

# **Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution Plc**

## **Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan**

### **(covering all sea users)**

### **West Highlands**



	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

## Contents

1	Introduction .....	3
2	Communications .....	6
3	Scheduling of liaison and information distribution .....	7
4	Formal Notifications.....	8
5	Communication Distribution List .....	10
6	Commercial Fishing.....	23
7	Other Sea Users .....	34
8	Cable Asset Interactions: Commercial Fishing and Other Sea Users.....	59
9	Safety .....	61
10	UK Legislation, References and Guidance .....	64
Appendix A	Notice to Mariners Example Template .....	65
Appendix B	Communication Strategy.....	68
Appendix C	Commercial Fishing Charts.....	76
Appendix D	Other Sea Users Charts .....	91
Appendix E	Cable-Specific Interactions .....	126

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution Plc (SHEPD) would like to make it easy for all stakeholders who have interests in the submarine electricity cable planning process to have a strong voice in helping us determine our installation and protection practices but also inform our inspection and maintenance works. We are committed to open, honest and transparent communication and engagement.
- 1.2 This Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan (FLMAP) outlines how SHEPD will interact with all sea users, prior to and during any works relating to 18 submarine cables at the following locations:
- Loch Sligachan East
  - Loch Sligachan West
  - Loch a'Choire North
  - Loch a'Choire South
  - Loch Eil Narrows
  - Skye-Scalpay
  - Lochaline-Mull
  - Lochalsh (Glenelg)
  - Corran Narrows Centre
  - Corran Narrows North
  - Corran Narrows South
  - Kyle-Skye North
  - Kyle-Skye South
  - Skye-Harris
  - Skye-South Uist
  - Skye Raasay
  - Lochaline (Ardtornish)
  - Loch Long (Dornie)
- 1.3 The purpose of the FLMAP is to:
- Illustrate the potential interactions with the commercial fisheries industry and other sea users and address the potential effects (highlighted in the marine licensed evidence)
  - Identify how to minimise and mitigate potential impacts on local communities
- 1.4 SHEPD aim to facilitate co-existence between all parties as recommended in the FLOWW<sup>1</sup> and ESCA<sup>2</sup> (previously SCUK) guidelines. SHEPD has also developed the policy document *How*

<sup>1</sup> Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fishing Liaison, 2014

<sup>2</sup> European Subsea Cables Association

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

*Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution co-exists with other marine users<sup>3</sup> which should be used in conjunction with this FLMAP.*

- 1.5 To help us understand the impacts that our cable installation decisions have, we work proactively with our regulators, customers and stakeholders. This helps our collaborators to better understand the impacts our engineering decisions can have on the safety of mariners, energy costs for communities we serve, on local and national economic activity and on the natural environment<sup>4</sup>.
- 1.6 Cable works that will be covered by this FLMAP include cable inspections, surveys and cable installations. This FLMAP operates in conjunction with the West Highlands FLMAP Delivery Programme, which outlines the programme of communication for the identified stakeholders during the cable works activities and sets out the register of commitments for disseminating this information. The FLMAP Delivery Programme also forms an audit trail, documenting communication and agreed mitigation between SHEPD and sea users during specific cable works. This will advise SHEPD's approach to continuous improvement on mitigating cable activities throughout the region and will be developed and updated accordingly.
- 1.7 A summary table of potential interactions for each cable outlines key potential interactions with the fisheries industry and other sea users. These are given in *Appendix E Cable-Specific Interactions*.
- 1.8 This FLMAP identifies the respective responsibilities of the Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO) and the Fishing Industry Representative (FIR), and how the FIR and CFLO will operate. The FLMAP has been constructed to facilitate co-existence between SHEPD and other sea users.
- 1.9 The potential marine activities relevant to the area of cable works are summarised below. A more detailed review of activities is provided in Chapters 6 and 7 and visual representations of relevant activities are provided in Appendix C and Appendix D:
  - The West Highland coast is a popular area for marine recreation.
  - There are medium to high levels of bird and wildlife watching.
  - Activity levels range from low to high for coasteering (with hotspots around Lochalsh, Mull and the Skye landfall of the Skye-Harris cable), canoeing and kayaking, motor cruising, power boating, sailing and cruising, scuba diving, chartered angling, angling from shore and yacht racing.
  - There are low to medium levels of surfing and paddleboarding.
  - There are low levels of long distance swimming, dinghy racing, rowing and sculling and wild fowling.

<sup>3</sup> Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks: *How we co-exist with other marine users*, available: <https://www.ssen.co.uk/SubmarineCables/AboutUs/>

<sup>4</sup> For further details see Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks: *Submarine Electricity Cable Cost Benefit Analysis Method Statement*: <https://www.ssen.co.uk/CBAFULL/> and *Method Statement Executive Summary*: <http://news.ssen.co.uk/media/266234/CBA-Model-Statement-Executive-Summary.pdf>



	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

- There are ferry routes from the following locations: Sconser to Raasay in close proximity of the Skye-Raasay cable, Lochmaddy to Uig and Tarbert to Uig in proximity of the Skye-Harris and Skye-South Uist cables, and Lochaline to Fishnish in close proximity to the Lochaline (Ardtornish) and Lochaline-Mull cables. These are all operated by Caledonian MacBrayne.
- There are a number of shellfish and finfish aquaculture sites in the vicinity of the cable works.
- There are no wave, wind or tidal arrays in the vicinity of the cable locations.
- Conservation designations within the vicinity of the cable locations include:
  - National Scenic Areas (NSAs): South Lewis, Harris and North Uist; Cuillin Hills.
  - Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura; Sea of the Hebrides; and Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh.
  - Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) with marine components: Inner Hebrides and the Minches; Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mor; Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs.
- There are a number of wreck sites in the vicinity of the cables Lochaline-Mull, Skye-South Uist, Skye-Raasay, Kyle-Skye and Lochaline (Ardtornish).
- A number of cables fall within the following Harbour Authority boundaries:
  - Raasay (Clachan)<sup>5</sup> – covers Raasay landfall of Skye-Raasay cable
  - Sconser, Skye<sup>6</sup> – adjacent to Loch Sligachan-Skye cables
  - Kyle of Lochalsh<sup>7</sup> – adjacent to Kyle-Skye cables
  - Glen Sanda<sup>8</sup> – adjacent to Loch a'Choire cables
- The cables Skye-Harris, Skye-South Uist, Skye-Scalpay, Lochalsh (Glenelg), Loch Long (Dornie), Loch Eil Narrows, Corran Narrows, Lochaline (Ardtornish) and Lochaline (Mull) do not fall within any harbour authority boundaries.

1.10 The predominant fishing activities in areas relevant to the identified West Highlands cables are creeling (potting) and trapping and demersal trawling/seines. Creeling/trapping is the primary fishing method present for the majority of West Highland cables, however, within ICES rectangle 43E3, in which a portion of the Skye-South Uist cable is contained, demersal trawls/seines make up the main fishing activity.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport\\_and\\_streets/102/harbours](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport_and_streets/102/harbours)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport\\_and\\_streets/102/harbours](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport_and_streets/102/harbours)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport\\_and\\_streets/102/harbours](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport_and_streets/102/harbours)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/harbourmaster/index.asp>

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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## 2 Communications

- 2.1 Information regarding any cable survey or construction works (referred to as works hereafter) will be issued to all fishing and other relevant statutory and non-statutory stakeholders to ensure effective co-existence during the works (this includes inspection surveys and any subsequent requirement for cable installation).
- 2.2 Some activities such as cable installation works require additional information which will inform the potential interactions with sea users. When required SHEPD will provide the Project Description and other necessary documents.
- 2.3 Survey contractors shall provide details of all vessel movements, works and relevant co-ordinates to the CFLO and the FIR who will disseminate this information.
- 2.4 Relevant stakeholders will be contacted before planned works which have the potential to impact them and, depending on the progress of this activity; it would also be common practice for there to be regular contact throughout the works.
- 2.5 In addition to statutory stakeholder engagement, SHEPD also has a number of obligations where it is necessary to engage with non-statutory stakeholders prior to, during and/or upon completion of certain work activities.
- 2.6 In the event that the date or duration of works deviates from the notification timings (e.g. Notices to Mariners, NtM) outlined in the *West Highlands FLMAP Delivery Programme*<sup>9</sup>, an update will be issued to the relevant stakeholders. Similarly, if the scope or methodology of the planned works activity changes, then any stakeholder likely to be affected, including any relevant licensing authority, would be consulted. Any change to associated timelines would be agreed prior to the works commencing.

<sup>9</sup> The Delivery Programme is to cover the entire period to April 2023.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

### 3 Scheduling of liaison and information distribution

3.1 Dissemination of information to the fishing industry and other sea users will be issued as described in Table 1.

**Table 1 Schedule for dissemination of information**

Activity	Timescale for distribution
<b>Inspection Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Notice and information to be distributed at the earliest opportunity once information is available.</li> <li>▪ Regular liaison and updates by the Fishing Industry Representative (FIR) with local fishermen of proposed timings with confirmations of when works are finalised.</li> <li>▪ Regular liaison and updates by the Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO) with other sea users of proposed timings with confirmations when operations are finalised.</li> </ul>
<b>Surveys (including any requirement for Pre-construction surveys) that have the potential to require gear relocation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular liaison and updates by FIR with local fishermen, well in advance of disruption, defining who might be affected, where and when. Liaison to take into account weather, number of creels to be moved, bait ordering etc.</li> <li>▪ Notices to Mariners and information distributed not less than 20 days prior to survey mobilisation, if possible, to allow inclusion in the Kingfisher Fortnightly Bulletin.</li> </ul>
<b>Specific construction activities i.e. installation works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Notices to Mariners and information distribution not less than 20 days, if possible, for individual construction vessel mobilisations.</li> <li>▪ Regular liaison and updates by FIR with local fishermen of proposed timings with confirmations when operations are finalised.</li> <li>▪ Regular liaison and updates by CFLO with other sea users of proposed timings with confirmations provided when planned works are finalised.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings with fishery stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meetings as required during all works i.e. the inspection surveys and any subsequent requirements for pre-construction and construction phases.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings with other sea users</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meetings as required during all works i.e. the inspection surveys and any subsequent requirements for pre-construction and construction phases.</li> </ul>
<b>Ongoing Liaison</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Additional unscheduled liaison and consultation will be undertaken by either the CFLO or the FIR as required to address issues or fishermen's concerns as they arise.</li> </ul>

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

## 4 Formal Notifications

4.1 Details of the works will be distributed to all appropriate sea users. The anticipated formal communications are provided in Table 2.

**Table 2 Formal notifications**

Type	Function	Distribution
<b>Submarine electricity cable flyer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flyers may be issued for specific cable works.</li> <li>This is not a requirement set out in the marine licences but are a proactive initiative taken by SHEPD to provide as much advance warning of the forthcoming works as possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flyers<sup>10</sup> will be published through Kingfisher Information Service Offshore Renewables and Cable Awareness (KIS-ORCA) and Fishing News.</li> <li>Flyers will be issued nominally at least 4 weeks, if possible, prior to commencing the works to which they relate.</li> </ul>
<b>Notices to Mariners (NtM)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NtM and/or radio navigational warnings and publication in appropriate bulletins to comply with the conditions in the marine licences.</li> <li>Each NtM will contain full details of the vessel, location, activities, contact details etc.</li> <li>In the case of incidents or emergencies requiring notification, the NtM will be issued as soon as reasonably possible. Any actions required to notify an incident or emergency will go ahead even if there is not sufficient time for it to appear in the Kingfisher Fortnightly Bulletin.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All NtMs<sup>11</sup> will be issued by the CFLO</li> <li>NtMs will be published through KIS-ORCA</li> <li>Details of the works will be promulgated to all appropriate sea users</li> <li>NtMs will be issued at least 20 days prior to works' start date, if possible, to allow inclusion in the Kingfisher Fortnightly Bulletin.</li> <li>NtMs will be issued using the example NtM document at relevant stages of cable surveys and works.</li> </ul>
<b>NtM updates</b>	It is intended that the issued NtMs will comprehensively describe the planned activities. However, in the unlikely event that a significant change to these activities becomes apparent, an update will be issued.	If required, the NtM update to be issued by email to the Source Data Receipt at the UK Hydrographic Office and copied to the distribution list set out in the NtMs.

<sup>10</sup> The flyer will contain the following information: submarine electricity cable specific information; useful contacts; working area; national and regional charts; site specific charts.

