.0

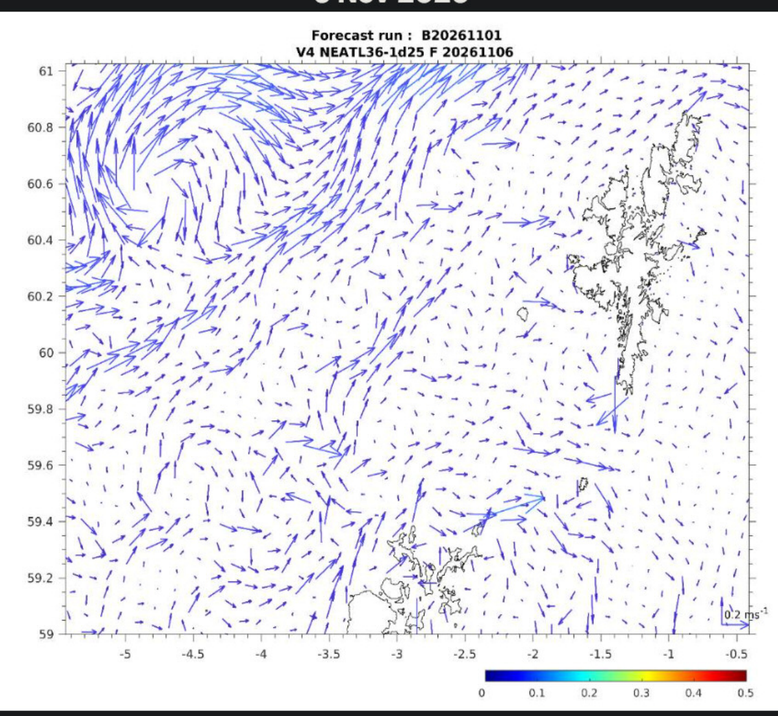
4 Nov 2026



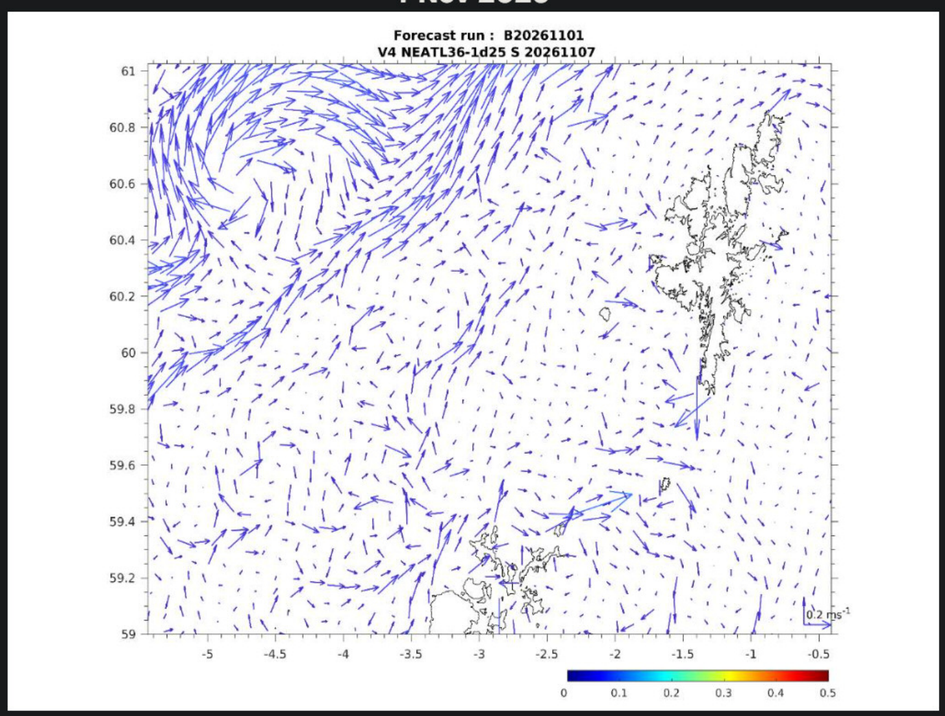
5 Nov 2026



6 Nov 2026



7 Nov 2026



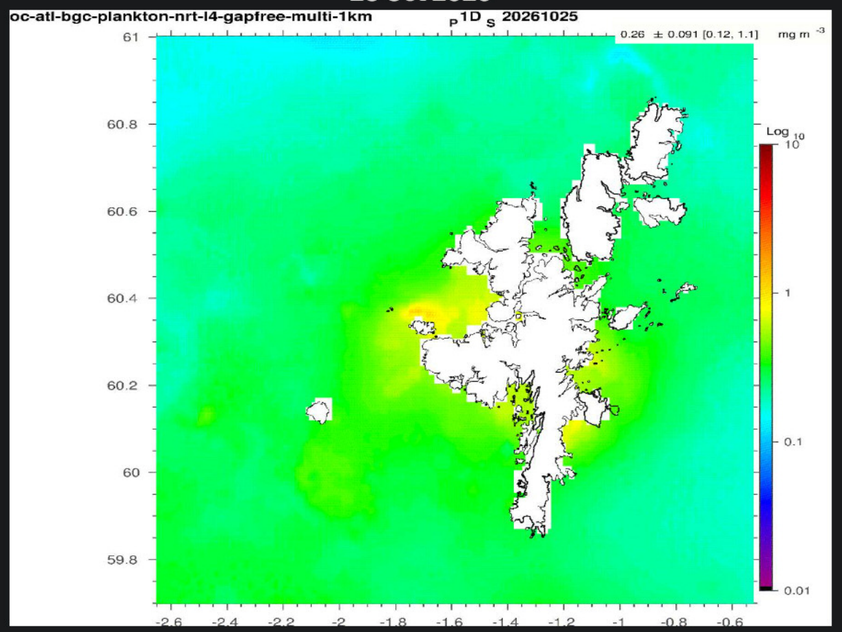
Forecast provided by the model-NEATL-PHY-1/36°-AF-D-PGS (IBI36QV4R1-PGS) courtesy of Mercator.

POWERED BY Mercator Ocean

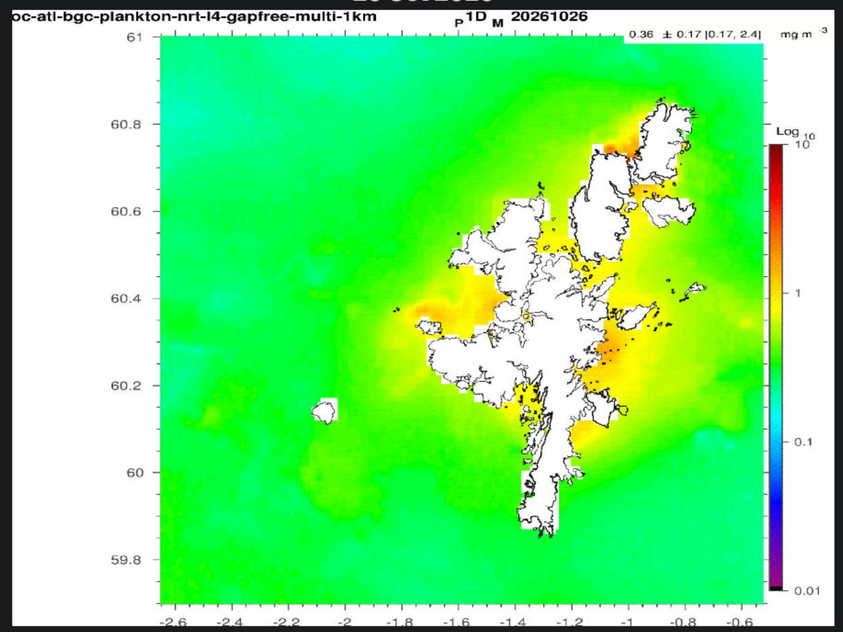
Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 44, 26th Oct - 1st Nov 2026

CHLOROPHYLL CONCENTRATIONS (MG/M³)

