Biotoxin report:

ASP toxins: 2 samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

AZA toxins: 7 samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

DSP toxins: 7 samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

PSP toxins: 3 samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

YTX toxins: 7 samples were analysed this week. Toxins were not detected.

Harmful algae report:

***Alexandrium*:** No samples were analysed this week.

***Dinophysis*:** No samples were analysed this week.

***Karenia mikimotoi*:** No samples were analysed this week.

***Prorocentrum lima*:** No samples were analysed this week.

***Pseudo-nitzschia*:** No samples were analysed this week.

Shetland: trends and forecast

***Alexandrium*/PSP:** No sites were sampled for *Alexandrium*. However, it is very unlikely that a there will be a toxic bloom this week.

***Dinophysis*/DSP:** No sites were sampled for *Dinophysis*. However, it is very unlikely that a there will be a toxic bloom this week.

***Pseudo-nitzschia*/ASP:** No sites were sampled for Pseudo nitzschia spp. However, it is very unlikely that a there will be a toxic bloom this week.

AZA and YTX: It is very unlikely that a 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**		

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

Funding for these bulletins is kindly provided by Seafood Shetland.

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. This bulletin was generated automatically. Please contact us if you notice any discrepancies.

Warning and threshold levels

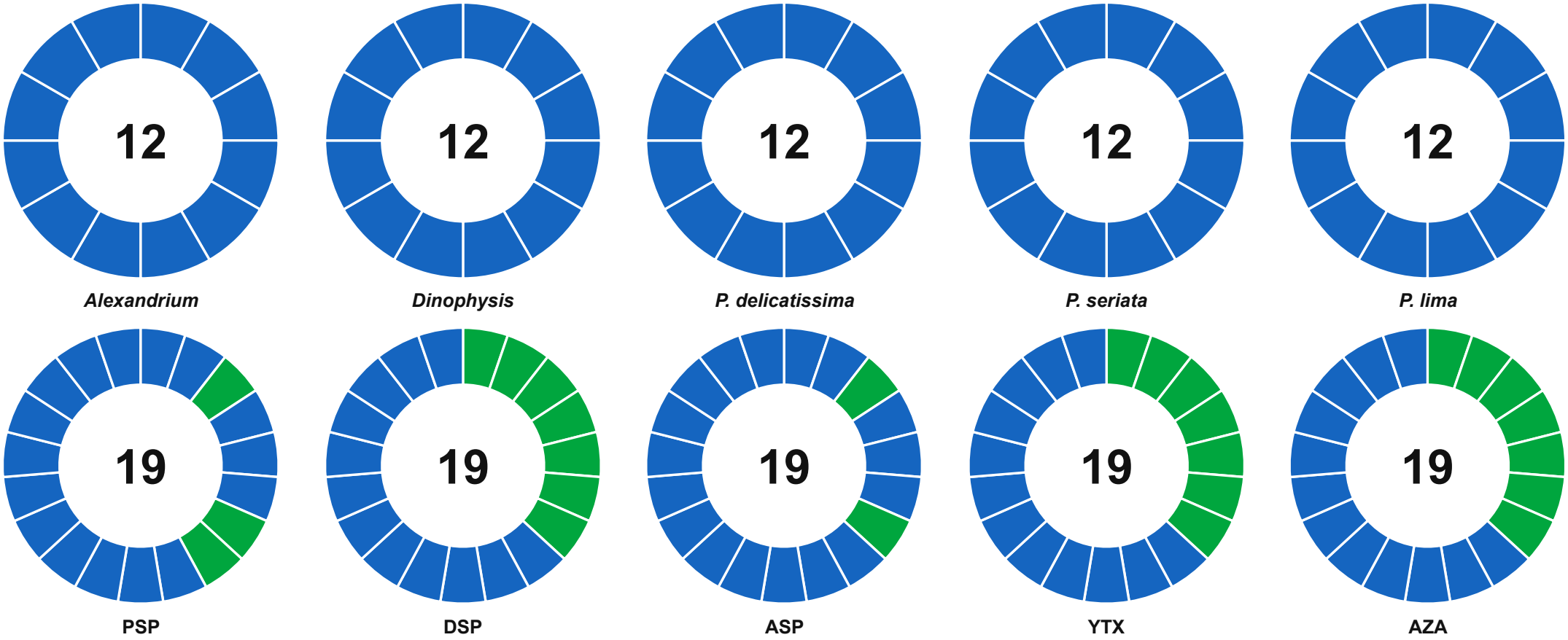
SPECIES	WARNING	THRESHOLD
Alexandrium **(PSP)**	20 cells/l	40 cells/l
Pseudo-nitzschia **(ASP)**	40,000 cells/l	50,000 cells/l
Dinophysis **(DSP)**	80 cells/l	100 cells/l
Prorocentrum lima **(DSP)**	80 cells/l	100 cells/l

Maximum permitted levels

PSP	**800 µg/kg**
ASP	**20 mg/kg**
Lipophilic toxins (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**

Primary data for biotoxins and biotoxin-producing phytoplankton: **www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/shellfish/algaltoxin/**

Status of biotoxins & harmful algae present in Shetland



Segments — number of individual sites. Colours: green, red, amber and yellow as per the key. Blue — not analysed. A coloured segment indicates the approximate position of the 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
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
P. 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;

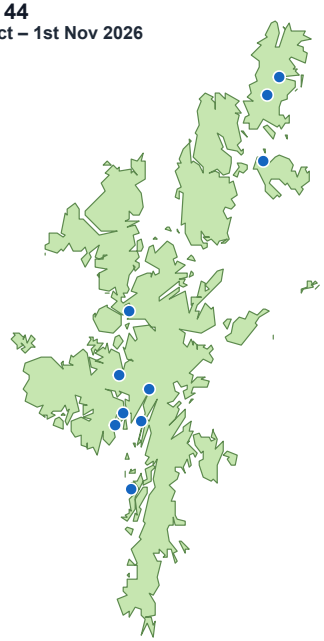
LOQ — limit of quantification

Paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton

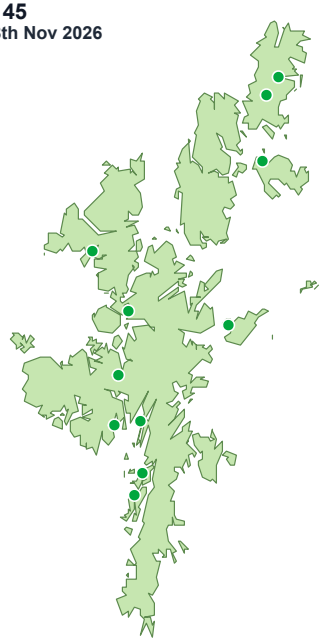
PSP (µg/kg)