<sup>11</sup>For details see Appendix A: *Notice to Mariners* example template.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Type	Function	Distribution
<b>Notices to static gear fishermen</b>	Further specific liaison will take place between SHEPD's FIR and the fishermen who have static fishing gear in the works areas to agree the detailed arrangements for removal of static gear. This will include details of dates and numbers of creels.	The static gear fishermen will receive the NtMs.
<b>Notices to mobile gear fishermen</b>	Specific liaison between SHEPD's FIR and the fishermen who will be affected by the survey and installation operations will take place to ensure that they are given a minimum of 24 hours' notice that vessels of restricted mobility will be in the area.	The mobile gear fishermen will receive the NtMs.
<b>Notices to other sea users</b>	Specific liaison between SHEPD's CFLO and the sea users who will be affected by operations will take place to ensure that they are given a minimum of 24 hours' notice that vessels of restricted mobility will be in the area.	Other sea users identified through consultation will receive the NtMs (the distribution lists are given in Table 3, and Table 4).

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

## 5 Communication Distribution List

- 5.1 A key aim is to co-exist with sea users in the marine environment. Coexistence is assisted by actively engaging with sea users and stakeholders and those with consented development rights. The way we approach engagement is specific to each cable although there is a generic set of *Standard Operating Procedures*<sup>12</sup> to ensure our approach is consistent and fair to all sea users in the area.
- 5.2 The West Highlands submarine electricity cables have a discrete footprint in a small regional area. For simplicity, the communication distribution list has been separated into regional stakeholders, given in Table 3, and cable specific stakeholders in Table 4.
- 5.3 The communication distribution list provides the following information on each stakeholder:
- Stakeholder name
  - SHEPD point of contact
  - Role of the stakeholder in the consent procedure
  - Details of specific contact to be made by SHEPD with a given stakeholder.

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<sup>12</sup> Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks: *Standard Operating Procedures*, available: <https://www.ssen.co.uk/SubmarineCables/AboutUs/>

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

**Table 3 Regional stakeholders' roles and duties**

Regional Stakeholder	SHEPD point of contact	Role	Details
<b>Marine Scotland (MS)</b>	Subsea Project Liaison Manager  Lead Marine Consents Manager	MS is the licensing authority for all works and as such all consent conditions that require to be met must be demonstrated to them either upon request or as agreed in the licence.	<p>Specific contact with MS will be made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prior to commencement of the works:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Marine Scotland is responsible for the integrated management of Scotland's seas. This includes consultation on the proposed FLMAP and delivery plan; and inclusion of compliance with it as a licence condition.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>During the works:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· to allow access for an authorised Enforcement Officer to inspect the works</li> <li>· to notify any changes to the works that may affect the validity of the licence</li> <li>· to submit and seek approval of plans to mitigate navigational dangers or risks, where required</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>On completion of the works:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· to notify the completion of the works</li> <li>· to submit an assessment of any risks posed by the installed cable</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>NatureScot (formerly SNH)</b>	Subsea Project Liaison Manager	NatureScot is the Scottish public body responsible for natural heritage. They advise the Scottish Government regarding nature conservation requirements when deciding whether to consent activities. NatureScot is a consultee to Marine Scotland and as such they can influence licence conditions.	SHEPD will engage on matters related to the project as required.



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

<b>Regional Stakeholder</b>	<b>SHEPD point of contact</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)</b>	Up to work starting Subsea Project Liaison Manager  During Works - Project Manager	The MCA is an executive agency of the United Kingdom and is responsible for implementing British and international maritime law and safety policy. The MCA is a consultee to Marine Scotland and as such they can influence licence conditions.	SHEPD will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)</b>	Up to work starting Subsea Project Liaison Manager  During Works - Project Manager	The NLB is a consultee to Marine Scotland and as such they can influence licence conditions.	SHEPD will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)</b>	Up to work starting Subsea Project Liaison Manager  Subsea Project Environmental Manager  During Works - Project Manager	SEPA is Scotland's environmental regulator. SEPA is a consultee to Marine Scotland and as such they can influence licence conditions.	SHEPD will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)</b>	Subsea Project Liaison Manager Subsea Project Environmental Manager	The RSPB is a consultee to Marine Scotland and as such they can influence licence conditions.	SHEPD will engage on matters related to the project as required.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

<b>Regional Stakeholder</b>	<b>SHEPD point of contact</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	The SFF represents predominantly the mobile commercial fishing fleet that operate in deeper waters outside of where the cables will be replaced.	Specific contact will be made with the SFF and the associations that are represented by the SFF. Regular liaison and updates by CFLO will be undertaken with meetings as required. As part of ongoing regular liaison with the SFF, SHEPD will keep the SFF apprised of the installation as it proceeds, specifically in relation to the presence of support vessels.
<b>West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG)</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	The WCRIFG covers inshore waters for up to six nautical miles offshore from Cape Wrath in the north to the national border with England in the Solway Firth. The organisation is legally authorised to impose restrictions and regulations, to issue licences and the right to set tolls.	Specific contact will be made with the WCRIFG. Regular dialogue between the CFLO and the WCRIFG will be maintained prior to and during the survey work (and any subsequent requirement for cable installation), noting that both mobile and static gear commercial fishing operations are present in the area.
<b>Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation (SCFF)</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	SCFF is the national trade association for the creel fishing industry. It is comprised of ten fishermen's associations including the Scottish Scallop Divers Association and Scottish Creelers and Divers.	Specific contact will be made with the SCFF. Regular dialogue between the CFLO and the SCFF will be maintained prior to and during any installation work.
<b>Unaffiliated commercial fishermen</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	There are independent commercial fishing operators who are not affiliated with the WCRIFG.	Specific contact will be made with relevant unaffiliated commercial fishermen. The CFLO and FIR will identify these individuals and maintain liaison with them, particularly in relation to the requirement to remove creels to allow the works to be carried out.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

<b>Regional Stakeholder</b>	<b>SHEPD point of contact</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Crown Estate Scotland (CES)</b>	Wayleaves Project Manager	CES manages property belonging to the Sovereign. Part of the HDD installation (seaward of MHWS) is located within Sovereign territory and, as such, SHEPD is required to obtain permission via survey licences and wayleave consent in terms of the Master Wayleave Agreement from CES.	SHEPD will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO)</b>	Project Manager and Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	The UKHO is the UK's agency providing hydrographic and geospatial data to mariners and maritime organisations across the world.	SHEPD will maintain contact with the UKHO to provide regular updates on progress of the works provide a copy of the marine licence and provide as-built details upon completion.  The CFLO will maintain contact with the UKHO via NtMs or Hydrographic notes.
<b>Kingfisher Information Service Offshore Renewables and Cable Awareness (KIS-ORCA)</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Kingfisher works with all the offshore industries, including oil & gas, subsea cable, renewable energy and marine aggregates to provide the latest news and most accurate information to the fishing industry. Information is in relation to the latest hazards, planned developments, new structures being installed and zones created.	SHEPD will maintain contact with KIS-ORCA to provide regular updates on progress of the works and provide as-built details upon completion.  The CFLO will maintain contact with KIS-ORCA via NtMs for the Kingfisher bulletin.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

<b>Regional Stakeholder</b>	<b>SHEPD point of contact</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Ministry of Defence (MoD)</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	The MoD is the British government department responsible for implementing the defence policy set by Her Majesty's Government and is the headquarters of the British Armed Forces. The MoD has access to training areas and ranges in marine areas.	SHEPD and CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Royal Yacht Association (RYA)</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	The RYA is the national governing body for certain water sports in the United Kingdom. Activities it covers include Sailing, Windsurfing, Motor cruising, Powerboating and Personal watercraft.	Specific contact will be made with the RYA. Regular dialogue between the CFLO and the RYA will be maintained prior to and during the installation work that may affect recreational activities in the area.
<b>Community Councils</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)  Subsea Project Liaison Manager	The CC will keep the local community up to date on proposals.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Argyll and Bute Council</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)  Subsea Project Liaison Manager	The local authority for the Mull side of the Sound of Mull.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>NAFC Marine Centre</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	The NAFC marine centre is an educational and scientific institute. Research and development in subjects relevant to the fishing and aquaculture industries and marine spatial planning.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Regional Stakeholder	SHEPD point of contact	Role	Details
<b>Scottish Coastal Forum</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	The Scottish Coastal Forum was formed in 1996 to encourage debate at national level on coastal issues. Its members advise Marine Scotland, from an operational perspective, on the development of policy relating to marine planning and licensing within a sustainable marine environment.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.

**Table 4 Cable specific stakeholders**

Cable specific stakeholder	SHEPD point of contact	Role	Details
<b>The Highland Council</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO) Subsea Project Liaison Manager	The Highland Council is the local authority in the area.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Western Isles Fishermen's Association (WIFA)</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Representation of fishermen from the Scottish Western Isles. Chairman: Duncan MacInnes.	Specific contact will be made with the WIFA. Regular dialogue between the CFLO and the WIFA will be maintained prior to and during the installation.
<b>West of Scotland Fish Producers Organisation Ltd. (WSFPO)</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	The organisation is a group of fishermen (Producers' Organisation) set up under the legislation of the EU Common Fisheries Policy.	Specific contact will be made with the WSFPO. Regular dialogue between the CFLO and the WSFPO will be maintained prior to and during the installation.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

<b>Cable specific stakeholder</b>	<b>SHEPD point of contact</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Caledonian MacBrayne</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	The main ferry provider between mainland Scotland and the Scottish Islands.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Uig-Lochmaddy ferry (operated by Caledonian MacBrayne)</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Ferry company operating the Uig-Lochmaddy line from the Isle of Skye to North Uist.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Uig-Tarbert ferry (operated by Caledonian MacBrayne)</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Ferry company operating the Uig-Tarbert line from the Isle of Skye to Harris.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Sconser-Raasay ferry (operated by Caledonian MacBrayne)</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Ferry company operating the Sconser-Raasay line from the Isle of Skye to the Isle of Raasay.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Lochaline- Fishnish ferry (operated by Caledonian MacBrayne)</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Ferry company operating the Lochaline-Fishnish line from the mainland to the Isle of Mull.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Corran Ferry – (operated by Highland Council)</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Ferry company operating the Corran Ardgor line.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Lochaber Yacht Club</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Fort William sailing club on Loch Linnhe.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

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<b>Scottish Canoe Association</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Canoe club association with interest in canoeing activity across Scotland. The association keeps records of NtM relevant to canoeing activity in the Clyde area.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Ethical Shellfish Company</b>	Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO)	The Ethical Shellfish Company is a hand dived scallop business based on the Isle of Mull.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Fassfern Mussels</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Developer of the Loch Eli (Fassfern) common mussel aquaculture site.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>SeaXplorer</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Power boating company based in Glencoe offering trips around Glencoe, Fort William, Lochaber and Oban.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Linnhe Marina</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Linnhe Marine is a marina situated in Dallens Bay which is sheltered by Shuna Island, just north of Lismore Island in Loch Linnhe on the West Coast of Scotland.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Mowi Scotland Limited</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	There are a number of active fin fish sites run by Mowi Scotland in the vicinity of the cables. Formerly known as Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

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<b>Loch Duart Limited</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Loch Carnan finfish site is in the vicinity of the Skye-South Uist cable.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Whiteshore Cockles Limited</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	One of Whiteshore Cockles' sites, Loch Skipport, lies in the vicinity of the cables.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Scottish Sea Farms Limited</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	There are finfish aquaculture sites in the vicinity of the cables.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Ferguson Transport and Shipping</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Ferguson Transport & Shipping is one of the largest independent logistic companies in the Highlands & Islands of Scotland.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Scottish Salmon Company</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	There is one finfish aquaculture site operated by Scottish Salmon Company in the vicinity of the cables.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Scalpay Estate</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	There is a king and queen scallop shellfish aquaculture site in the vicinity of the cables.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Oakes Marine</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	There is a king scallop aquaculture site in the vicinity of the cable (also known as 'Sconser Scallops').	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Skye Adventure</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	They offer a range of marine recreational activities including coasteering and sea swimming.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

<b>Cable specific stakeholder</b>	<b>SHEPD point of contact</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Skye Sailing Club</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Offers a range of marine activities including Dinghy sailing, rowing and power boating around Skye.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>SeaSkye Marine</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Marine tourism firm offering boat trips around Skye.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Sea Kayak Plockton</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Kayaking club based in Kyle of Lochalsh.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>South Uist Angling Club</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Local angling club based in South Uist.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Portree Angling Association</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Local angling club based in Skye.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Hebridean Sea Swimmers</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Sea swimming club covering the sea and the lochs in the Inner and Outer Hebrides.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Stornoway Angling Association</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Angling club for Lewis and Harris.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

<b>Cable specific stakeholder</b>	<b>SHEPD point of contact</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Craignure Pier - Harbour office</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Management of the pier under the authority of the Argyll and Bute Council.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Isle of Mull Scallops</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Fishing and processing company.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Isle of Mull Oysters</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Operator of the Poll Athach site (Mull).	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Saint Hilda Sea Adventures</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Motor cruising provider.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Turus Mara</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Wildlife and seabird cruise tours from Ulva Ferry, Mull and from Oban.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Mull and Iona Community Trust</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Mull and Iona Community Trust is a locally based organisation focused on improving the quality of life for the residents of Mull and Iona.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Uist Sea Tours</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Uist Sea Tours operate boat trips from Lochboisdale. They operate whale watching and bird watching and access to uninhabited islands.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

