

INTRODUCTION

Marine Scotland, the part of the Scottish Government responsible for marine management in Scottish waters, has commissioned a study of shipping activity to better inform the marine spatial plan pilot for the Pentland Firth and Orkney waters strategic area. The aim of this process is to ensure there is good knowledge of the use of these waters by all stakeholders so that future developments do not inadvertently impact on important existing activities.

The study area within Scotland's internal waters (12 nautical miles of shore) is shown below.

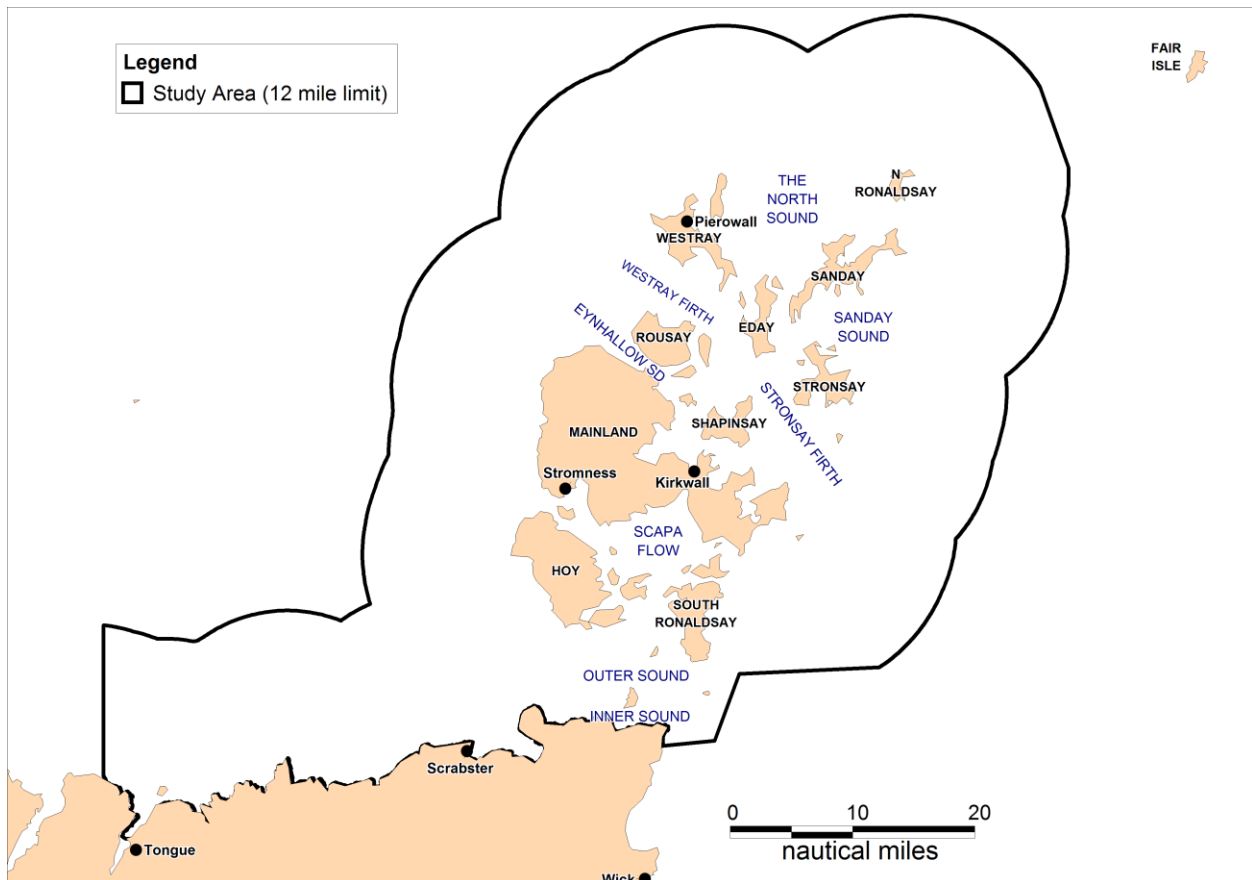


Figure 1 Overview of Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Strategic Area

VESSELS OF INTEREST

The study is interested in all **Commercial Shipping** and **Recreational Vessel** activity, including yachts (cruising and racing), power boats, motor cruisers, kayaks, recreational and sports fishing (e.g. sea angling), wildlife cruises and recreational diving, etc. (but not surfing).

However, Commercial fishing (under license) and Military / Naval vessel activity is being considered under separate work by Marine Scotland and therefore is excluded from this study.

METHODOLOGY

The approach to the study has been divided between Commercial Ships (over 300 gross tonnes) and Smaller Vessels as follows:

Commercial Ships (over 300 Gross Tonnes)

For commercial ships above 300 GT the study will primarily use summer and winter AIS data (one month each) for identifying movements and routes. The periods will be chosen to help ensure seasonal, tidal and weather variations in routeing and numbers of movements are identified, e.g. cruise ships in summer, seasonal ferry sailings, bad weather routes, etc.