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

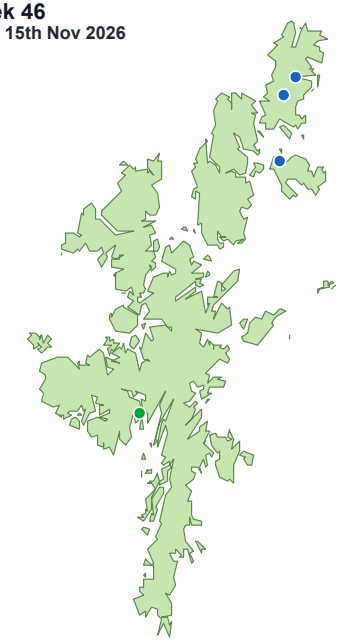
Week 44
26th Oct – 1st Nov 2026
PSP



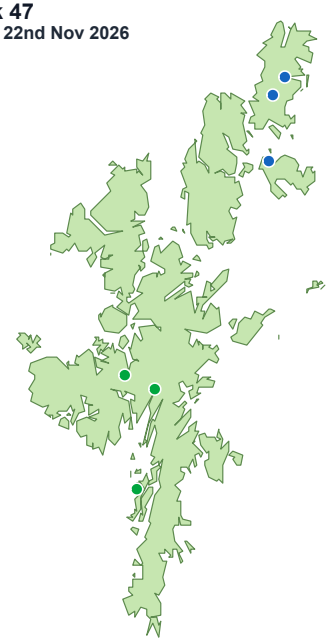
Week 45
2nd – 8th Nov 2026
PSP



Week 46
9th – 15th Nov 2026
PSP



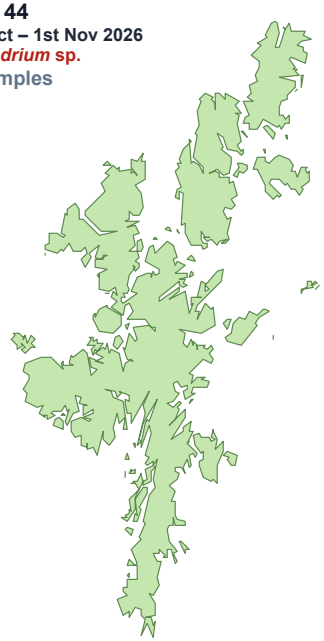
Week 47
16th – 22nd Nov 2026
PSP



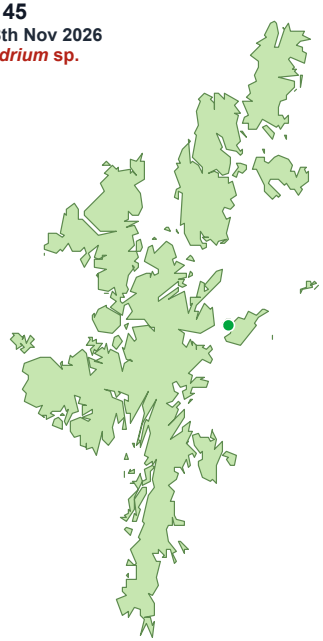
***Alexandrium* sp.**

- <20 cells/l
- 20 cells/l
- ≥40 cells/l
- Not sampled

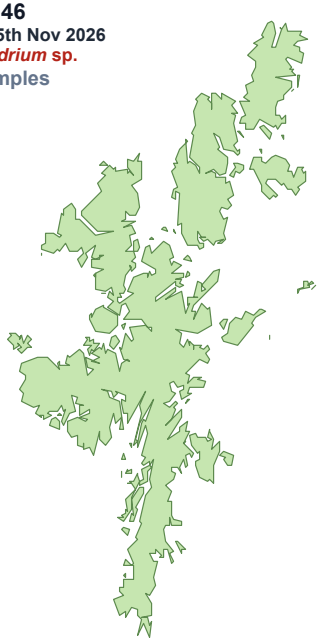
Week 44
26th Oct – 1st Nov 2026
Alexandrium sp.
No samples



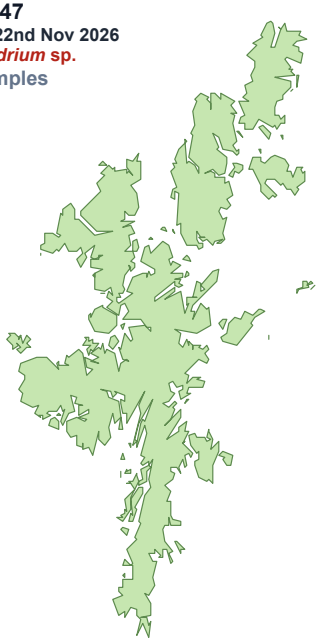
Week 45
2nd – 8th Nov 2026
Alexandrium sp.



Week 46
9th – 15th Nov 2026
Alexandrium sp.
No samples



Week 47
16th – 22nd Nov 2026
Alexandrium sp.
No samples

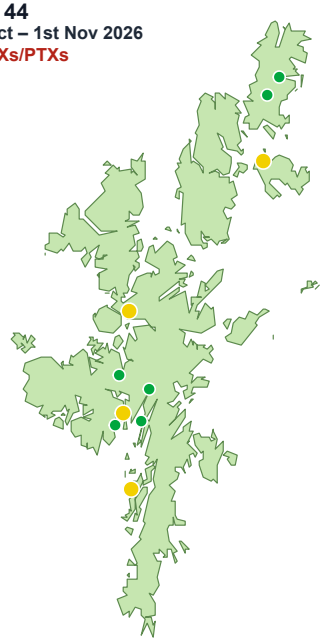


Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton

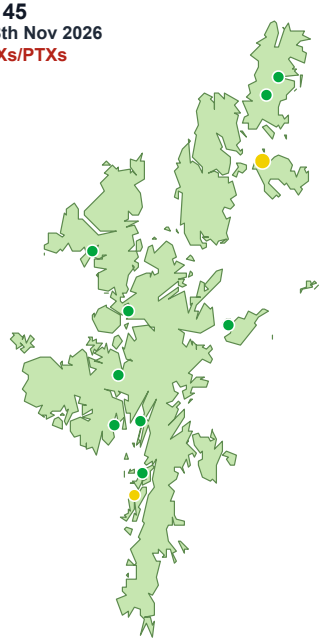
OA / DTXs / PTXs

- <RL
- 1–79 µg/kg
- 80–160
- >160 µg/kg
- Not analysed

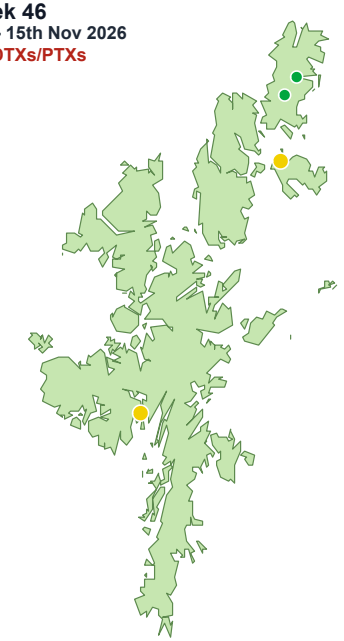
Week 44
26th Oct – 1st Nov 2026
OA/DTXs/PTXs



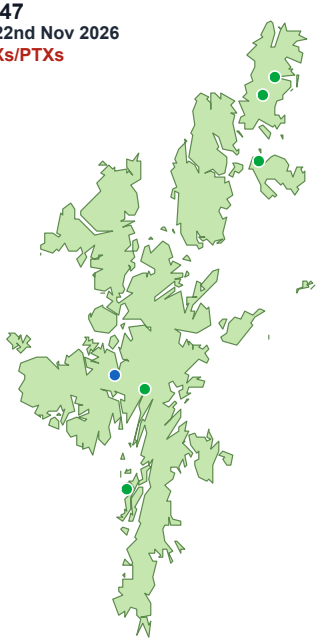
Week 45
2nd – 8th Nov 2026
OA/DTXs/PTXs



Week 46
9th – 15th Nov 2026
OA/DTXs/PTXs



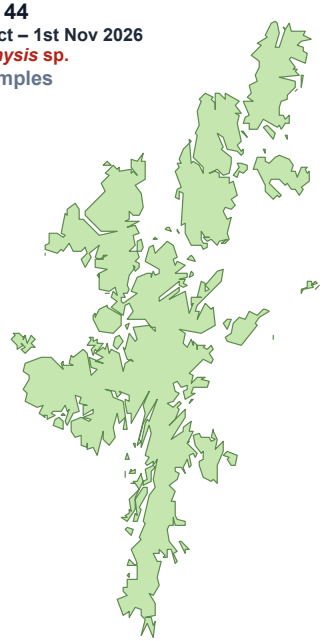
Week 47
16th – 22nd Nov 2026
OA/DTXs/PTXs