<b>Cable specific stakeholder</b>	<b>SHEPD point of contact</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) development</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)  Subsea Project Liaison Manager	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) department covers a range of responsibilities associated with policy and project development for the use and development of land in the Western Isles.	SHEPD will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Lady Anne Boat Trips</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Small boat trips based in Kallin Harbour, Isle of North Uist.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Isle of Man Fishermen</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Association of fishermen based on the Isle of Man, some of which regularly fish off the West Coast of Scotland.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Isle of Mull Fishermen's Association</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Association of fishermen based on and around the Isle of Mull.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.
<b>Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association</b>	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	Association representing the fishermen Mallaig and the North West Coast of Scotland.	CFLO will engage on matters related to the project as required.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

## 6 Commercial Fishing

- 6.1 This section summarises the existing commercial fishing activity in relation to the subsea submarine electricity cable assets. For the purposes of these interaction tables, named cables with multiple components (e.g. Loch a'Choire North and Loch a'Choire South) are treated as one. Commercial fishing activity is defined as the activity undertaken by licensed fishing vessels for the capture and sale of finfish and shellfish. The commercial fishing overview will focus specifically on those fleets which are active in areas relevant to the identified cables. The commercial fisheries charts are given in Appendix C (Figure 2 to Figure 15).
- 6.2 Commercial fishing in European Union (EU) waters was subject to numerous controls and regulations at European, national and local levels under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). In 2021, the UK left the EU and the CFP, with fisheries in the UK now governed by the Fisheries Act (2020). Relations with the EU, including TACs and quotas are governed under the EU – UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (24/12/2020). Controls and regulations remain in place under the Fisheries Act, with direct impacts on fishing effort, landings weights and values. The main bodies regulating fishing in sea areas in which the cable is located is Marine Scotland (MS) and the Inshore Fisheries Management and Conservation (IFMAC) through national and regional regulations, and regional Inshore Fisheries Groups (rIFGs).
- 6.3 The 18 West Highland cables are located within International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) 42E4, 43E2, 43E3, 43E4 and 44E3. Pressure stocks are managed by ICES Division and quota is also allocated at this scale. Fishing data are recorded, collated and analysed by ICES rectangles within each division. ICES rectangles are the smallest spatial unit available for the collation of fishing data and have therefore been used to define the analysis areas for the proposed cable replacements.
- 6.4 The West Highlands submarine electricity cables are sited within the 6nm limit, within which the UK has exclusive fishing rights. The territorial fishing limits of the UK extend out to 12nm, within which only the vessels of the UK, or vessels from other states with historical rights, are entitled to legally fish.
- 6.5 There is no single data source or recognised model for establishing a baseline of commercial fishing activity within discrete sea areas such as those encompassed by the footprint of submarine electricity cables. The overview has therefore been derived using data and information from a number of sources. In addition to analysis of fisheries statistical datasets, emphasis has been placed on undertaking direct consultation with the relevant national fishermen's federations, local associations and skippers whose fishing grounds are located within the vicinity of the cable corridor.
- 6.6 The key data sources used to characterise the baseline of the commercial fishing receptors are summarised in Table 5. It should be noted that Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) datasets show activity for the over-15m fleet only and will therefore underrepresent total fishing activity. It is considered that the surveillance sightings and effort data will be more representative as vessels working in the vicinity of the cable corridors will often be under 10m vessels.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

**Table 5 Commercial fishing key data sources**

Data	Year	Coverage	Confidence	Notes
UK Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Fishing Statistics (landings values data)	2015 to 2019	UK vessels landing into UK and European ports. Non-UK vessels landing into UK ports.	High	Landings data provided by value (£).
UK MMO Surveillance Sightings	2016 to 2020	Sightings of vessels by gear type (all nationalities) recorded in UK waters on regular surveillance fly overs during daylight hours.	Medium to high	May underestimate total extent of fishing activity due to flyover frequency and timing. Data for 2016-2017 is provided by the MMO, whilst data for 2018-2020 is from Marine Scotland.
UK MMO Satellite Tracking (VMS) Data	2015 to 2019	Aggregated VMS pings recorded in 0.05° by 0.05° grids from UK vessels only in European waters. Only vessels over 15m.	High	VMS provided by value (£). As dataset limited to vessels over 15m this will not be indicative of the inshore fleet.
European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)	2019	The maps are based on AIS data purchased by CLS and show shipping density in 1km*1km cells of a grid covering all EU waters (and some neighbouring areas). Density is expressed as hours per square kilometre per month. The following ship types have been covered in this dataset: other, fishing, service, dredging or underwater ops, sailing, pleasure craft, high speed craft, tug and towing, passenger, cargo, tanker, military and law enforcement, unknown and all ship types.	Low - High	EMODnet Vessel Density Maps were created by COGEA in 2020 in the framework of EMODnet Human Activities, an initiative funded by the EU Commission.

- 6.7 The potential fishing activity methods in the vicinity of the West Highlands submarine electricity cables are reviewed in order to assess possible interaction scenarios. A brief characterisation of the fishing methods identified in the area around the West Highlands cable corridors, with a description of the gear and photographic examples of the types of vessels is given in Table 11.
- 6.8 Surveillance sightings by method have recorded fishing activity directly over Skye-Harris, Skye-South Uist, Lochaline-Mull, Kyle-Skye and Loch a'Choire (Figure 2). The fishing methods observed included demersal trawlers, unspecified trawling and potting/whelking vessels. Surveillance sightings by nationality, shown in Figure 3, show the majority of fishing activity is conducted by UK registered vessels within the region. A summary of these sightings and possible interactions is provided in Table 6 below.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

**Table 6 MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Low levels of activity from demersal stern trawlers, trawlers (all) and potters/whelkers adjacent to the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	No	
Skye-Scalpay	No	Within 10km radius there are low levels of activity from potters/whelkers and demersal stern trawlers.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Low levels of activity from scallop dredgers (French/Newhaven type) and potters/whelkers.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	No	Within 10km radius there are low levels of activity from scallop dredgers (French/Newhaven type) and potters/whelkers.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	No	Within 10km radius there are low levels of activity from demersal trawlers and potters/whelkers.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity from potters/whelkers, trawlers and a single sighting of a scallop dredger.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	No	Within 10km radius there is a single demersal stern trawler sighting.
Skye-Harris	Yes	High levels of demersal stern trawler activity over the cable route, with lower levels of potter/whelkers, trawlers (all) and scallop dredgers (French/Newhaven type) activity. Two Norwegian stern trawlers and a French demersal stern trawler have been sighted within 10km of the cable.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	There is a single sighting of a UK-registered scallop dredger (French/Newhaven type) and a potter/whelker directly over the cable at the South Uist nearshore area. Within a 10km radius, there are moderate levels of UK potter/whelker activity, and lower levels of demersal stern trawler and scallop dredger (French/Newhaven type) activity from UK vessels. There are four sightings of Irish vessels: two purse seiners, a pelagic stern trawler and a trawler (all). One Danish stern trawler has also been sighted.
Skye-Raasay	No	Within 10km radius there is a single demersal stern trawler sighting.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	There are two potters/whelkers and a demersal stern trawler sighted within 700m of the cable. Within 10km radius there are low levels of activity from scallop dredgers (French/Newhaven type), demersal stern trawlers, trawlers (all) and potters/whelkers.
Loch Long (Dornie)	No	Within 10km radius there are low levels of activity from potters/whelkers.

6.9 Average MMO landings value (£) by species (Figure 4) show that the most valuable species caught across the West Highlands cables is Nephrops, making over 60% of the total value caught. Scallops is the second most valuable species (14%) with crab (10%) and lobster (5%) also making a small contribution.



	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

- 6.10 Average MMO landings values by method (Figure 5) show that pots (creels) and traps generate the greatest proportion (53%) of the landings value across the relevant ICES rectangles, followed by demersal stern trawling/seine netting (32%), dredging (11%) with landings from other passive gears at 3%. It should be noted that mobile gears represent greater proportions of landings within the central ICES 43E3 and 44E3 in particular, at 60% and 55% respectively.
- 6.11 Average MMO landings values by vessel length (Figure 6) show that in the mainland ICES rectangles (43E4 and 42E4) the 10m and under fleet represents the greatest proportion of landings value (62% and 65% respectively). However, in ICES 43E3 and 44E3, the over 10m fleet represents the greatest proportion of value (69% and 68% respectively). This is likely due to the presence of bottom otter trawlers that operate in this region.
- 6.12 A summary of these data for each individual cable (or group of cables if immediately adjacent to each other) is provided in Table 7. The cables have been ordered by ICES rectangle.

**Table 7 MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and vessel length**

ICES Rectangle	Cable Name	Interaction on chart	MMO landings value (£) overview
42E4	Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Average of £1,491,457 landings value per year, with pots and traps making up almost three quarters of these landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under. The largest proportion of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed by scallops.
	Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	
	Lochaline-Mull	Yes	
	Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	
	Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	
43E2	Skye-South Uist	Yes	(ICES 43E2) average of £3,064,649 landings value per year, with pots and traps constituting the majority of landings, followed at much lower levels by demersal trawls/seines and dredges. There is a 59%/41% split between vessel over 10m and vessels 10m and under. The largest proportion of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed by crabs, then lobsters.
43E3	Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Average of £5,878,831 landings value per year, with demersal trawls/seines constituting the highest proportion of landings followed by pots and traps. There is a much lower proportion of landings from dredges. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are from vessels over 10m. The majority of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed at much lower levels by other demersal species, scallops and crabs.
	Skye-Raasay	Yes	
43E4	Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Average of £4,136,186 landings value per year, with pots and traps constituting the majority of landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines and other passive gears. The largest
	Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	
	Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

ICES Rectangle	Cable Name	Interaction on chart	MMO landings value (£) overview
	Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under in length. The majority of landings are from Nephrops, with lower levels of scallops and crabs.
44E3	Skye-Harris	Yes	Average of £4,598,766 landings value per year, with pots and traps constituting the largest proportion of landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines and dredges. Almost three quarters of landings are from the over 10m fleet. The largest proportion of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed by scallops and crabs.

- 6.13 Average MMO VMS effort (hours) for all gears shows that there is relatively high fishing activity for vessels (over 15m) across Skye-Harris and Skye-Raasay cables and the Uist landfall section of Skye-South Uist (average 50+ hours per year); with low-to-moderate levels across Loch a'Choire, Lochaline-Mull, Lochalsh (Glenelg), Lochaline (Ardtornish), Kyle-Skye and Loch Sligachan-Skye (up to 20 hours per year) (Figure 7).
- 6.14 VMS effort by method indicates that the majority of this effort is from mobile gears (Figure 9) and dredging (Figure 8). VMS effort for potting and traps (Figure 10) shows limited fishing activity confined to Skye-South-Uist and to a lesser extent, Skye-Harris. This is to be expected as the majority of potting vessels will be under 15m in length. A summary of these data for each individual cable (or group of cables if immediately adjacent to each other) is provided in Table 8. The cables have been ordered by ICES rectangle.

**Table 8 MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019**

ICES Rectangle	Cable Name	Interaction on chart	VMS effort (hours) overview
42E4	Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Average fishing effort of 1-5 hours for mobile gear, but directly adjacent to an area of moderate activity – 10 to 20 hours effort per year.
42E4	Loch Eil Narrows	No	
42E4	Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Average fishing effort of 1-5 hours for dredging and mobile gear, and directly adjacent to an area of moderate activity (10-20 hours).
42E4	Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	No	No effort directly over the cables, but adjacent to an area of very low activity (<1 hour).
42E4	Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Average fishing effort of 1-5 hours for dredging and mobile gear.
43E2	Skye-South Uist	Yes	Generally low levels of both dredging and mobile gear activity (up to 20 hours) along cable, except for each landfall section, with high levels of activity – average of 50-100 hours effort annually. Low to moderate potting and trapping activity concentrated in cable centre (5-20 hours).

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

ICES Rectangle	Cable Name	Interaction on chart	VMS effort (hours) overview
43E3	Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Average fishing effort of 5-10 hours for dredging and mobile gear. Adjacent to an area of high (50-100 hours) activity.
43E3	Skye-Raasay	Yes	High levels of fishing activity, with an average fishing effort of 50-100 hours for dredging and mobile gear.
43E4	Skye-Scalpay	No	
43E4	Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Average fishing effort of <1 hour for dredging and mobile gear. Adjacent to an area of moderately high activity (20-50 hours).
43E4	Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Average fishing effort of 1-5 hours for dredging and mobile gear.
43E4	Loch Long (Dornie)	No	No effort over the cable, though there is an area of <1 hour for dredging and mobile gear 2.6km west of the cable.
44E3	Skye-Harris	Yes	Moderate-high levels of fishing activity, with up to 50 hours of dredging effort along cable (at the Skye landfall), and mobile gear activity shown at over 100 hours in the central portion of the cable. Low levels of potting/trapping activity (1-5 hours).