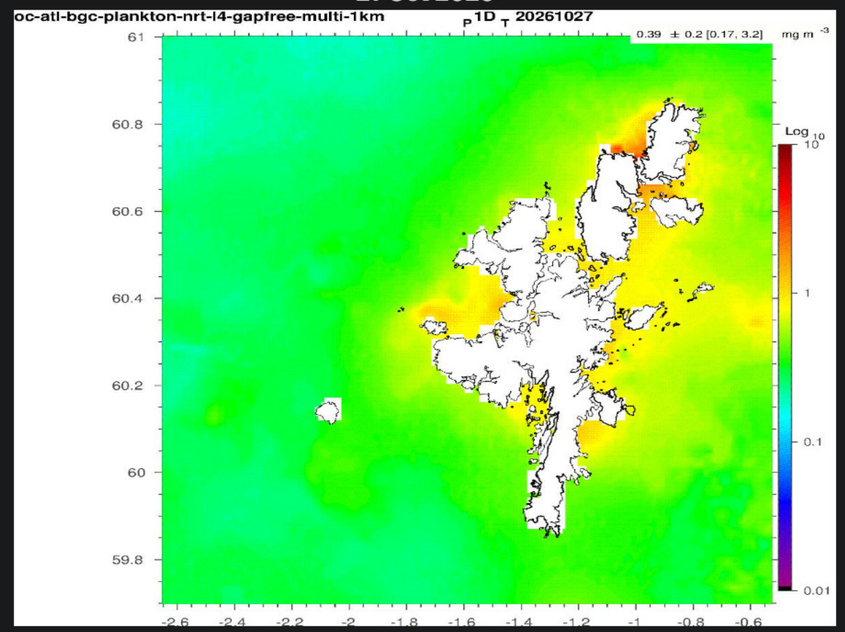
25 Oct 2026



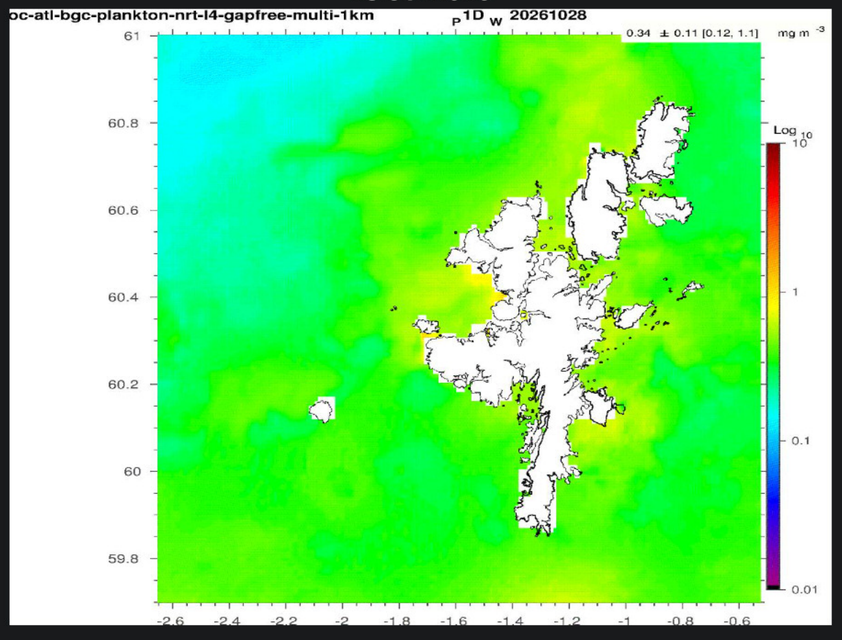
26 Oct 2026



27 Oct 2026

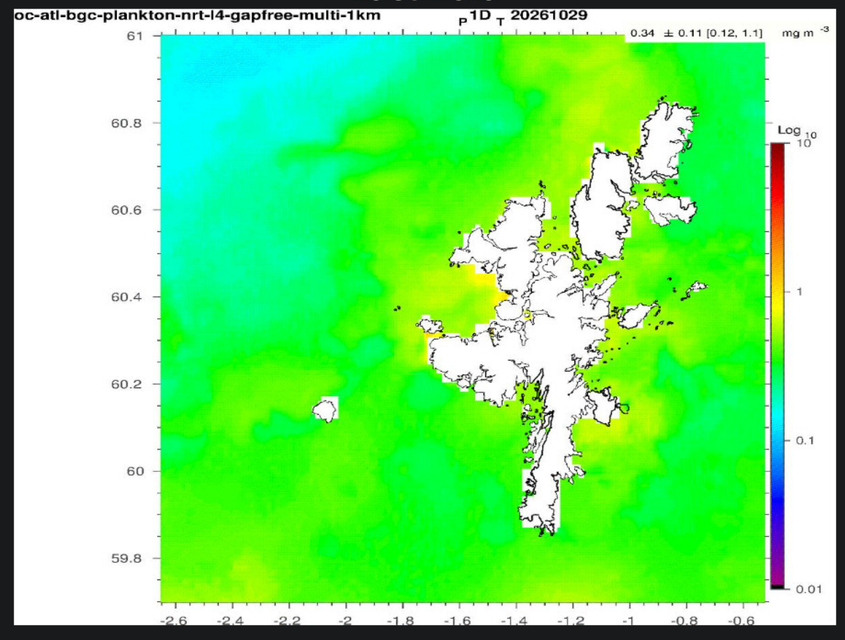


28 Oct 2026



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.

29 Oct 2026



Images provided by the Ocean Colour atl-chl-L-L4 NRT-Observations-Copernicus