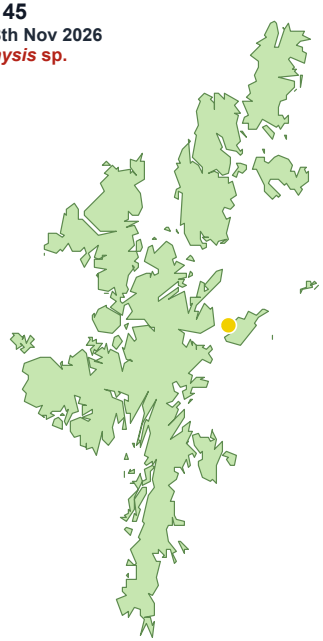
***Dinophysis* sp.**

- <20 cells/l
- 20–79 cells/l
- 80–99 cells/l
- ≥100 cells/l
- Not sampled

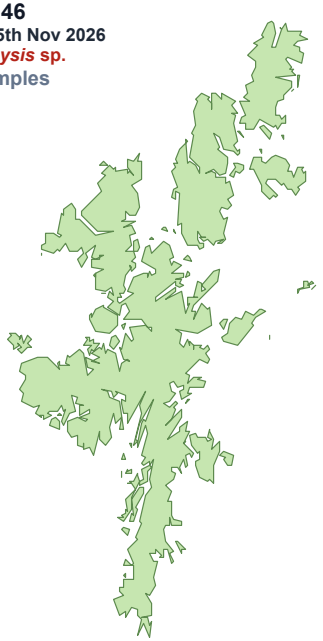
Week 44
26th Oct – 1st Nov 2026
Dinophysis sp.
No samples



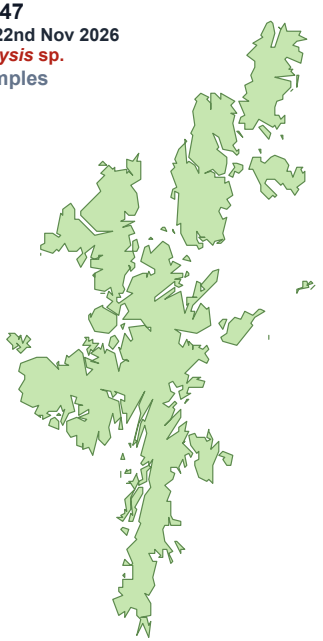
Week 45
2nd – 8th Nov 2026
Dinophysis sp.
No samples



Week 46
9th – 15th Nov 2026
Dinophysis sp.
No samples



Week 47
16th – 22nd Nov 2026
Dinophysis sp.
No samples

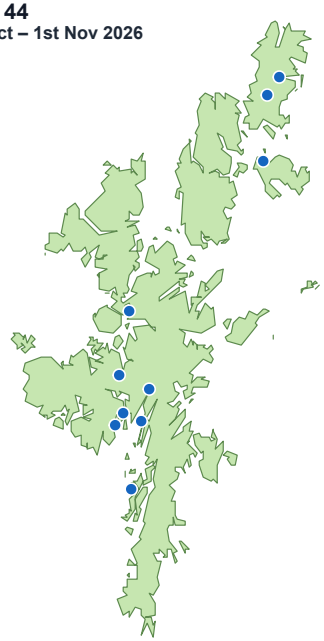


Amnesic shellfish poisoning & causative phytoplankton

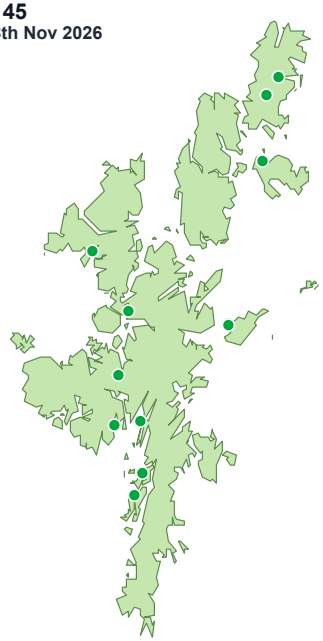
ASP (mg/kg)