- 6.15 Average MMO VMS landings (£) (Figure 11) shows that the most profitable area across the cables is the midsection of the Skye-Harris cable (up to and over £35,000 average per year), with moderate landings values (up to £20,000) returned in the area of Skye-South Uist, Skye-Raasay and Loch Sligachan. There are lower landings values (up to £3,000) in the vicinity of Kyle-Skye, Lochaline-Mull, Lochaline (Ardtornish), Lochalsh (Glenelg) and Loch a'Choire.
- 6.16 VMS landings values by method shows that the majority of this is from mobile gears (Figure 13) and to a lesser extent, dredging (Figure 12). As with VMS effort, landings value for potting and trapping (Figure 14) is confined to Skye-Harris and Skye-South-Uist, likely because the majority of potting vessels relevant to the other cables will be under 15m in length. A summary of these data and possible interactions for each individual group of cables is provided in Table 9.

**Table 9 MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019**

ICES Rectangle	Cable Name	Interaction on chart	MMO VMS landings values (£) overview
42E4	Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Average landings value of <£1,000 per year for mobile gear, but directly adjacent to an area of low to moderate landings value – £1,000-£3,000 effort per year.
42E4	Loch Eil Narrows	No	
42E4	Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Average landings value of <£1,000 per year for mobile gear.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

ICES Rectangle	Cable Name	Interaction on chart	MMO VMS landings values (£) overview
42E4	Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	No	
42E4	Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Average landings value of <£1,000 per year for dredging and mobile gear.
43E2	Skye-South Uist	Yes	There are moderate landings values (£10,000-£20,000) at the South Uist landfall of the cable for both dredging and mobile gear, with some more pockets along the centre of the route. There are moderate landings values for potting and trapping at the centre of the cable, between £6,000 and £20,000 landings per year.
43E3	Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Average landings value of £1,000-£3,000 per year for dredging and £3,000-£6,000 for mobile gear over the cable. Adjacent to an area of £10,000-£20,000 average landings value for both dredging and mobile gear.
43E3	Skye-Raasay	Yes	Average landings value of £10,000-£20,000 per year for dredging and mobile gear.
43E4	Skye-Scalpay	No	
43E4	Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Average landings value of <£1,000 per year for dredging and mobile gear over the cable. Adjacent to an area of £3,000-£6,000 average landings value for both dredging and mobile gear.
43E4	Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Average landings value of <£1,000 per year for dredging and mobile gear over the cable. There is an area of £3,000-£6,000 average landings value for both dredging and mobile gear approximately 3km east of the cable.
43E4	Loch Long (Dornie)	No	No value over the cable, though there is an area of <£1,000 for dredging and mobile gear 2.6km west of the cable.
44E3	Skye-Harris	Yes	Moderate-high landings values over the cable, with an area of >£35,000 per year for mobile gear in the nearshore Harris area, and £10,000-£20,000 average dredging value at the Skye landfall of the cable. There are very low levels (<£1,000) of potting/trapping value as well.

6.17 EMODnet fishing vessel AIS density (Figure 15) shows generally low to medium levels of activity (0.5-5 hours per km<sup>2</sup> per month), with pockets of moderate activity around the Skye-Harris cable's Harris landfall (5-10 hours), and high levels of activity adjacent to Kyle-Skye (20-100+ hours). A summary of these data and possible interactions is provided in Table 10 below.

**Table 10 EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Average of <1 hour of AIS activity per square km per month.
Loch Eil Narrows	No	


	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Skye-Scalpay	No	
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Average of 2 hours of AIS activity per square km per month.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Average of 2 hours of AIS activity per square km per month.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Low levels over the cables ( $\leq 0.5$ hours per square km per month). Adjacent to an area of slightly higher activity (2-3 hours per square km per month).
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Average of 2 hours of AIS activity per square km per month over the cable midsections, with average of 100+ hours at each of the cables' landfalls.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	No	
Skye-Harris	Yes	Low to medium levels of AIS activity within the cable corridor, with a small pocket of 10-20 hours per square km per month towards the nearshore area at Harris.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Low activity levels across the cable, with higher levels of activity in the nearshore/landfall South Uist portion; up to 10 hours per square km per month.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Average of $<1$ hour of AIS activity per square km per month.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	No	
Loch Long (Dornie)	No	

- 6.18 A brief characterisation of the fishing methods identified in the area of the submarine electricity cables including a description of the gear and photographic examples of the types of vessels are given in Table 11.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

**Table 11 Characterisation of the fishing methods in the area**

<b>Fishing gear</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Pictorial representation</b>
<b>Creeling</b>	<p>Creels (pots) are static traps commonly baited with low value fish such as mackerel, herring, and dogfish. Creels are the principal method used to target active scavenging crustaceans such as brown crab, velvet crab, lobster, Nephrops, green crab and whelks. A number of pots are set on a main line anchored to the seabed and marked with a buoy or a 'dhan' (flag and buff) at either end. The number of pots per string can vary from 5-50. Vessels generally work between 200-500 pots at sea, which are fished on a continuous cycle to maintain cover of the ground.</p> <p>Fishing effort follows a seasonal pattern with activity varying to shelter from adverse weather conditions, react to seasonal changes and exploit target species.</p> <p>Nephrops, crab and lobster are targeted by creelers in the West Highlands area. Creel boats in the area are predominately small - under 10m - such as the vessel indicated in the photo (right).</p>	 <p>Source: Scottish Creel Fisherman's Federation</p>




	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

<b>Fishing gear</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Pictorial representation</b>
<b>Scallop Dredging</b>	<p>A small local fleet and nomadic vessels (vessels that fish all around the UK, whose movements are influenced by season, management restrictions and spawning times).</p> <p>Each dredge consists of a ruggedly constructed triangular steel frame and a tooth bar, behind which a mat of linked steel rings is secured. Heavy netting is laced into the frame to form a bag into which the catch is retained. As scallops usually lie recessed in sand and fine gravel, they are raked out by the teeth and swept into the bag.</p> <p>A number of dredges are attached to a bar fitted with bridles and is towed using a single warp. The dredges are usually deployed from outrigger booms. The number of dredges deployed varies with the size of the vessel, with the maximum number permitted being eight aside (16 in total).</p>	 <p>Source: Trawler Pics - Scalloper</p>



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

<b>Fishing gear</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Pictorial representation</b>
<b>Demersal otter trawlers and Nephrops trawls</b>	<p>An otter trawl is a basic funnel shaped net tapering towards the cod-end, with the sides of the net extended to form wings which herd the fish into the net. The net is held open by trawl doors which are designed to flow through the water at an angle causing them to spread away from each other and therefore opening the net horizontally. The net is held open vertically by the ballooning effect of the net and by a series of floats attached to the headline. The ground lines of nets are weighted to maintain contact with the seabed and can vary in design depending on the type of ground fished.</p> <p>Specifically-designed Nephrops trawls are also used to target this species. A long winged low net with light weight gear is towed over predominantly soft muddy grounds.</p> <p>This net is designed so that the relatively fragile bottom of the net (known as the fishing line) skims a few inches off the seabed with the leaded bights of grass rope trailing on the seabed encouraging Nephrops into the net. These nets differ little from white fish gear apart from being lighter rigged with a smaller mesh size.</p>	 <p>Source: Fishing News - Trawler based on Skye</p>

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

## 7 Other Sea Users

- 7.1 This section of the report provides a brief overview of other sea users in relation to the submarine electricity cable assets. For the purposes of these interaction tables, named cables with multiple components (e.g. Loch a'Choire North and Loch a'Choire South) are treated as one. Other sea users that may be affected by cable replacement works include:
- Aquaculture
  - Marine Archaeology
  - Wave and Tidal developments
  - Ferries
  - Shipping
  - Sailing
  - Recreational: sailing, diving, boating, angling, canoeing/kayaking, surfing, swimming, rowing/sculling, water skiing/wakeboarding, wild fowling and coasteering
  - MoD
  - Conservation sites/areas
  - Telecommunications
  - Subsea cables
- 7.2 There is no single data source or recognised model for determining the activity of all other sea users within discrete sea areas such as those encompassed by the footprint of the West Highlands sub-sea cables. It is beyond the scope of this report to produce a complete baseline overview for all other sea users; therefore data and information are derived from assessments utilised by regional marine spatial plans and the PAC report.
- 7.3 AIS vessel density data for all vessels in 2019 has been published by EMODnet, showing hours of activity per km<sup>2</sup> per month (Figure 16). The highest levels of activity (100+ hours per km<sup>2</sup> per month) can be seen in the Sound of Mull over the Lochaline (Ardtornish) cable and at the entrance of Lochalsh over Kyle-Skye. High levels of activity can also be seen over the Loch Sligachan-Skye and the midsections of Loch A'Choire cables, and adjacent to the north of the South Uist landfall of Skye-South Uist at 50-100 hours per square km. Across Skye-Raasay a range of 20-50 hours per km<sup>2</sup> per month was reported. Lower levels (2-20 hours) can be seen elsewhere along the cables. These data have been further separated into the categories of fishing vessels (as detailed in the previous chapter), cargo vessels, high speed vessels, passenger vessels, sailing vessels, tankers and tugs, shown in Figure 15, and Figure 17-Figure 22.
- 7.4 The Scottish Marine Recreation and Tourism Survey (SMRTS) 2015<sup>13</sup> and the Marine Scotland interactive Marine Plan<sup>14</sup> have been the main sources of reference for sea users listed in Table 12. Additional data on conservation sites has been sourced from the Scottish Government SpatialData.gov.scot website, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Reserves web map

<sup>13</sup> Scottish Marine Recreation and Tourism Survey (SMRTS) 2015; <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00497904.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Marine Scotland National Marine Plan Interactive; <https://marinescotland.atkinsgeospatial.com/nmpi/>

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

service, European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) and the website Ports and Harbours of the UK<sup>15</sup>. Where information is available, charts of spatial activity are provided for each of the sea users defined above.

**Table 12 Other sea users data sources**

Data	Year	Coverage	Confidence	Notes
Marine Scotland National Marine Plan Interactive	Varied	Overall Assessment Physical Characteristics Clean and Safe Healthy and Biologically Diverse Productive Climate Change Administrative Regions National Marine Plan Aerial Photography Base Layers	Low - High	National Marine Plan interactive (NMPI) allows you to view different types of information and, where appropriate, links have been provided to the related parts of Scotland's Marine Atlas and will also be provided to the National Marine Plan in due course.
Scottish Marine Recreation and Tourism Survey (SMRTS) 2015	2015	The SMRTS survey was carried out between August and October 2015. The survey provides baseline information to inform marine planning in Scotland. More than 2100 individuals, 137 clubs and 279 businesses completed the survey, indicating areas where people conducted different activities.	Low-High	Commissioned by the Scottish Government, the Firth of Clyde Forum, The Crown Estate and Scottish Coastal Forum. Aim to gather robust information on marine recreation and tourism activity around Scotland.
Scottish Government SpatialData.gov.scot	2018	National Scenic Areas (NSAs) are Scotland's only national landscape designation, and defined as areas "of outstanding scenic value in a national context" for which special protection measures are required. NSAs are broadly equivalent to the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty found in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There are 40 NSAs in total covering roughly 1 million hectares (13% of Scotland).	High	The designation's purpose is both to identify our finest scenery and to ensure its protection from inappropriate development.

<sup>15</sup> Ports and Harbours of the UK; <http://ports.org.uk/>

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Data	Year	Coverage	Confidence	Notes
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Marine Protected Area (MPA) mapper	2021	The JNCC Marine Protected Area (MPA) mapper is an interactive resource containing information on the MPAs designated in UK and Crown Dependency waters.	High	This includes certain Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and non-avian species and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds. The JNCC MPA mapper only displays SACs and SPAs that protect the marine environment - so called SACs and SPAs with 'marine components'.
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	2021	All RSPB reserve boundaries.	High	The dataset contains the boundaries of all land managed, leased or owned as part of publicly accessible RSPB reserves.
European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)	2019	The maps are based on AIS data purchased by CLS and show shipping density in 1km*1km cells of a grid covering all EU waters (and some neighbouring areas). Density is expressed as hours per square kilometre per month. The following ship types have been covered in this dataset: other, fishing, service, dredging or underwater ops, sailing, pleasure craft, high speed craft, tug and towing, passenger, cargo, tanker, military and law enforcement, unknown and all ship types.	Low - High	EMODnet Vessel Density Maps were created by COGEA in 2020 in the framework of EMODnet Human Activities, an initiative funded by the EU Commission.
Ports and Harbours of the UK	2019	Online resource containing information on over 950 ports, harbours, jetties and piers around the coastline of the UK.	Low-High	The site has been compiled by a volunteer and is not an official list.

