



Impact of offshore wind energy on marine birds



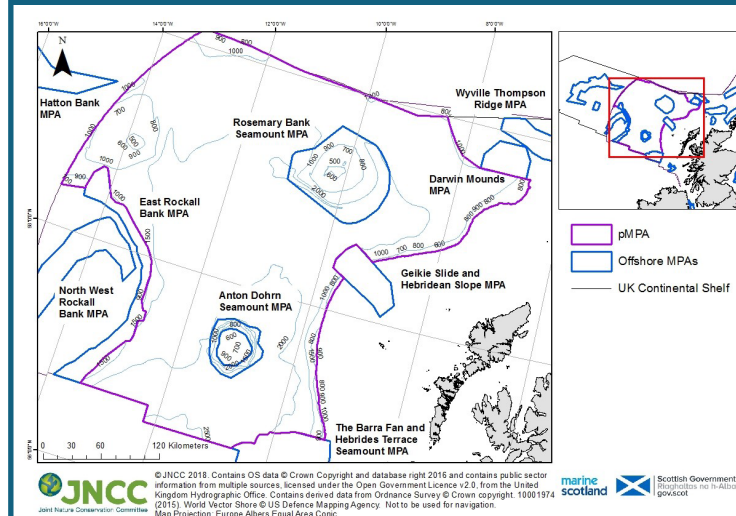
With UK offshore wind ambitions set to increase by 2030, an industry-led forum to better understand how large-scale development may impact marine birds has been launched. The Offshore Wind Strategic Monitoring and Research Forum (OWSMRF), led by six offshore wind developers – EDF-Renewables, Equinor, Innogy, Ørsted, ScottishPower Renewables, and Vattenfall – is being delivered by JNCC.

OWSMRF will enable government nature conservation advisors, non-governmental organisations, experts and regulators to highlight critical knowledge gaps to developers. This collaborative approach will help to identify, prioritise and develop further research and evidence. In its pilot year the focus will be on marine birds, specifically kittiwakes. JNCC is working closely with academics to review existing evidence and identify robust scientific research projects, that would improve understanding of how kittiwake populations in the UK are affected by operational and planned offshore wind farms.

Find out more about the project at <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/owsmrf/>



Deep-sea marine reserve consultation



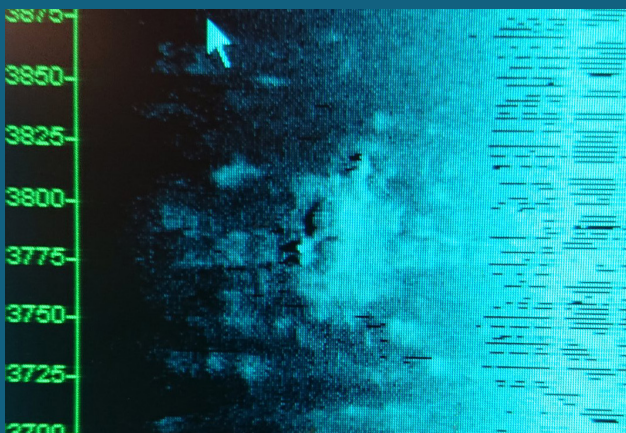
September saw the launch of Marine Scotland's public consultation on the creation of Scotland's first-ever deep sea marine reserve. If designated, the reserve to the West of Scotland would be the largest in Europe, protecting vital deep-sea habitats.

The West of Scotland area, if designated, would help meet Scotland's international commitments to protect the marine environment in the North-East Atlantic, as required under the OSPAR Convention. Ten of the identified habitats and species in the area are on the OSPAR threatened and/or declining list.

The consultation runs until 31st December 2019. More information on the consultation, including JNCC's scientific advice, can be found at <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/deep-sea-marine-reserve/>

For more than 25 years JNCC has provided robust evidence and trusted advice on nature conservation to enable UK governments to achieve their policy objectives. As a public body we also work in partnership with business and society. Our people are dedicated to providing high-quality evidence and advice on the natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Our vision is to be a world-leading provider of innovative solutions, placing nature at the heart of sustainable wealth and wellbeing.