- <LOQ
- LOQ–9.9
- 10–20 mg/kg
- >20 mg/kg
- Not analysed

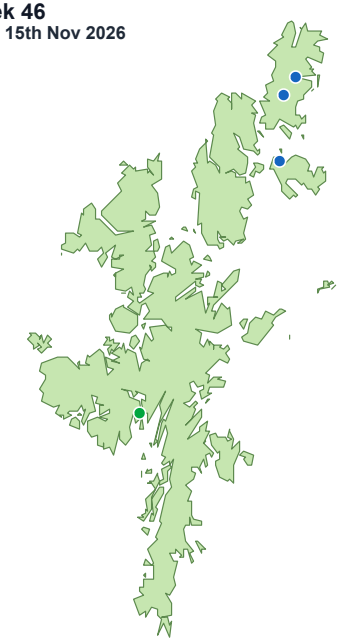
Week 44
26th Oct – 1st Nov 2026
ASP



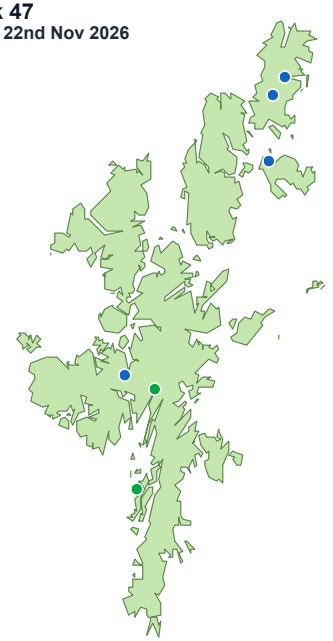
Week 45
2nd – 8th Nov 2026
ASP



Week 46
9th – 15th Nov 2026
ASP



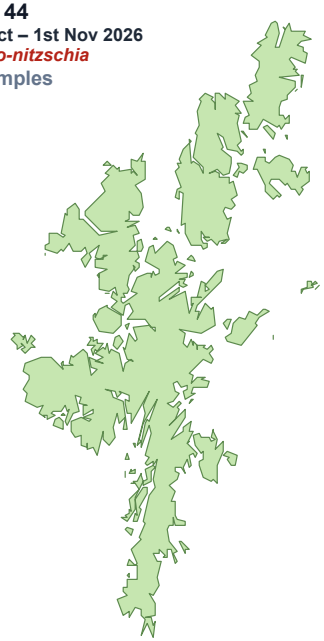
Week 47
16th – 22nd Nov 2026
ASP



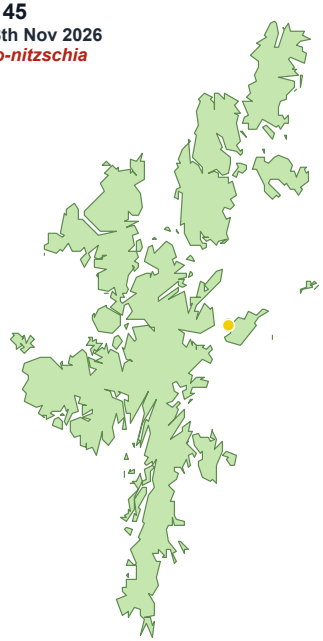
***Pseudo-nitzschia* sp.**

- <20 cells/l
- 20–39,999
- 40k–49,999
- ≥50,000 cells/l
- Not sampled

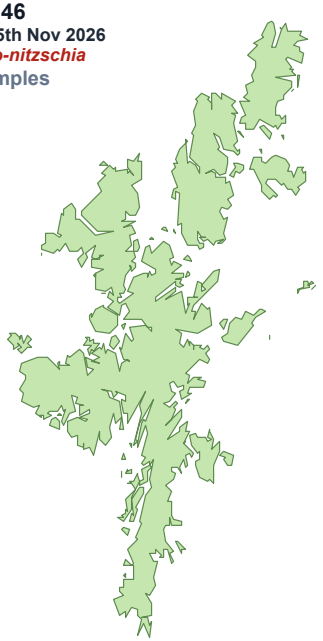
Week 44
26th Oct – 1st Nov 2026
Pseudo-nitzschia
No samples



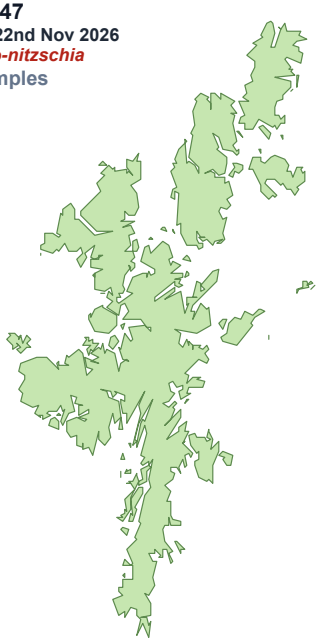
Week 45
2nd – 8th Nov 2026
Pseudo-nitzschia



Week 46
9th – 15th Nov 2026
Pseudo-nitzschia
No samples



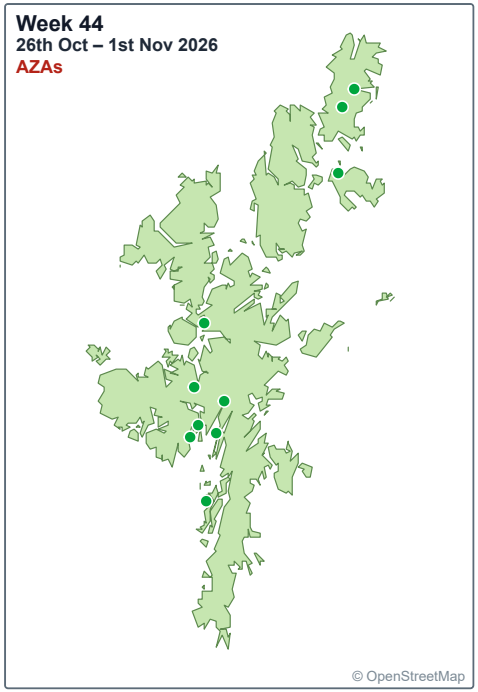
Week 47
16th – 22nd Nov 2026
Pseudo-nitzschia
No samples

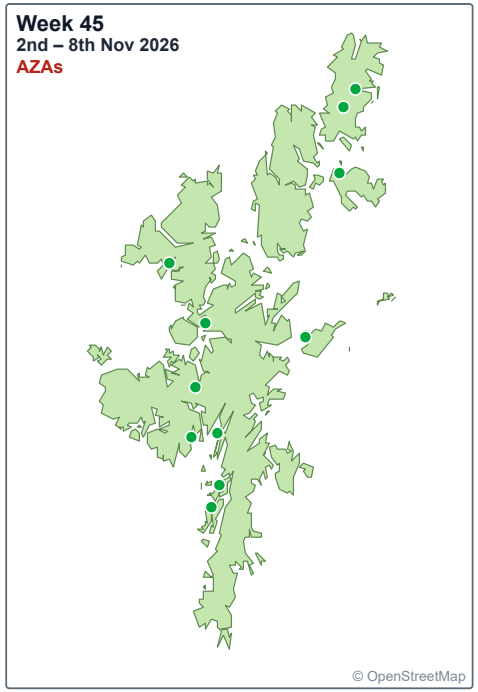


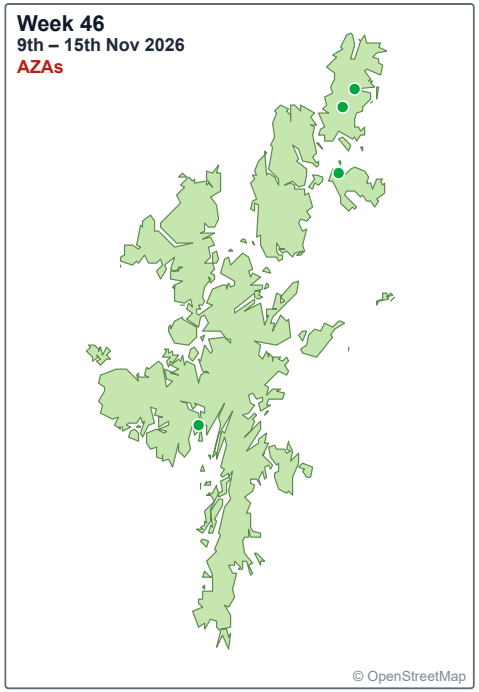
Azaspiracid & yessotoxin shellfish poisoning toxins

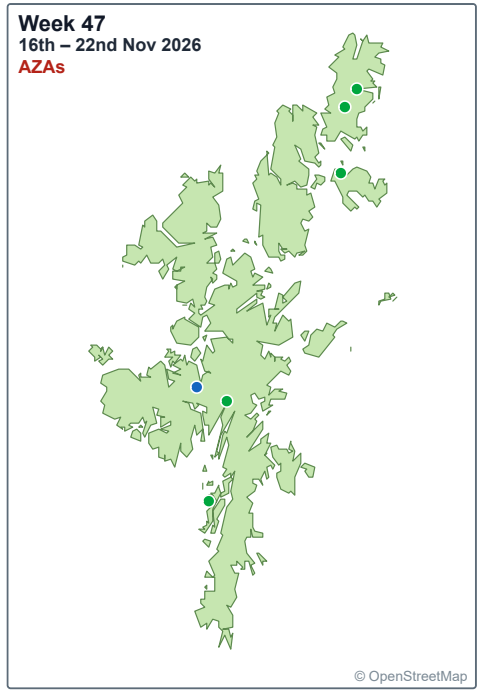
AZAs (µg/kg)