7.5 The main water sports undertaken in the West Highlands are motor cruising, power boating, sailing and cruising, long distance swimming, surfing, diving, private charter fishing, scuba diving, rowing and sculling, yacht racing, dinghy racing and canoeing and kayaking. A heat map using the data collated from the Scottish Marine Recreation and Tourism Survey (SMRTS) is

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

used to summarise all recreational activity around the cables. The recreational activities recorded in the vicinity of the submarine electricity cable assets are:

- Bird and wildlife watching
- Historic sites and attractions
- Power boating
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Long distance swimming
- Motor cruising
- Sailing and cruising
- Chartered angling
- Sea angling from shore
- Surfing and paddle boarding
- Yacht racing
- Dinghy racing
- Coasteering
- Personal water craft (jet skis)
- Water skiing/wakeboarding
- Wild fowling
- Scuba diving
- Rowing and sculling
- Surfing and paddle boarding

- 7.6 Recreational activity has been assessed using regional datasets as there is little information on discrete sea areas such as those encompassed by the footprint of the West Highlands cables.
- 7.7 The charts showing recreational activity are given in Appendix D (Figure 23 to Figure 40).
- 7.8 The SMRTS 2015 survey around Scotland show predominantly moderate, or high levels of bird and wildlife watching, across the cable locations (944 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interaction is summarised in Table 13 below and shown in Figure 23.

**Table 13 Bird and wildlife watching**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Skye-Harris	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable.

7.1 The SMRTS 2015 survey around Scotland for visits to historic sites or to attractions show low to high levels of activity in the vicinity of all cable locations except Loch a'Choire (924 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interaction is summarised in Table 14 below and shown in Figure 24.

**Table 14 Visits to historic sites or to attractions**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is a hotspot of activity approximately 5km southeast.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Moderate levels of activity directly over the cable, with an area of high activity directly adjacent to the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Very low levels of activity directly over the cable, though there are low levels of activity 1km east of the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Hotspot of activity directly adjacent to the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Low levels of activity directly over the cable, though there is an area of high activity approximately 1.5km right of the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Very low levels of activity directly over the cables, though but there is a hotspot of low to medium activity approximately 1.3km west.
Skye-Harris	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the Skye landfall of the cable, though there is an area of high activity approximately 7km west of the cable at Harris. There is another area of low activity on Harris 5km east of the cable. Much of the cable records no activity.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the Skye landfall of the cable, with hotspots of low to medium activity between 5-6km southeast of the cable. Much of the cable records no activity.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Hotspot of low to medium activity directly adjacent to the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable, adjacent to area of high activity.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

- 7.2 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for power boating show very low to high levels of activity in the vicinity over the cable locations (204 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interaction is summarised in Table 15 below and shown in Figure 25.

**Table 15 Power boating**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Low levels of activity directly over the cables, though there is an area of high activity 3.5km south of the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable, with an area of low activity approximately 2.5km to the east of the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable, with an area of low activity approximately 5.5km west of the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables, with an area of high activity 9km southwest of the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Very low to low levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables, with an area of low activity approximately 2.5km to the east of the cables.
Skye-Harris	Yes	Low levels of activity over the nearshore Harris section of the cable, with very low levels of activity elsewhere.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.

- 7.3 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for canoeing and kayaking show activity levels ranging from low to high depending on cable location (418 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interaction is summarised in Table 16 below and shown in Figure 26.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

**Table 16 Canoeing and kayaking**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Low to medium levels of activity shown in the immediate vicinity of the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Medium to high levels of activity with the immediate vicinity of the cable, with high levels close by.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Medium levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Medium to high levels of activity over the cable, with high levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Low Levels of activity in immediate vicinity, high levels close by the cables.
Skye-Harris	Yes	Medium level of activity over the nearshore Harris portion of the cable route, with low levels over the rest of the cable.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Medium level of activity over the nearshore Harris portion of the cable route, with low levels over the rest of the cable.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Medium levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Medium to high levels of activity with the immediate vicinity of the cable.

- 7.4 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for long distance sea swimming show low levels of activity, or none at all, in the immediate vicinity of all cable locations (79 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interaction is summarised in Table 17 below and shown in Figure 27.



	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

**Table 17 Long distance swimming**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Very low activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is a small area of low activity <6km west.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Very low Levels of activity over the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Very low activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is a small area of low activity <5km south.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Low Levels of activity by the cables.
Skye-Harris	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the nearshore South Uist section of the cable, with no other activity elsewhere.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Low Levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.

7.5 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for motor cruising show activity levels ranging from low to high depending on cable location (163 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interaction is summarised in Table 18 below and shown in Figure 28.

**Table 18 Motor cruising**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, with areas of medium to high levels of activity to the right of the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Very low activity over the cable, though there is an area of low activity <5km north west.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, with areas of moderate to high level activity to the left of the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Low Levels of activity in immediate vicinity of the cables, close to an area of high intensity motor cruising activity.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Skye-Harris	Yes	Low to medium levels of activity in the nearshore regions of the cable route, with very low to low levels elsewhere along the route.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Low to medium levels of activity in the nearshore Skye region of the cable route, with very low to low levels elsewhere along the route.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Medium to high levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.

- 7.6 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for sailing and cruising show activity levels ranging from low to high in the immediate vicinity of the cables, depending on the cable location (542 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 19 below and shown in Figure 29.

**Table 19 Sailing and cruising**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Medium levels of activity over the cables, with an area of high activity to the south.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, with an area of moderate to high activity to the east of the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Very low activity over the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cable, with an area of high activity approximately 2km to the west of the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Low Levels in immediate vicinity of the cables, close to an area of medium sailing and cruising activity.
Skye-Harris	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, with small area of moderate activity in the nearshore Harris area.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, with an area of moderate activity at the South Uist landfall.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable, with higher levels of activity towards Raasay.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Very low activity over the cable.

- 7.7 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for chartered angling show activity levels ranging from low to high in the immediate vicinity of the cables, depending on cable location (353 people provided

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

spatial information). This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 20 below and shown in Figure 30.

**Table 20 Chartered angling**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, though there is a small area of low activity approximately 2km to the west of the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable but there is a small area of moderate activity approximately 6km to the west of the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables, with an area of high activity approximately 1km south of the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Low Levels in immediate vicinity of the cables.
Skye-Harris	Yes	Very low to no levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Very low to no levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, but there is an area of moderate activity <2km to the south of the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable, but there is an area of high activity approximately 1km to the southwest of the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.

- 7.8 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for sea angling from shore show activity levels ranging from very low to high in the immediate vicinity of the cables, depending on cable location (368 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 21 below and shown in Figure 31.

**Table 21 Sea angling from shore**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables, with a hotspot of low activity directly south of the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable, but there is an area of high activity 2.2km east of the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable, with areas of low to moderate activity 8km to the southeast and 6km north.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cable. There is an area of high activity approximately 3km east of the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables, but there is an area of high activity 3km east of the cables.
Skye-Harris	Yes	Low levels of activity at the Harris landfall of the cable, with very low levels of activity elsewhere over the cable. There is an area of moderate activity approximately 7.5km southeast of the cable.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Low levels of activity at the South Uist landfall of the cable, with very low levels of activity elsewhere over the cable. There is an area of moderate activity approximately 3.8km east of the cable.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables, but there is an area of high activity 3km east of the cables.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable, though there is an area of high activity adjacent to the south of the cable.

7.9 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for surfing/paddle boarding show activity levels ranging from low to moderate in the immediate vicinity of the cables, depending on cable location (201 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 22 below and shown in Figure 32.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

**Table 22 Surfing and paddle boarding**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cables, but there is an area of high activity approximately 4.5km south of the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables, but there is an area of moderate activity approximately 5km south of the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Low Levels in immediate vicinity of the cables.
Skye-Harris	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cable, however there is an area of moderate activity approximately 2km south of the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.

- 7.10 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for yacht racing show low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of all cables except Lochaline-Mull and Lochaline (Ardtornish), which show moderate to high levels of activity. 26 people provided spatial information. This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 23 below and shown in Figure 33.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

**Table 23 Yacht racing**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	No	
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, though there is an area of low activity <2km to the west of the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is an area of low activity approximately 2km to the southwest of the cable.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Skye-Harris	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable, but there is an area of high activity approximately 1km to the southwest of the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.

- 7.11 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for dinghy racing show very low levels of activity over Corran Narrows, and very low levels of activity in the vicinity of Loch Eil Narrows, Skye-Raasay, Skye-Scalpay and Loch Sligachan-Skye. 88 people provided spatial information. This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 24 below and shown in Figure 34.

**Table 24 Dinghy racing**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	No	
Loch Eil Narrows	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is an area of very low to low activity <4km southeast from the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is an area of very low activity approximately 2.5km east of the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	No	
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	No	
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is an area of very low activity approximately 3.5km east of the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is an area of very low activity approximately 4km northwest of the cables.
Skye-Harris	No	
Skye-South Uist	No	
Skye-Raasay	Yes	There is an area of very low activity directly adjacent to the Raasay landfall of the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	No	
Loch Long (Dornie)	No	

7.12 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for coasteering show hotspots of activity in the immediate vicinity of Lochaline-Mull and Lochaline (Ardtornish), and the landfall area at Skye on Skye-Harris and Skye-South Uist. There are very low levels of activity over all other cables. 238 people provided spatial information. This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 25 below and shown in Figure 35.

**Table 25 Coasteering**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Very low levels of activity directly over the cable, but there are hotspots of activity approximately 5km to the west and 2km to the right of the cable respectively.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	There are two hotspots of activity in the vicinity, with the outer bounds of these intersecting with each end of the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Very low activity directly over the cables, but there are hotspots of activity approximately 5km to the east and 5km to the south of the cables respectively.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables., though there is a hotspot of activity approximately 5km east of the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Skye-Harris	Yes	There is a hotspot of activity at the Skye landfall of the cable.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	There is a hotspot of activity at the Skye landfall of the cable, with another hotspot approximately 5km south of the South Uist landfall, and another 5km to the southeast of the cable at Waterstein on Skye.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable., though there is a hotspot of activity approximately 4.5km north of the cable.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable, though there is a hotspot of activity approximately 3km west of the cable.

7.13 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for jet skiing show a small amount of activity around Corran Narrows (9 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 26 below and shown in Figure 36.

**Table 26 Personal water craft (jet skis)**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	No	
Loch Eil Narrows	No	
Skye-Scalpay	No	
Lochaline-Mull	No	
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	No	
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	No	
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	No	
Skye-Harris	No	
Skye-South Uist	No	
Skye-Raasay	No	
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	No	
Loch Long (Dornie)	No	

7.14 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for water skiing/wakeboarding show a small amount of activity around Lochalsh (Glenelg) and Corran Narrows, with low activity in the vicinity of Loch Eil Narrows and Loch a'Choire (25 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 27 below and shown in Figure 37.



	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

**Table 27 Water skiing/wakeboarding**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is an area of low activity approximately 6km to the east of the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is an area of low activity approximately 6km to the southeast of the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	No	
Lochaline-Mull	No	
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	No	No activity directly over the cable, but there is an area of low activity approximately 0.5km to the east of the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is an area of low activity approximately 8km to the east of the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	No	
Skye-Harris	No	
Skye-South Uist	No	
Skye-Raasay	No	
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	No	
Loch Long (Dornie)	No	No activity directly over the cable, but there is an area of low activity adjacent to the west of the cable.

7.15 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for wild fowling show very low levels of activity over all cables (59 people provided spatial information). This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 28 below and shown in Figure 38.

**Table 28 Wild fowling**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Skye-Harris	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.

7.16 The SMRTS 2015 survey results for scuba diving show high levels of activity over all cables except Loch a'Choire, Skye-Scalpay, Loch Sligachan-Skye and Skye-Raasay; and for all of these there are hotspots of activity relatively nearby. 168 people provided spatial information. This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 29 below and shown in Figure 39.

**Table 29 Scuba diving**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there are hotspots of activity approximately 3km to the east of the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is a hotspot of activity approximately 6km to the east of the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable, though there is an area of high activity directly adjacent to it.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is a hotspot of activity approximately 4km to the north of the cables.
Skye-Harris	Yes	High levels of activity at the Skye landfall of the cable, with a smaller hotspot of activity towards the centre of the route. Another area of moderate activity is approximately 4km west of the cable at Harris. Elsewhere activity levels are very low.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	High levels of activity at the Skye landfall of the cable, with more activity along the northwest coast of Skye within 4km of the cable. Elsewhere activity levels are very low.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is a hotspot of activity <1km to the north of the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

- 7.17 A total of 237 people provided spatial information on rowing and sculling and in the SMRTS 2015 survey around Scotland. The results show very low to low levels of activity over Kyle-Skye, Lochalsh (Glenelg), Loch a'Choire, Loch Eil Narrows, Lochaline-Mull, Lochaline (Ardtornish), Loch Long (Dornie) and Corran Narrows. This activity and possible interactions is summarised in Table 30 below and shown in Figure 40.