Smaller Vessels

A proportion of smaller commercial ships (typically under 300 GT) and recreational vessels, carry AIS. However, carriage is not mandatory and vessels may not broadcast continuously.

OTHER DATA SOURCES BEING USED

The availability of radar data is being investigated. Desktop data sources, references and almanac are also being reviewed, such as:

- Admiralty Sailing Directions
- Clyde Cruising Club Sailing Directions
- Orkney Marinas' Sailing Directions
- RYA Coastal Atlas
- Harbour and Marina Visitor Logs

However, it is expected that there is a lot of knowledge that is unpublished. This questionnaire and associated consultation is designed to identify other sources of data including personal knowledge and experience not yet in the public domain.

RECIPIENTS

An initial list of recipients of the Questionnaire have been identified by the Steering Group which comprises Marine Scotland, MCA, NLB, RYA Scotland, Chamber of Shipping, OIC Marine Services, Scrabster Harbour Trust as well as Anatec and Halcrow (who have been commissioned by Marine Scotland to carry out this study). In addition to the Steering Group organisations, the planned recipients are listed in Table 1:

Table 1 Initial Recipients

Caithness Sea Angling Association	Orkney Marinas
Clyde Cruising Club	Orkney Sailing Club
Cruising Association	Pentland Ferries
Deerness Small Boat Owners Association	Pentland Firth Yacht Club
Gill's Bay Harbour Trust	RNLI Stations
Highland Council Harbours	Sail Orkney Yacht Charter
Holm Sailing Club	Scrabster Harbour Trust
John O'Groats Ferries	Stromness Sailing Club
Kirkwall Small Boat Owners Association	Stromness Small Boat Users Association
NorthLink Ferries	Westray Boat Owners Association
Orkney Dive Boat Operator's Association	Westray Sailing Club
Orkney Islands Sea Angling Association	Wick Harbour Authority

QUESTIONNAIRE FORMAT

Please take the time to answer the following questions fully as this will help to identify your / your organisation's interests and improve the usefulness of the marine spatial plan pilot which is being developed for the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Strategic Area and due to be published by Scottish Government.

Please look through all the questions before starting to answer them and do not feel restricted to the space allocated for your response. Also feel free to add references to other data sources, and attach additional information to the response where possible, e.g., maps, passage plans, waypoints, voyage logs, etc.

Please use common landmarks and features when describing areas of activity, such as those shown in Figure 1 and other features used on Admiralty Charts and Pilot Books, etc.

If you are a member of an organisation, such as a sailing club, it would be helpful if a single response from the organisation could be returned representing all the activity undertaken by that organisation (to minimise duplication). If you personally undertake additional activity beyond your organisation(s), or have additional comments, please return a separate questionnaire to represent this personal information.

Once completed please return the questionnaire to:

John Beattie
Anatec Ltd
36 Upperkirkgate
Aberdeen AB10 1BA
Tel: 01224 633711
Fax: 07092 367306
Email: john@anatec.com

Please complete and return the Questionnaire by the end of March 2012 (sooner if possible). Contact John (above) if you have any queries, or if you would like additional paper, larger copies of the maps, or electronic copies of the questionnaire.

Please note an online version of the survey is also available at the following address:

www.anatec.com/pentlandorkneysurvey

Thank you for your time and assistance – it is an opportunity to make a difference.

Q1. Information about Your Response

(a) Your Contact Details:

Name:

Email address:

Contact number:

Organisation (if applicable):

Role (if applicable):

Vessel Name (if applicable):

(b) Please provide details on how your response was prepared, e.g. personal experience, canvassing members of your organisation, etc. (tick all boxes that apply).

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Personal Knowledge and Experience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Canvassing Members of Organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Published Data |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please comment below) |

Please provide any additional information about your response below:

(c) Following a review of the responses, further consultation is planned with the aim of characterising recreational vessel activity in the study area in a standardised format.

Would you be willing to take part in further consultation: Yes / No

Is there someone else (e.g. based outside the UK, or a particularly knowledgeable member of your organisation) that you recommend we contact (not listed in Table 1): Yes / No

If “Yes”, please provide their name and contact details:

If any of the following questions are not applicable to you / your organisation, please answer “N/A” and skip to the next question.

Q2. Commercial Shipping (AIS)

Please answer the questions below on commercial shipping activity, i.e., cargo ships, tankers, passenger ferries, etc. (If not applicable to your activity, please skip this question)

(a) Please comment on the planned approach of using one month of summer (e.g., July 2012) and one month of winter AIS data (e.g., Jan 2012) to characterise commercial shipping activity, e.g. would these two months be representative for your organisation / yourself? If not, why not?

(b) Please provide details of any seasonal or occasional commercial shipping activity that takes place that may not be covered by the above two months of AIS data, such as bad weather routeing, or occasional areas used for shelter / anchorage, or if 2012 is not a typical year for your activities, etc.