- <RL
- 1–79 µg/kg
- 80–160
- >160 µg/kg
- Not analysed



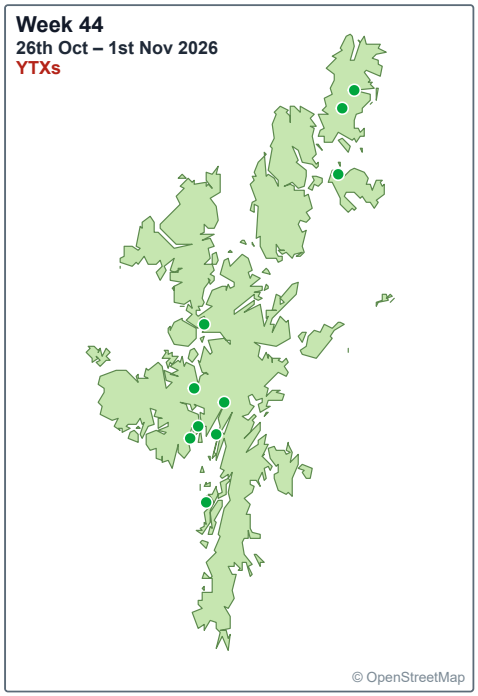


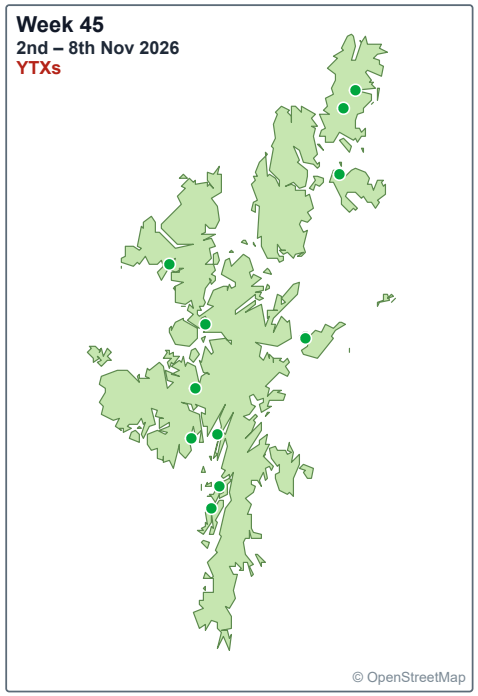


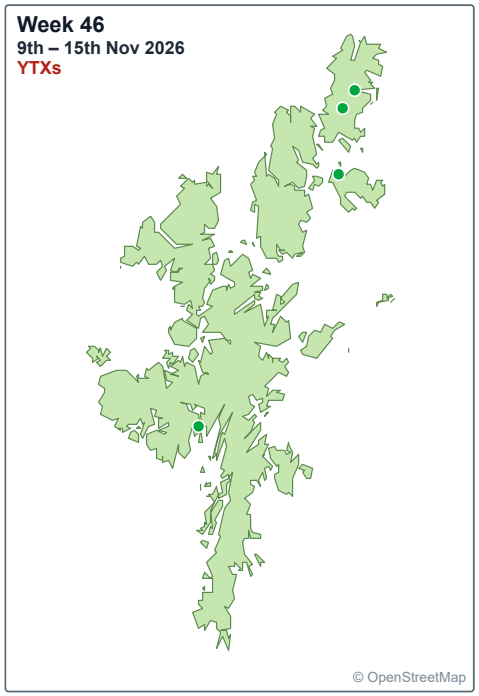


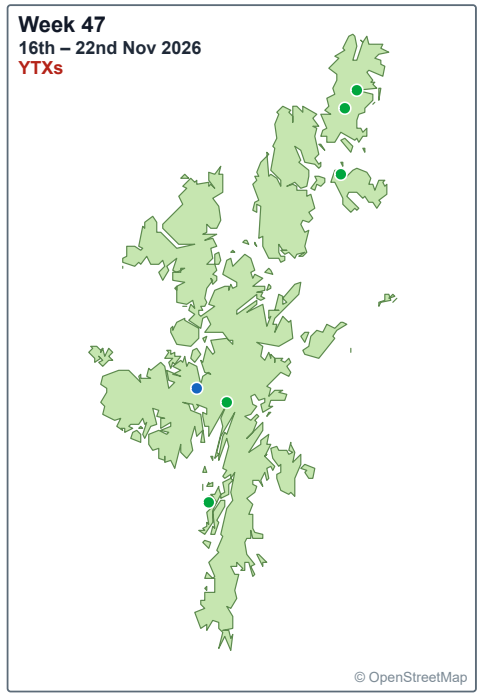
YTXs (mg/kg)

- <RL
- 1–1.7 mg/kg
- 1.8–3.75
- >3.75 mg/kg
- Not analysed







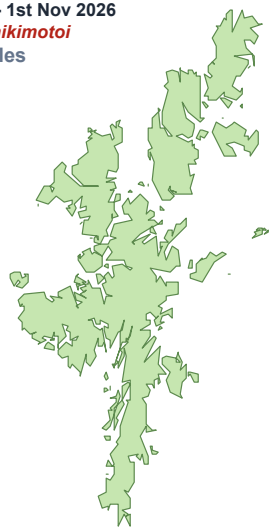


Karenia mikimotoi

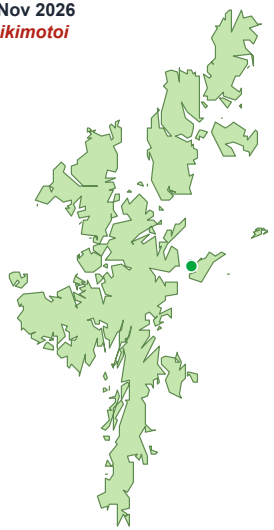
Karenia mikimotoi

- <1k cells/l
- 1k–50k
- 50k–500k
- >500k cells/l
- Not sampled

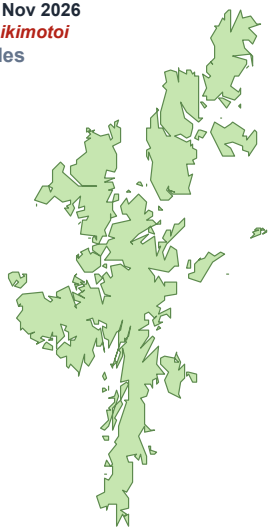
Week 44
26th Oct – 1st Nov 2026
Karenia mikimotoi
No samples



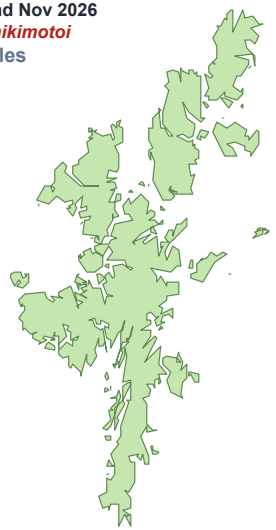
Week 45
2nd – 8th Nov 2026
Karenia mikimotoi



Week 46
9th – 15th Nov 2026
Karenia mikimotoi
No samples



Week 47
16th – 22nd Nov 2026
Karenia mikimotoi
No samples



Chain forming phytoplankton

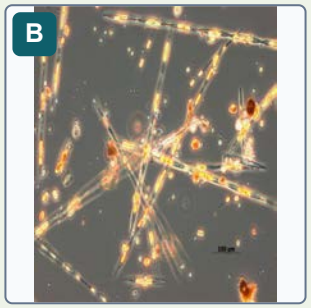
Status

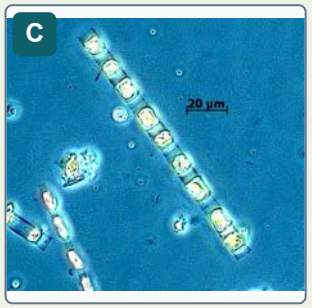
High densities of chain forming diatoms including, but not limited to the genus *Chaetoceros*, *Skeletonema*, *Leptocylindrus* and *Pseudo-nitzschia*, the centric species *Coscinodiscus* wallesii and species with long spines such as *Ceratium* (*Tripos*) can cause debilitating damage to fish gills.