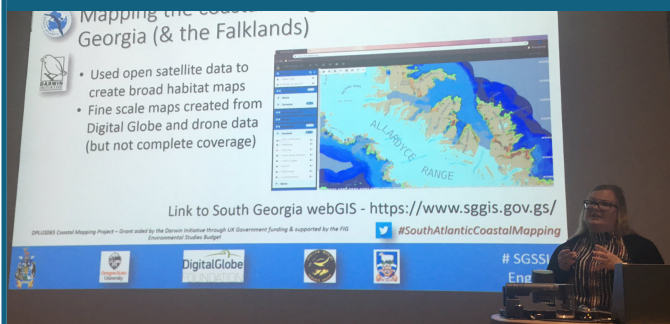
Shipwreck sighting on survey



The JNCC, Marine Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland offshore survey was in the headlines! The team identified the possible wreck of the M/S Lagaholm, sunk by a German U-boat in 1940, with the story being picked up by many mainstream media outlets around the globe.

This is a great example of partnership working between JNCC, Marine Scotland Science and Historic Environment Scotland. Before departing on the survey aboard the MRV Scotia, the shipwreck was identified as being of interest in collaboration with Historic Environment Scotland. Read our blog to find out more <https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/jncc-blog/tags/1219s>

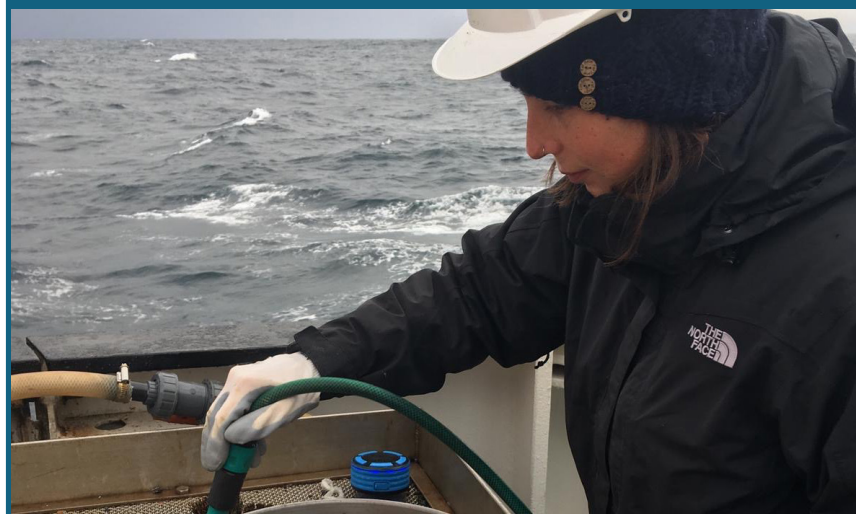
South Georgia coastal mapping



JNCC's Senior Earth Observation Specialist, Dr Gwawr Jones, attended the South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands Governments' science and stakeholder meetings at Kew Gardens. Gwawr presented on optical satellite data and its challenges, the Darwin Plus project *Coastal habitat mapping of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia*, of which JNCC are partners, and how to make the best use of available data.

The Darwin Plus project uses Earth observation data to create broad scale coastal margin habitat maps. Knowing the current extent of these habitats is critical for their management and conservation. The maps will create essential baselines that can be used for future planning, decision-making and monitoring. <https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/jncc-blog/archive/eo-in-the-south-atlantic-and-beyond/>

Survey to Darwin Mounds



JNCC's Hayley Hinchon joined the RRS Discovery on survey to the Darwin Mounds Special Area of Conservation. Led by the National Oceanography Centre and University of Southampton, the survey collected a range of data across the site to understand how the seabed has recovered since the 2003 fishing closure. In this area of unique coral mounds, remote and autonomous underwater vehicles and a boxcore sampler were used to collect video, photographs and physical samples of the seabed. The autonomous vehicle AutoSub 6000 was used to test a cutting-edge camera system that can create 3D mosaics of the seabed. The team found excellent examples of cold water coral reef, lots of evidence of marine litter and even a fallen whale skeleton! Read Hayley's blog instalment <https://projects.noc.ac.uk/class/blog/exploring-the-pocket-mounds>

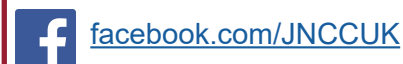
UK Biodiversity Indicators

The latest update of the UK Biodiversity Indicators (2019) has been published. Indicators are useful tools for summarising and communicating broad trends. The UK Biodiversity Indicators have a specific purpose for international reporting and are dependent on a wide variety of data, provided by government, research bodies, and the voluntary sector – in total nearly 100 organisations are involved.

The full set of biodiversity indicators for 2019 are available at <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-biodiversity-indicators-2019/>



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