**Table 30 Rowing and sculling**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	No	
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	No	
Skye-Harris	No	
Skye-South Uist	No	
Skye-Raasay	No	
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.

- 7.18 There are potential wreck sites within the cable corridors as indicated in Figure 41 and summarised in Table 31. An online database of historical wreck sites, Canmore, has been used to assess the potential for interaction between wreck sites and submarine electricity cables. It includes a record of Scotland's maritime heritage and any current or scheduled archaeological sites of national importance, legally protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This database has been compiled and managed by Historic Environment Scotland, and is available as part of Marine Scotland's NMPI.

**Table 31 Marine archaeology**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	No	
Loch Eil Narrows	No	
Skye-Scalpay	No	No wreck sites in the immediate vicinity, but the nearest is 8.3km away.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Possible interaction with wreck sites.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	No	No wreck sites in the immediate vicinity, but the nearest is 6.5km away.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	No	
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Possible interaction with wreck sites.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	No	No wreck sites in the immediate vicinity, but the nearest is 3.2km away.
Skye-Harris	No	No wreck sites in the immediate vicinity, but the nearest is 7.6km away.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Possible interaction with wreck sites.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Possible interaction with wreck sites.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Possible interaction with wreck sites.
Loch Long (Dornie)	No	

7.19 The nature conservation designations in the vicinity of the cable corridors are shown in Figure 42-Figure 44 and summarised in Table 32. The NSAs of South Lewis, Harris and North Uist and the Cuillin Hills overlap directly with the cable routes (Skye-Harris, Loch Sligachan-Skye and Skye-Scalpay respectively) with others in the vicinity. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura, Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh overlap directly with the cable routes (Lochaline (Ardtornish), Lochaline-Mull, Kyle-Skye, Lochalsh (Glenelg) and Loch Long (Dornie) respectively). The Special Area of Conservation (SAC) with marine components in the Inner Hebrides and the Minches covers all cables bar Loch a'Choire, Corran Narrows and Loch Eil Narrows. SAC Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs overlap with the cable routes Kyle-Skye, Lochalsh (Glenelg), (Lochaline (Ardtornish), Loch Long (Dornie) and Lochaline-Mull. There are RSPB reserves on Skye (Ardmore), North Uist (Vallay and Balranald) and on the Scottish mainland (Glenborrodale), though these are not in the vicinity of any of the cable routes.

**Table 32 Conservation designations**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	No	None directly over the cables, but there is an NSA, Lynn of Lorn, approximately 3km southeast of the cables. An SAC, Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mor is 4km south of the cables.
Loch Eil Narrows	No	
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	The Cuillin Hills NSA – covers Skye cable landfall. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers central section of cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA – covers entirety of cable. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers entirety of cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Yes	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh MPA – covers entirety of cable. Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC – covers entirety of cables. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – adjacent to cable.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	No	None directly over the cables, but there is an NSA, Ben Nevis and Glencoe, approximately 2.5km south of the cables.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh MPA – covers entirety of cables. Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC – covers northern cable. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers entirety of cables.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	The Cuillin Hills NSA – covers Sconser landfall of cables. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – cables fall just left of this.
Skye-Harris	Yes	South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA – covers Harris cable landfall. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers entirety of cable.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers entirety of cable. Sea of Hebrides MPA – covers majority of the cable.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers entirety of cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA – cable falls just north of this. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – cable falls just north of this.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh MPA – covers entirety of cable. Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC – covers entirety of cable. Kintail NSA – cable falls just north of this.

7.20 There are a number of recorded aquaculture farms within the vicinity of all of the cables, operated by Fassfern Mussels, Mowi Scotland Limited, Scalpay Estate, Scottish Sea Farms Limited, Oakes Marine, the Scottish Salmon Company, Whiteshore Cockles Limited and Loch Duart Limited. The potential for interaction is summarised in Table 33 and shown in Figure 45.

**Table 33 Aquaculture sites**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Yes	Two finfish aquaculture farms, Kingairloch and Loch a'Choire, within the loch. These are run by Mowi Scotland Ltd.
Loch Eil Narrows	Yes	Since Loch Eil is a narrow, confined area for shipping, the aquaculture farms within the loch, - Loch Eil (Fassfern) and Garvan, located approximately 3.5km and 7.3km west of the cable respectively – may have transiting traffic that could intersect with those used for the cable. These are both operated by Fassfern Mussels. There is a finfish site, Site 1 Head of Loch Linnhe, 3.5km east of the cable.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Skye-Scalpay	Yes	One shellfish aquaculture site, Scalpay (operated by Scalpay Estate), 4.2km northeast of the cable. A finfish aquaculture site also named Scalpay (operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.) sits 4.4km northeast of the cable. Three finfish sites, Cairidh, Maol Ban and Sconser Quarry, are all within 6km of the cable. These are all operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.
Lochaline-Mull	Possible	Three finfish aquaculture sites within the vicinity of the cable: Fishnish (A), Fishnish (B) and Scallastle, all within 3km of the cable. Another, Fiunary, is 8.8km northwest of the cable. These are all operated by Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Possible	One finfish aquaculture site, Ardintoul, 1.5km west of the cable. Another, Loch Alsh (Sron) is located 5.5km to the west of the cable, and Loch Duich, is approximately 7km southeast of the cable. These are all operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Two finfish aquaculture sites, Linnhe (operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.) and Site 2 North of the Corran Narrows, 600m and 1km north of the cables respectively.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Possible	One finfish aquaculture site, Loch Alsh (Sron) 1.8km east of the cables, and another, Ardintoul, 5.8km east. These are both operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Possible	Two shellfish aquaculture sites, Loch Sligachan and the Moll, are 1km and 1.7km from the cables respectively. These are both run by Oakes Marine. The finfish sites Sconser, Sconser Quarry and Maol Ban are all within 5km of the cables. These are both operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.
Skye-Harris	Possible	The finfish aquaculture site Loch Stockinish is situated 2.5km away from the Harris landfall of the cable. This is operated by the Scottish Salmon Company.
Skye-South Uist	Yes	The finfish aquaculture site Loch Carnan (operated by Loch Duart Ltd.), lies 770m north of the cable at the South Uist landfall. Further finfish sites within 5km of the cable landfall are Kilerivagh (Petersport), and Ornish Island, operated by the Scottish Salmon Company and Mowi Scotland Ltd respectively. There is a shellfish aquaculture site, Loch Skipport (Whiteshore Cockles Ltd.), 4.5km southwest of the cable on South Uist.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	Sconser finfish aquaculture site (operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.) is approximately 360m south of the cable. Additional finfish sites Sconser Quarry and Maol Ban, and shellfish sites Loch Sligachan and the Moll, are all within 4km of the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Possible	Three finfish aquaculture sites within the vicinity of the cable, operated by Scottish Sea Farms Limited: Fishnish (A), Fishnish (B) and Scallastle, all within 6km of the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Possible	One finfish aquaculture site, operated by Mowi Scotland Limited, Loch Duich 4km east of the cables.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

- 7.21 There are ferries operating to Skye from Mallaig, Raasay, Tarbert and Lochmaddy. There are ferries operating to the Isle of Mull from Lochaline, Oban and Kilchoan. to the ferry routes in proximity (<10km) from the cable works are summarised in Table 34. There are 50 or greater vessel transits undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the cables Lochaline-Mull and Lochaline (Ardtornish), Skye-Raasay and Loch Sligachan-Skye, and 10-20 transits undertaken over Skye-Harris, shown in AIS density data for passenger vessels, Figure 46.

**Table 34 Ferry routes**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	No	
Loch Eil Narrows	No	
Skye-Scalpay	No	No ferry routes directly over the cable, but a ferry route from Sconser to Raasay (operated by CalMac Ferries) runs approximately 6km northwest of the cable.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	There is a ferry route from Lochaline to Mull (Fishnish) that intersects the cable. This route is operated by CalMac Ferries. Two more, from Oban-Coll and from Oban-Barra (Castlebay) also intersect the cable route. These are also operated by CalMac Ferries.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	No	
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	There is a ferry route from Nether Lochaber to Ardgour that runs directly adjacent to the cables. This route is operated by Highland Council.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	No	
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	There is a ferry route from Skye (Sconser) to Raasay (Churchton Bay) which intersects the cables. This route is operated by CalMac Ferries.
Skye-Harris	Yes	There is a ferry route from Skye (Uig) to North Uist (Lochmaddy) that intersects the cable route. Another ferry route, from Uig to Tarbert, lies approximately 10km away. These routes are both operated by CalMac Ferries.
Skye-South Uist	No	No ferry routes directly over the cable, but a ferry route from Uig to Lochmaddy runs approximately 3km north of the cable. This route is operated by CalMac Ferries.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	There is a ferry route from Skye (Sconser) to Raasay (Churchton Bay) that intersects the cable route. This route is operated by CalMac Ferries.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	There is a ferry route from Lochaline to Fishnish that intersects the cable route. This route is operated by CalMac Ferries.
Loch Long (Dornie)	No	

- 7.22 The ports on the Isle of Skye are Armadale, Sconser and Uig. The ports on the Isle of Mull are Craignure, Tobermory and Fishnish. The ports of Harris and South Uist respectively, are Tarbert and Lochboisdale. The nearest ports to each of the cable works is summarised in Table 35.



	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Information on these ports is gathered from the website, Ports and Harbours of the UK.<sup>16</sup> A summary of vessel movements (by AIS) is shown in Figure 47 (all vessels), broken down into the categories of cargo vessels (Figure 48), port service craft (Figure 49), tankers (Figure 50) and passenger vessels (previously shown in Figure 46).

**Table 35 Local ports**

Cable Name	Interaction on chart	Notes
Loch a'Choire (North and South)	Possible	Nearest port is Glensanda, approximately 4.3km southwest of the cables. This is in the form of a quay and quarry owned and operated by Foster Yeoman, a stone supplier company that exports products to Northern Europe.
Loch Eil Narrows	Possible	The nearest port is Corpach, used for freight and commercial purposes, approximately 2.5km east of the cable. There is a high density of traffic to and from Corpach, which may intersect the cable.
Skye-Scalpay	No	Broadford Pier is located approximately 6.7km east of the cable, and is used primarily for leisure vessels and a few commercial fishing vessels.
Lochaline-Mull	Yes	The ports of Lochaline and Fishnish lie adjacent to the cable.
Lochalsh (Glenelg)	Possible	Nearest port is Kyle of Lochalsh, approximately 8km west of the cables, a busy deep-water port (greater than 7m), which plays host to a variety of cargo, fishing, fish farming, leisure and small to medium sized cruise liners.
Corran Narrows (North, Centre and South)	Yes	Ardgour ferry terminal lies adjacent to the cables, used for the Nether Lochaber-Ardgour service.
Kyle-Skye (North and South)	Yes	Kyle of Lochalsh Harbour lies adjacent to the cables. Kyleakin is also adjacent to the Isle of Skye cable landfall, and is used by leisure and fishing vessels.
Loch Sligachan-Skye (East and West)	Yes	Sconser lies adjacent to the cables.
Skye-Harris	Possible	Stockinish Harbour is located approximately 2km east of the cable at the Harris landfall. This is used mainly by fishing vessels and leisure craft.
Skye-South Uist	No	Nearest port is Lochmaddy (on North Uist), approximately 22km northwest of the cable. Lochboisdale is approximately 28km south of the cable.
Skye-Raasay	Yes	There is a ferry terminal, Suisnish, on the Isle of Raasay, that is adjacent to the cable landfall. The nearest commercial port is Sconser, approximately 2.2km south of the cable.
Lochaline (Ardtornish)	Yes	Lochaline pier/ferry terminal is adjacent to the cable. Fishnish lies approximately 3.5km southwest of the cable.
Loch Long (Dornie)	Yes	Dornie Slipway lies adjacent to the cable, and is used occasionally by local fishing vessels. Eoligaray Pier and Conchra Jetty are located within 1km of the cable, and are also used by fishing boats.

<sup>16</sup> <http://ports.org.uk/>



	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

- 7.23 There has been no activity recorded for kite surfing in the location of the cables.
- 7.24 There are no wave, wind or tidal arrays near the cable locations or conservation areas. There are no known wreck sites in the vicinity of the cable location.
- 7.25 A summary of the potential interactions between the West Highlands submarine electricity cables and other sea users is given in Table 36.
- 7.26 The key points of contact for these legitimate sea users are identified in Appendix B: *Communication Strategy*.