No sites were sampled this week. Both IFCB's are offline for maintenance.

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

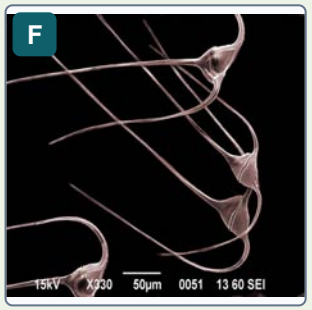












Key

A – *Thalassiosira sp.*

B – *Pseudo-nitzschia sp.*

C – *Skeletonema sp.*

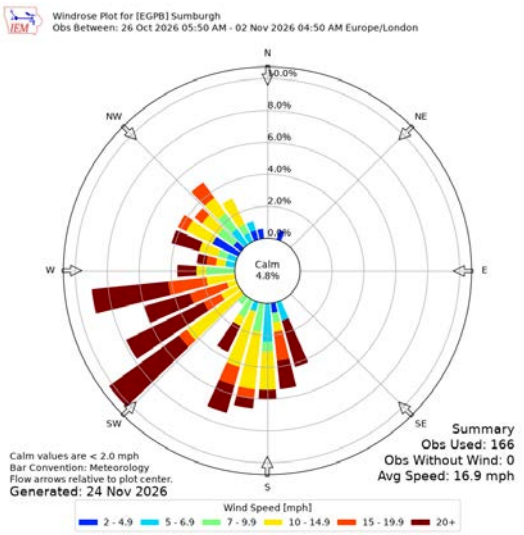
D – *Leptocylindrus sp.*

E – *Chaetoceros sp.*

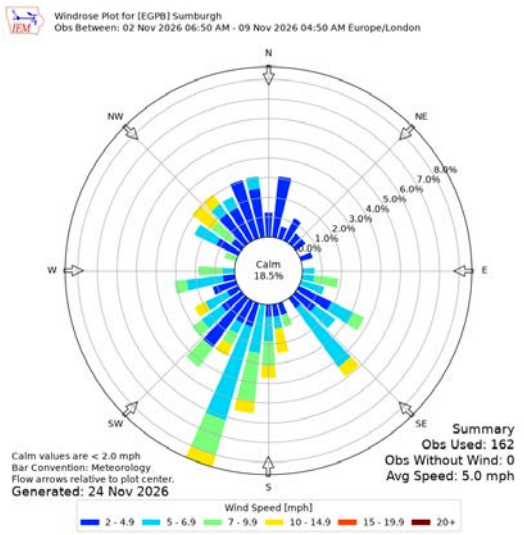
F – *Ceratium/Tripos sp.*

Mean wind direction — current and three preceding weeks

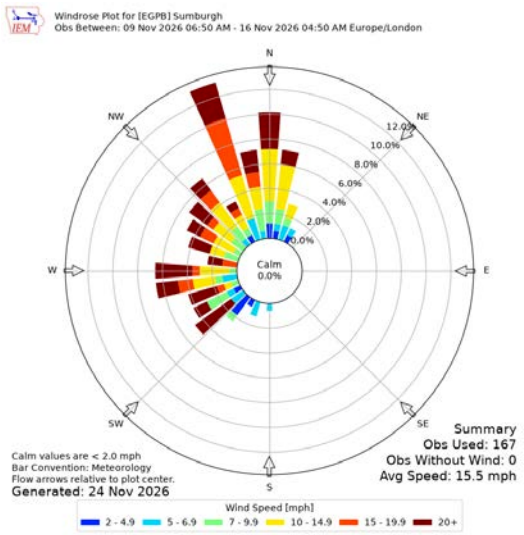
Week 44



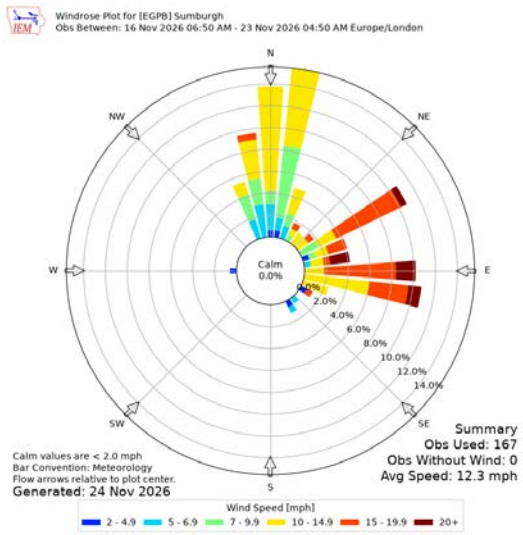
Week 45



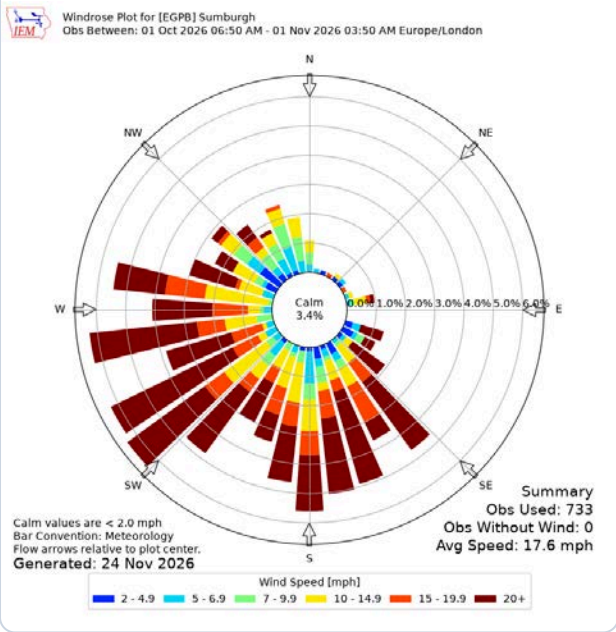
Week 46



Week 47



October 2026



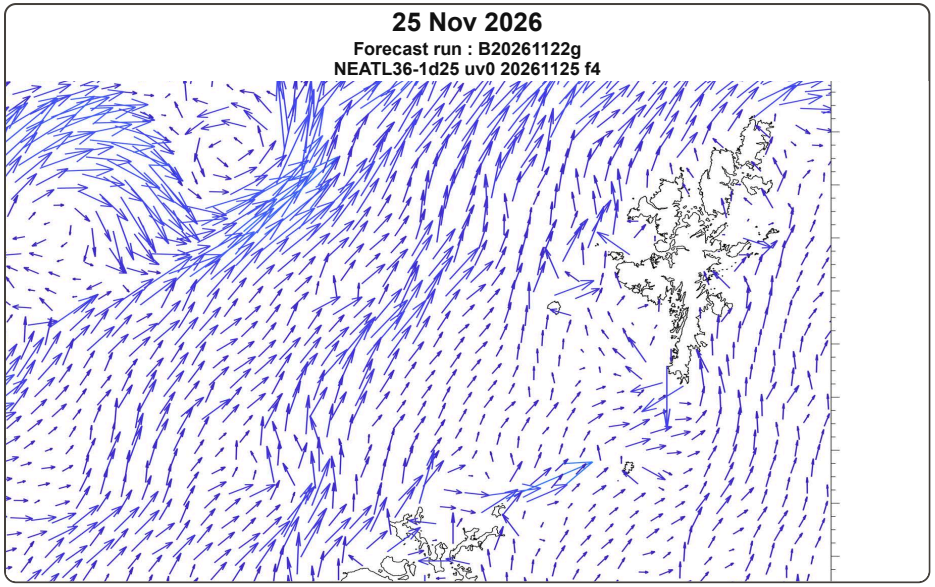
Mean wind direction and speed observed in Shetland over the past four weeks. Higher wind speeds are shown in lighter shades. The percentage of time the wind blew from any particular direction is shown by the length of the triangle. The resultant vector, represented by the red or blue line, shows the 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.