Q3. Recreational Vessel Activity – Description

Please describe the recreational vessel activities you (or your organisation) are involved in or have knowledge about, including:

- a. Nature of activity, e.g. racing, motor cruising, day-sailing, diving, wildlife tourism, sea kayaking, sea angling, etc.
- b. Numbers, types and sizes (e.g. length) of vessels involved
- c. Area(s) of activity (refer to Figure 1)
- d. Period of activity per area (e.g. all-year, summer only, holiday, week-days, week-ends, etc.)
- e. Frequency and intensity of activity per area (daily, weekly, monthly, annually, occasionally such as “The Tall Ships”, etc.)
- f. Do any of the vessels involved broadcast on AIS?

(Please use additional pages as needed. Where convenient, attach additional information or references, e.g. charts, website links, etc.)

Q4. Important Areas

With respect to your organisation or personal use, please identify the sea areas you consider most important for recreational vessel activity, e.g. training areas, anchorage areas, etc.

Please state why and for which type(s) of activity these areas are most important, and if you believe this is likely to change in future (or not).

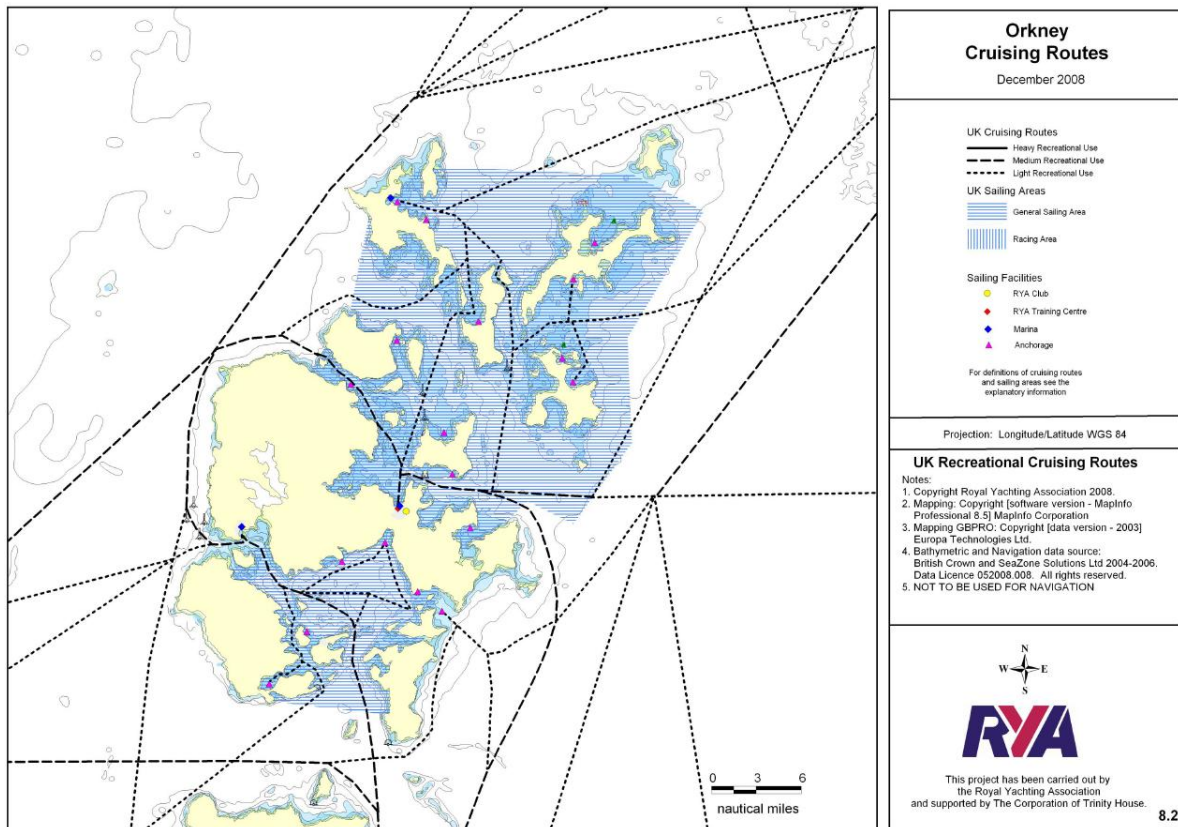
Q5. Recreational Vessel Activity – Effect of Tide and Weather

Tidal and weather conditions are known to be major influencing factors on recreational vessel activity in the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters. Please comment below how tide and weather affects your activity, e.g. when might it be cancelled, or how do conditions affect the area used or routes taken?

Q6. Recreational Vessel Activity – RYA Coastal Atlas

The *RYA Coastal Atlas* publishes information on the main cruising routes, sailing and racing area for the whole UK, and is a valuable reference source for this work. However, information is known to be lacking in places (e.g. Pentland Firth and Eynhallow Sound).

Please provide comments on the map below, e.g., where routes or areas could be edited, removed or added for greater accuracy, and provide a basis for recommended changes.



Please comment below (use additional pages as necessary):

Q7. Further Input

Please use the space below to provide any further input you believe is relevant to this work (e.g. issues not covered by the previous questions).

Thanks again for your time. Please return to:

John Beattie, Anatec Ltd, 36 Upperkirkgate Aberdeen AB10 1BA

Email: john@anatec.com, Tel: 01224 633711, Fax: 07092 367306