**Table 36 Summary of other sea users' interactions**

Activity		Interaction on chart	Notes
	Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cables.
Recreational	Historic sites and actions	Yes	Very low to high levels of activity over the cables.
	Power boating	Yes	Very low to high levels of activity over the cables.
	Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	Low to high levels of activity over the cables.
	Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low to low levels of activity over the cables.
	Motor cruising	Yes	Very low to high levels of activity over the cables.
	Sailing and cruising	Yes	Very low to high levels of activity over the cables.
	Chartered angling	Yes	Very low to high levels of activity over the cables.
	Sea angling from shore	Yes	Very low to high levels of activity over the cables.
	Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity in the area of the cables.
	Yacht racing	Yes	Very low to high levels of activity over the cables.
	Dinghy racing	Yes	Very low to no activity over the cables.
	Coasteering	Yes	Very low to high levels of activity over the cables.
	Personal water craft (jet skis)	Yes	Low levels of activity over Corran Narrows. No activity elsewhere.
	Water skiing/wakeboarding	Yes	Low levels of activity over Corran Narrows. No activity elsewhere.
	Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
	Scuba diving	Yes	Very low to high levels of activity over the cables.
	Rowing and sculling	Yes	Very low to low levels of activity over the cables.
Aquaculture		Yes	Some local finfish and shellfish sites in the vicinity of the cable locations.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction on chart	Notes
Wave/Wind/Tidal	No	
Conservation Sites	Yes	The NSAs of South Lewis, Harris and North Uist and the Cuillin Hills overlap directly with the cable routes (Skye-Harris, Loch Sligachan-Skye and Skye-Scalpay respectively). NSAs Lynn of Lorn and Ben Nevis and Glencoe are nearby Corran Narrows and Loch a'Choire respectively. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura, Sea of Hebrides, Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh overlap directly with the cable routes (Lochaline (Ardtornish), Lochaline-Mull, Skye-South Uist, Kyle-Skye and Lochalsh (Glenelg) respectively). The Special Area of Conservation (SAC) with marine components in the Inner Hebrides and the Minches covers all cables bar Loch a'Choire, Corran Narrows and Loch Eil Narrows. SAC Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs overlap with cable routes Kyle-Skye, Lochalsh (Glenelg), (Lochaline (Ardtornish) and Lochaline-Mull. SAC Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mor lies south of the Loch a'Choire cables.
Shipping	Yes	AIS shows that there are moderate/high levels of cargo vessels over Skye-Harris, Skye-South Uist, Lochaline-Mull and Kyle-Skye cables. There are low levels of cargo vessel activity over Skye-Raasay, Loch Sligachan-Skye, Loch a'Choire and Corran Narrows.
Ferries	Yes	There are ferries intersecting with the cable routes from Sconser-Raasay, Lochaline-Fishnish and Uig-Lochmaddy, with another, Uig-Tarbert in the vicinity. Ferries are operated by Caledonian MacBrayne.
Marine Archaeology	Yes	A number of wrecks in the vicinity of cable locations.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

## 8 Cable Asset Interactions: Commercial Fishing and Other Sea Users

- 8.1 The potential interactions to fishing stakeholders and other sea users, based on the site specific proposed construction methods, are specified in the Cefas and MCEU (2004)<sup>17</sup> guidelines and summarised in the Cost Benefit Analysis Model<sup>18</sup>. It should be noted that stakeholders will vary in their sensitivity to socio-economic pressures depending on:
- Spatial adaptability based on operational range and
  - Spatial tolerance based on dependency on fishing grounds and specific sea areas
- 8.2 The main gear types used in the West Highlands are potting (creeling), bottom otter trawling and otter twin trawling. However, potting (creeling) vessels represent the primary fishery that may interact with the cable locations, due to their nearshore location.
- 8.3 While fishermen will be kept up to date with construction areas by Notices to Mariners (NTMs), Weekly Notices of Operations (WNO) and update emails from the developer and their subcontractors, there is scope for conflicting demands on the same area of sea. Construction schedules are fluid and dependent upon many factors and fishermen may not regularly read emails, if they have access to the internet at all, and therefore may not be aware of recent updates.
- 8.4 In most cases the presence of a FIR onboard the survey boats should prevent fishing gear interactions by survey/construction vessels. However, it may not be feasible for all vessels to have an offshore FIR on board therefore a standard operating procedure (SOP) has been created for the FIR and crew of the survey and construction vessels to follow (Fishing Gear Interaction SOP)<sup>19</sup>.
- 8.5 The potential interactions between fishing stakeholders and other sea users with survey vessels (and construction vessels if cable installation is required following inspection surveys) are dependent on the survey and installation methods to be used.
- 8.6 Inspections will be carried out on SHEPD's submarine electricity cables to identify the behaviour and integrity of the cable. This will inform the ongoing maintenance plan and influence cable replacement decisions. Survey information obtained along the cable route will include ROV mountable magnetometer, MBES and SSS, and a gradiometer array for a minimum corridor

<sup>17</sup> Cefas, Marine Consents and Environment Unit (MCEU), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) (2004) Offshore Wind Farms - Guidance note for Environmental Impact Assessment In respect of FEPA and CPA requirements, Version 2

<sup>18</sup> Please refer to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks: *Submarine Electricity Cable Cost Benefit Analysis Method Statement*: <https://www.ssen.co.uk/CBAFULL/> and *Method Statement Executive Summary*: <http://news.ssen.co.uk/media/266234/CBA-Model-Statement-Executive-Summary.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks: *Standard Operating Procedures*, available: <https://www.ssen.co.uk/SubmarineCables/AboutUs/>

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

width of +/-7.5m, centred on the existing cable route. Please refer to the *Construction Method Statement* for full details where cable installation is identified, following the inspection surveys.

- 8.7 Due to the range in levels of activity for all other sea users there is scope for conflicting demands on the same area of sea. It is anticipated that the formal notifications such as NtMs, COLREGS and the code of good practise for all vessels will provide sufficient mitigation for potential interactions.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

## 9 Safety

9.1 Safety management is a key aspect of the FLMAP. SHEPD's approach to safety and to ensuring co-existence has been outlined in the document *How Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution co-exists with other marine users*<sup>20</sup>. With regards to commercial fishing, Safety Management Plans produced by SHEPD for submarine cable works will include reference to the following elements:

- Code of Good Practice for all Vessels
- Procedures in Relation to Gear Fastening or Loss
- Safety Zones (500m) around Active Construction Areas
- *Appendix B: Communication Strategy*

9.2 When we employ contractors for the surveys and construction required for the West Highlands cables, we will outline certain obligations to which the contractors must follow in order to ensure external communication is accurate and to aid coexistence with sea users. These may include ensuring:

- Any debris accidentally dropped during any construction and maintenance activities (if required following inspection surveys) is removed if practicably feasible and safe to do so
- All vessels under contract with us adhere to COLREGS and SOLAS requirements
- All vessels under contract with us do not engage in any commercial or recreational fishing activities whatsoever
- All vessels under contract with us will maintain polite, proactive and professional communications with fishing vessels and other sea users during offshore operations
- All vessels under contract with us will monitor the required VHF channels at all times so as to receive communications directly from fishing vessels and other sea users
- All vessels contracted to undertake project specific work will have undertaken appropriate risk assessments in respect of potential interactions with commercial fishing vessels and their gears
- Where appropriate, for vessels using anchored positioning, contractors will be obliged wherever possible to adopt anchor release procedures to minimise the size of anchor mounds and where necessary undertake remedial actions to level any significant anchor mounds
- All vessels contracted with us will have on board approved fishing liaison/interaction manuals
- Where appropriate, suitably qualified and certified offshore FIRs will be on board certain project vessels
- Standard transit routes for vessels engaged by us will be discussed with fishing stakeholders prior to operations commencing and vessels transiting to the site shall follow these where possible.

<sup>20</sup> Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks: *How we co-exist with other marine users*, available: <https://www.ssen.co.uk/SubmarineCables/AboutUs/>

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

- 9.3 The following procedure outlined below replicates that which has been in place in respect of the UK offshore oil and gas industry and describes the steps that should be undertaken in the event of fishing gear becoming fastened on or in the vicinity of a submarine electricity cable:
- If the fastened gear is not easily retrieved, fishermen should not apply excessive winch, line or net hauler loads or engine powers in attempts to retrieve fastened gear
  - Fishermen are to advise the coastguard and the CFLO/FIR immediately, giving an accurate position of the vessel and/or lost gear
  - If the coastguard or CFLO/FIR confirms that the vessel is in the immediate vicinity of a cable, serious consideration will be given to the slipping of the gear and buoying and recording of its position;
  - If the gear is slipped, after buoying off the gear, the position should be confirmed with the coastguard and the CFLO/FIR
  - On return to port, the skipper is to contact the local Fishery Office and register the incident in the normal manner
  - On no account should skippers grapple in an attempt to recover fishing gear lost or cut away in the vicinity of a submarine electricity cable.
- 9.4 The purpose of a safety zone is to ensure the safety of other sea users by communicating a safe distance between other users and the construction, operation and maintenance activities related to the submarine electricity cables.
- 9.5 Whilst 500m is the maximum permissible size for a safety zone, it could be that during any required construction phases, the safety of other users is better served through an additional precautionary area communicated by Notice to Mariners in which it is recommended other sea users do not enter. If entry is unavoidable, then navigation with extreme caution is advised.
- 9.6 SHEPD will aim to organise construction schedules as far as is practicably possible with the aim of reducing potential combined loss of fishing area during the construction phase.
- 9.7 Fishing stakeholders will be informed of all the cable works throughout the inspection surveys (and any subsequent pre-construction or construction phases).
- 9.8 SHEPD will, in consultation with commercial fishing stakeholders, work towards identifying acceptable and feasible mitigation options with the aim of minimising any potential effects on commercial fishing associated with the replacement of submarine electricity cables. There are various options available to mitigate the risks describe previously, including:
- Continuing effective positive liaison with commercial fishing stakeholders through the pre-construction, construction and operational phases of any cable replacement
  - Continued employment of CFLO/FIR services until the completion of the replacement works
  - Ensuring contractors comply with the contractor's obligations outlined above so as to minimise any interference to commercial fishing activities
  - Managing the cable replacement works so as to minimise any potential effects on the marine environment, habitats and commercial fishing
  - Raising awareness of the danger of fishing in the vicinity of submarine cables

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

- Adopting a hierarchical approach to submarine cable protection, taking account of sea users concerns
- Organising a construction phasing workshop (if new cable is required) to inform commercial fishermen of planned activities
- Organising construction schedules (if new cable is required) as far as is practicably possible in order to reduce the combined loss of fishing area associated with safety zones
- Distributing weekly notice of operations
- Providing information in plotter format to enable fishermen to easily interpret the information
- Scouting surveys to identify potting areas and any other relevant static gear areas.

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

## 10 UK Legislation, References and Guidance

- 10.1 Damage to submarine cables is expensive to repair and can cause disruption to power distribution to often sparsely populated islands. There is applicable legislation in respect to safety zones (Energy Act 2004), navigation (International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972; COLREGS) and submarine cable protection (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Article 113, 1982, and UK 1964 Continental Shelf Act). It is an offence to wilfully damage submarine cables (UNCLOS, 1982; UK 1964 Continental Shelf Act).
- 10.2 In regards to navigation, in normal circumstances, the provisions laid down by COLREGs are sufficient to ensure that actions taken by fishing vessels and those restricted in their ability to manoeuvre when two vessels are approaching allow both to continue operating with minimum disruption.
- 10.3 Further information on UK and international legislation for subsea cables, safety zones and navigation is provided in the document *How Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution co-exists with other marine users*<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks: *How we co-exist with other marine users*, available: <https://www.ssen.co.uk/SubmarineCables/AboutUs/>



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision:</b> 1.00	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

## Appendix A Notice to Mariners Example Template

# Notice to Mariners

**Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) – Notice to Mariners [Month Year].**

**Issued [Date].**

Please be advised that [Contractor] (on behalf of SHEPD) will be undertaking a [description of works, e.g.: survey across the CABLE ROUTE submarine electricity cable corridor]. The survey will utilise four different vessels to complete survey operations:

- Vessel 1
- Vessel 2
- Vessel 3
- Vessel 4

The survey operations will commence during an appropriate weather window following [date] and will continue over a planned minimum period of [16 weeks], weather permitting.

The survey operations will be concentrated across the cable corridor within the boundary defined by the following coordinates.

[Chart of survey area]

[Coordinates of survey area boundary]

The survey operations will be undertaken by the [vessel 1, vessel 2, vessel 3...] pictured below. The vessels may not commence their activities at the same time but may operate simultaneously at times over the survey duration. The vessels may operate primarily from Port 1 but may use other ports along the coastlines, such as [Port 2] or [Port 3].

Vessel Photo	Vessel Description
[Photo of vessel 1]	[Description, contact details and call sign of vessel 1, e.g.: The M.V. [vessel name] is a multi-purpose survey vessel, 65.2 m in length with a beam of 14m and a draft of 5.3 m; transit speed of 12 kts and a survey speed of ~5 kts (geophysical survey). Operating on a 24-hour basis]
[Photo of vessel 2]	[Description, contact details and call sign of vessel 2]
[Photo of vessel 3]	[Description, contact details and call sign of vessel 3]
[Photo of vessel 4]	[Description, contact details and call sign of vessel 4]

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

## Survey Description

The [survey/installation] will involve [the coverage of dedicated survey lines by the vessel(s) with a full suite of geophysical survey systems (Multi beam Echo Sounder, Side Scan Sonar and Magnetometer)] mounted on the vessel or towed from the stern of the vessel.