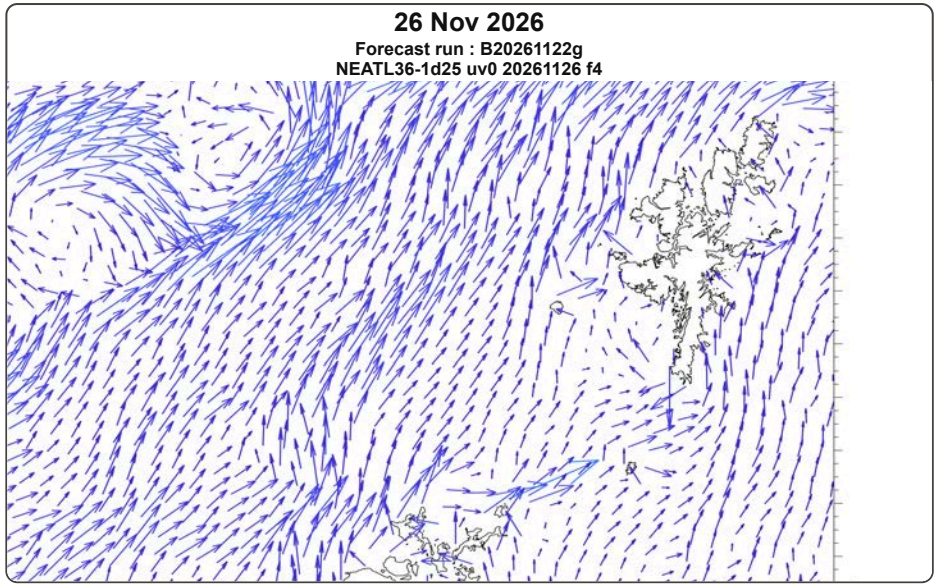
Predictions

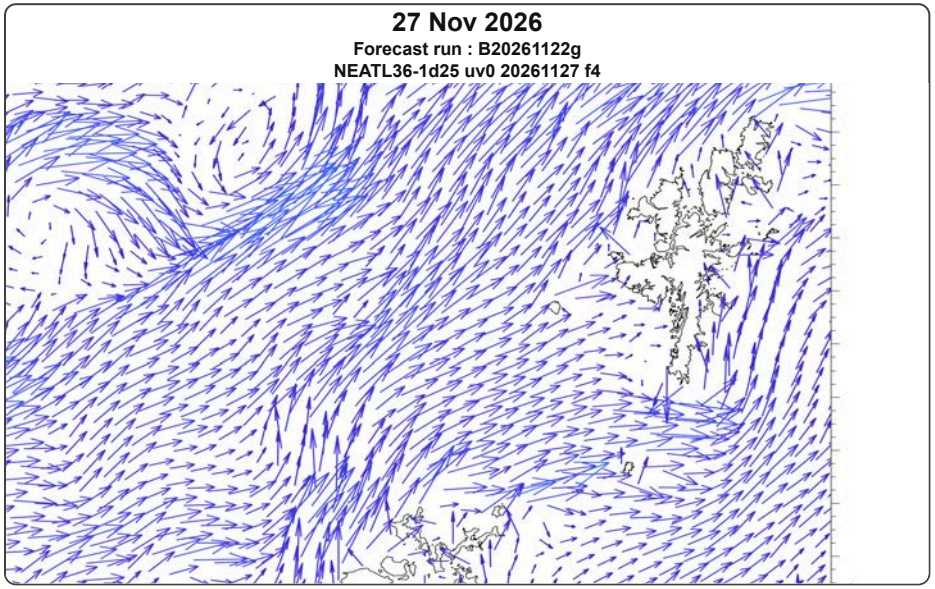
Why do we think this?

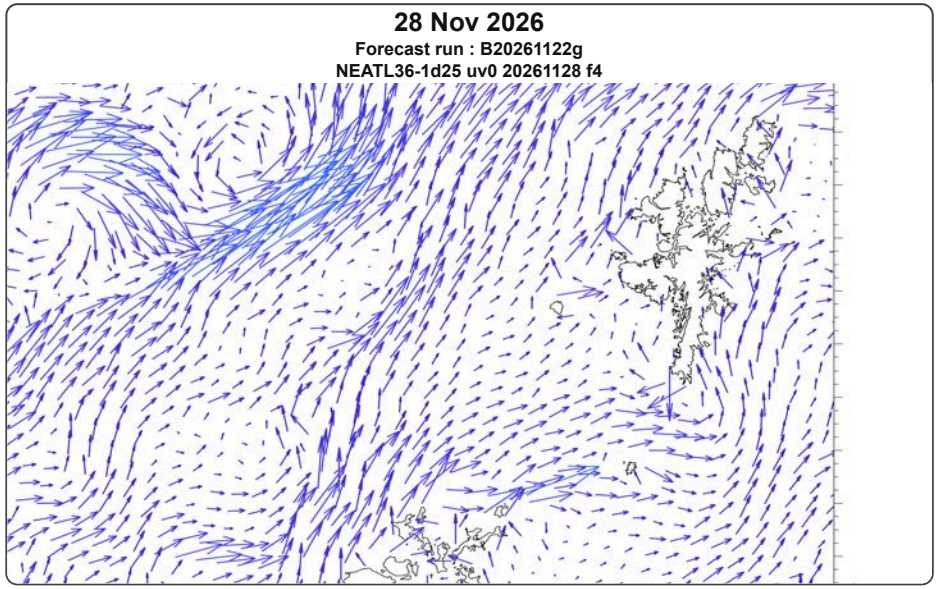
Wind in the past week has been coming from the north and east and it very unlikely that there will be an advected bloom of ***Dinophysis*** this week.

Forecasted sea surface currents











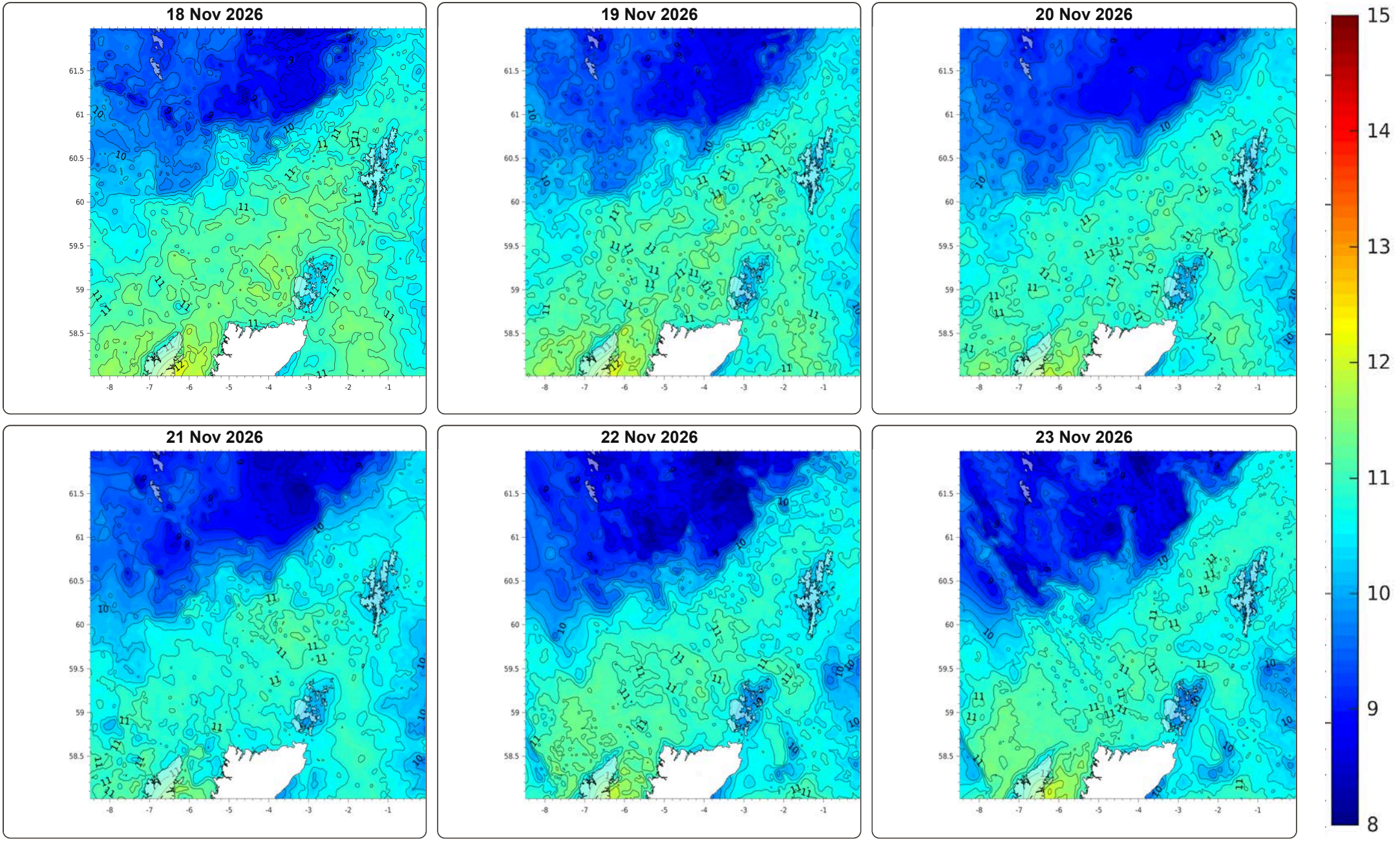
Forecast provided by the model-NEATL-PHY-1/36°-AF-D-PGS (IBI36QV4R1-PGS) courtesy of Mercator.

MERCATOR OCEAN INTERNATIONAL

What the maps show

Colour is current speed; arrows are direction. Strong flow usually runs parallel to the Faroe–Shetland Channel. Eastward turns can carry *Dinophysis* and *Karenia mikimotoi* from the shelf edge into shore.

Sea surface temperature (°C) — preceding 6 days



Maps provided courtesy of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA

Chlorophyll-a (mg/m³) — latest 6 days

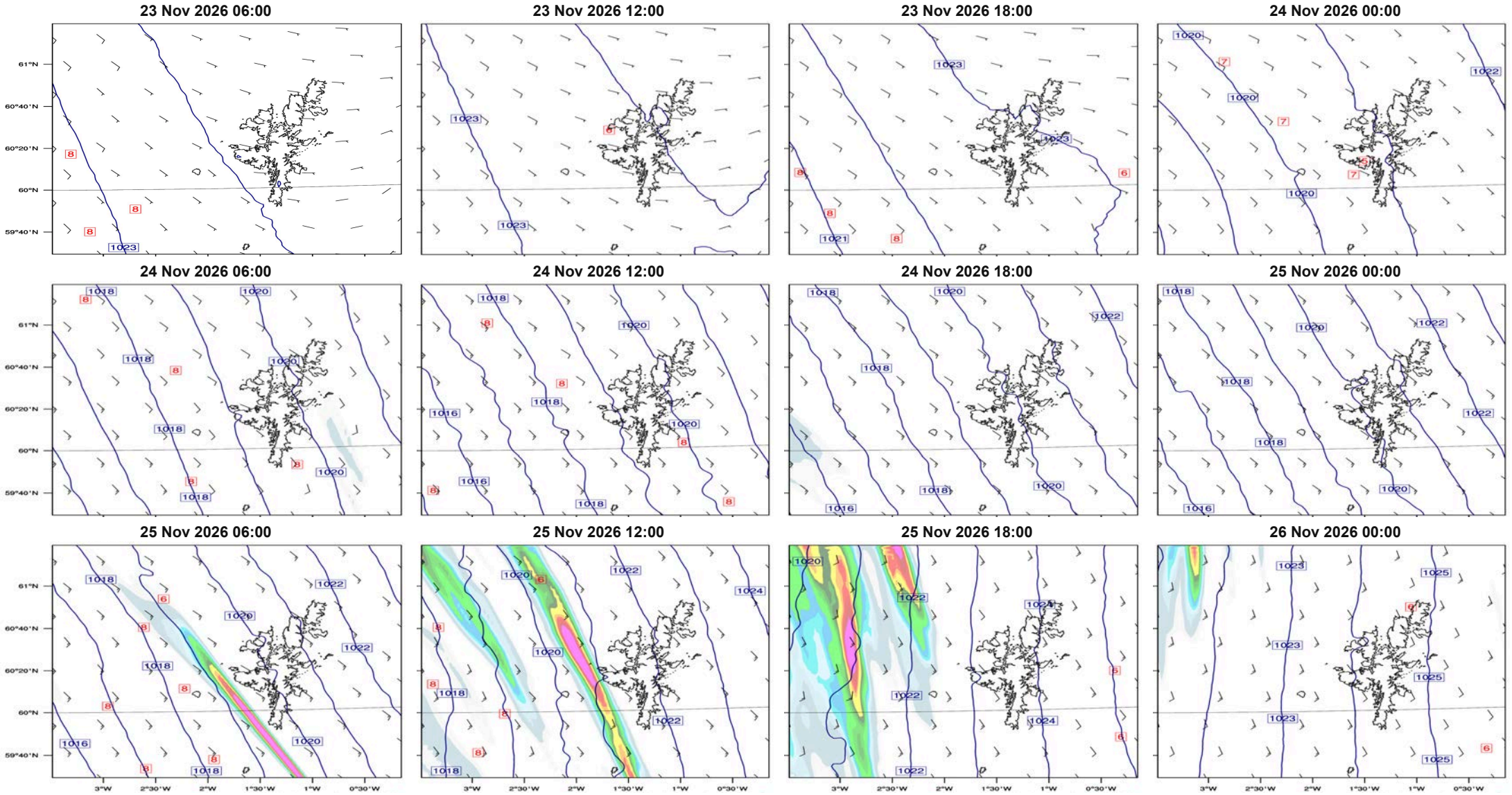
How to read these maps

Yellows to reds are higher chlorophyll. Near-shore turbidity can look like a bloom. Straight edges or blanks are usually cloud.

Images provided by the Ocean Colour atl-chl-L-4 NRT-Observations-009-037 dataset, courtesy of Copernicus.

Copernicus Marine Service

Wind and rain forecast for next three days in Shetland



Funders / Contributors



SAMS

These bulletins are produced by the Scottish Association for Marine Science.



Seafood Shetland

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Cefas

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