Other vessels should maintain an appropriate and safe distance of 500 m when passing the [survey] vessel(s) whilst undertaking survey operations, and should pass at the lowest possible speed to avoid vessel wash effects. The vessel(s) will be working [24-hour operations] and will display appropriate day shapes and lights during reduced visibility and night operations. The vessel(s) will also monitor VHF Channels 16 and 12.

## Primary Survey Equipment

Primary equipment	Towed / Hull mounted / Sampling	Approximate tow length (if applicable)	Vessel
Multibeam Echosounder	Hull mounted	N/A	Vessel 1, Vessel 2
Sidescan Sonar	Towed	50-350m	Vessel 1, Vessel 2
Magnetometer Array	Towed	50-350m	Vessel 1, Vessel 2
Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)	Tether Management System	N/A	Vessel 1
Subsea Crane Operations	Crane	WD 140 max	Vessel 1

## Contact Details

The vessel contact details are given in the tables below

VESSEL 1	
Call sign	
Bridge	
Offshore manager / Party Chief	
Email	
Onshore Site Manager	

VESSEL 2	
Call sign	
Bridge	
Offshore manager / Party Chief	
Email	
Onshore Site Manager	

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

## Fishing Liaison Officers

Fishing liaison for the [survey] will be co-ordinated by Brown and May Marine (BMM). For any commercial fishery queries please contact the Company Fishing Liaison Officer (CFLO) Alex Winrow-Giffin on [Redacted] / 01379 872144, [Redacted]. A local Fishing Industries Representative (FIR) will also be in place to liaise with the vessel and fishing operations in the area. The vessel master will issue regular broadcasts whilst the survey vessel is operating to ensure minimal disruption and that vessels maintain an appropriate and safe distance.

## Further Details

Further enquiries should be addressed to the following people in the following order:

Name	Contact Number	Email

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

## Appendix B      Communication Strategy

An example standardised high level cable replacement communication plan is given in Table 37. (This is in the event that cable replacement is identified following inspection surveys). A programme of actions to be undertaken in the event of an unplanned outage is given in Table 38. Please note that the communication plan will need to be applied for each cable.

**Table 37 Example of a communication programme for cable replacement**

Stage	What's happening	What we want to communicate	Who we are speaking to and frequency
<b>1</b>	<p><u>Cable inspection list created for [year]</u></p> <p>We have developed a list based on a number of factors and previous cable history. This allows us to forecast future health, where the most vulnerable cables will be and their importance on the network. This includes roughly 150% of the cable projects we intend to deliver, so we make sure we capture the right projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advance warning of high level plans to inspect cables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primarily stakeholders with shipping and navigation interests.</li> <li>Engagement carried out as part of scheduled regular meetings</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p><u>Mobilisation of inspection vessels for [year] programme of cable replacement</u></p> <p>Sending out inspection vessel, divers and/or ROV to closely follow cables to inspect cable condition and record video footage. This is then used to inform our health assessment of the cable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice to Mariners issued. Essentially a safety message to let mariners know that we will have vessels in the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mariners: the number of vessels, routes they are taking and activities they will be completing (daily)</li> </ul>

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Stage	What's happening	What we want to communicate	Who we are speaking to and frequency
<b>3</b>	<p><u>Review inspections from 2 years ahead to create 1 year ahead survey list</u></p> <p>From Inspection data we refine our project list to 125% of projects to make sure we survey as much as possible without wasting these works on cables which are healthy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No communications at this stage, unless there has been engagement with stakeholders who have experienced wet outages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic and generation SHEPD customers to advise them that we will be replacing the cable (one off).</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><u>Survey [year] Cable routes</u></p> <p>With our 125% list we then issue instruction to survey the cable routes.</p> <p>This uses a vessel dragging a sonar device across a wide area multiple times to build up an image of the sea bed. It may also include carrying out intrusive geotechnical investigations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice to Mariners issued. Essentially a safety message to let mariners know that we will have vessels in the area.</li> <li>Messaging to highlight any environmental mitigation measures we have implemented to safeguard marine life (e.g. checking for cetaceans before beginning certain geophysical survey operations)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mariners: the number of vessels, routes they are taking and activities they will be completing (daily).</li> <li>Environmental groups: to highlight any mitigation measures (one off).</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<p><u>Select [year] cable routes and advise Marine Scotland (licensing)</u></p> <p>From our survey we will then define the project which is to be delivered.</p> <p>Reducing our project list to 100% of what we are able to deliver.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular stakeholder meetings to provide updates on project development activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulators and wider stakeholder groups.</li> </ul>

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Stage	What's happening	What we want to communicate	Who we are speaking to and frequency
<b>6</b>	<u>PAC events and licence application</u>  Pre-application consultation events are advertised and held. Comments received are noted and addressed as part of the licence application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed project including location and route along with possible protection methods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory and non-statutory stakeholders as well as communities and mariners (one off).</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<u>Mobilisation of vessels for cable installation</u>  With all cable projects now consented and licences approved, cable laying vessels are in the water. The boat(s) will collect all cables and fittings from our storage depot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice to Mariners issued. Essentially a safety message to let mariners know that we will have vessels in the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mariners: the number of vessels, routes they are taking and activities they will be completing (daily).</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<u>Start to completion of installation works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From there the vessel will transit to the cable installation location and begin works. Dependent on the projects the vessel(s) might do one or more than one cable installation during one voyage.</li> <li>Dependent on physical protection levels of cables there may be a number of extra vessels dispatched to complete the works.</li> <li>In parallel there will be onshore works which will be connecting the cable from the sea/shore end into the existing electrical network.</li> <li>All vessel(s) return to port(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice to Mariners updates as required.</li> <li>Community Council meetings in advance to advise of forthcoming works</li> <li>Stakeholder updates to advise of forthcoming works</li> <li>Press release to be issued to advise community of forthcoming works</li> <li>Additional communication channels to advise community &amp; stakeholders of forthcoming works</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mariners: the number of vessels, routes they are taking and activities they will be completing (daily).</li> <li>Community to be advised of any potential disruption (roads &amp; noise)</li> <li>Domestic and business customers to be advised of any planned outages to allow us to carry out works (as required).</li> </ul>

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Stage	What's happening	What we want to communicate	Who we are speaking to and frequency
<b>Within 18 months of installation</b>	<u>Post installation cable inspections</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sending out inspection vessel, divers and/or ROV to inspect the cables most recently installed. This will allow us to decide what remedial works are required.</li> <li>The cable is inspected by closely following cable to inspect cable condition and record it on film. This is then used to inform our assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice to Mariners to let mariners know that we will have vessels in the area</li> <li>Update community to advise of works and reason for presence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mariners: the number of vessels, routes they are taking and activities they will be completing (daily)</li> <li>Communities, local stakeholders and customers</li> </ul>
<b>Remedial works following cable inspection (if required)</b>	<u>Remedial works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If required, we will send more vessels to complete any works which are required (from protection to complete cable replacement).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice to Mariners to let mariners know that we will have vessels in the area</li> <li>Update community to advise of works and reason for presence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mariners: the number of vessels, routes they are taking and activities they will be completing (daily).</li> <li>Communities, local stakeholders and customers</li> </ul>

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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

**Table 38 Example of unplanned outage due to wet fault in a cable**

Stage	What's happening	What we want to communicate	Who we are speaking to
<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declared a wet fault following testing at termination poles at both shore ends. This will give the distance to the fault location within the sea.</li> <li>Depending on the severity of the fault and the demand of the network we may be able to restore power whilst still investigating the fault.</li> <li>Embedded generation team will be deployed to operate the generators.</li> <li>We formally notify Marine Scotland, Northern Lighthouse Board and Fishing Liaison Officer at this point.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are aware of a submarine electricity cable fault.</li> <li>Our engineers are on site and are connecting generators to restore your power.</li> <li>Open and consistent communication with local stakeholders and community to inform them of issue and actions being carried out to address the issue and restore normal service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic and business demand and generation customers.</li> <li>Work with Corporate Communications team to keep local stakeholders and community informed through press release, website and social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	We are mobilising our marine contractors (divers, vessels and crew).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power will have been restored from the customers' perspective.</li> <li>Generation customers may be assisting islands in maintaining supply stability.</li> <li>Open and consistent communication with local stakeholders and community to update them on actions being carried out to address the issue and restore normal service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic and business demand customers</li> <li>Work with Corporate Communications team to keep local stakeholders and community informed through press release, website and social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<u>Locating the fault</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the cable is less than 30m deep then divers may visually inspect the cable fault location.</li> <li>If it is deeper than this Remote Operated Vehicles are deployed to do the same job.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to be sharing safety message with the marine community to be aware that we have vessels operating in the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mariners: We will have vessels operating in and around the cables.</li> <li>This should advise of specific movements.</li> </ul>



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Stage	What's happening	What we want to communicate	Who we are speaking to
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visibility can be very poor so this will impact on how long this takes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This should highlight how many there are in the water and what they are doing.</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<u>Fault zone found</u>  Fault zone may be found. There is still work to be done in actually pin pointing the fault.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to be sharing safety message(s) with the marine community to beware that we have vessels operating in the area.</li> <li>This should highlight how many there are in the water and what they are doing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mariners: We will have vessels operating in and around the cables.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<u>Fault finding</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cable recovered onto the cable vessel and cut. Jointers strip the cable ready for testing. Cable is cut until the tests show that the remaining cable is healthy. Once it is known the cable is healthy it is made waterproof and returned to seabed.</li> <li>Options for repair or replacement have to be considered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to be sharing safety message(s) with the marine community to beware that we have vessels operating in the area. This should highlight how many there are in the water and what they are doing. Especially since there may be a number of anchors temporarily in the area whilst we are looking for the fault and fixing it.</li> <li>Open and consistent communication with local stakeholders and community to update them on actions being carried out to address the issue and restore normal service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mariners: We will have vessels operating in and around the cables.</li> <li>This should tell mariners where the buoys are and that the cable is at this location</li> <li>Work with Corporate Communications team to keep local stakeholders and community informed through press release, website and social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<u>Option A</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to be sharing safety message(s) with the marine community to beware that we still have vessels operating in the area.</li> </ul>	<u>Option A and B</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mariners: We will have vessels operating in and around the</li> </ul>

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Stage	What's happening	What we want to communicate	Who we are speaking to
	<p>We call this a piece-in where we are able to re-joint the cable with a new section of cable.</p> <p><u>Option B</u></p> <p>Depending on the distance from shore, we may take at new section of cable from the shore end to the existing cable (only needing one joint)</p> <p><u>Option C</u></p> <p>If the cable is too deep (greater than 50 metres) we may not be able to repair the cable So entire end to end replacement may be necessary.</p> <p><u>Option D</u></p> <p>If cable has faulted and is planned for replacement due to health of cable we will replace entire cable end to end.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This should highlight how many there are in the water and what they are doing.</li> </ul> <p><u>Option A and B</u></p> <p>Estimate how long we will be in the area mending the cable for and advise of vessel movements.</p> <p><u>Option C and D</u></p> <p>We need to apply for a marine licence.</p> <p>Please refer to other communication plan from here on.</p>	<p>cables and estimate when we will be away.</p> <p><u>Option C and D</u></p> <p>Mariners and statutory consultees: We need to do a full cable replacement and so need to apply for a marine licence which gives us consent to carry out the work</p> <p>When appropriate, work with Corporate Communications team to keep local stakeholders and community informed through press release, website and social media channels</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><u>Option A</u></p> <p>Take cable vessel to fault location and joint new piece in between the two ends. The cable is tested to make sure it is healthy and then lowered back onto the sea bed. We will then re-energise cable when safe to restore power.</p> <p><u>Option B</u></p> <p>Position the cable vessel close to the shore in line with the point of termination in land. We float the cable from the cable vessel to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We need to be sharing safety message(s) with the marine community to beware that we still have vessels operating in the area.</li> <li>This should highlight how many there are in the water and what they are doing</li> <li>Keep stakeholders informed throughout</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic and business demand and generation customers: The submarine electricity cable has been repaired and mobile generators have been removed from the island.</li> <li>Mariners: We will have vessels operating in and around the cables and estimate when we will be away</li> </ul>

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Stage	What's happening	What we want to communicate	Who we are speaking to
	connection point on shore. The floats are removed when cable is in position and install the cable to the jointing location where it meets the cable which we left in the sea attached to a buoy (the original fault location) and joint the cable. We test the cable to make sure it is clear of all faults. We will then re-energise cable when safe to restore power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update local stakeholders, media and community with open, clear and consistent communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Corporate Communications team to keep local stakeholders and community informed through press release, website and social media channels</li> </ul>

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

## Appendix C Commercial Fishing Charts

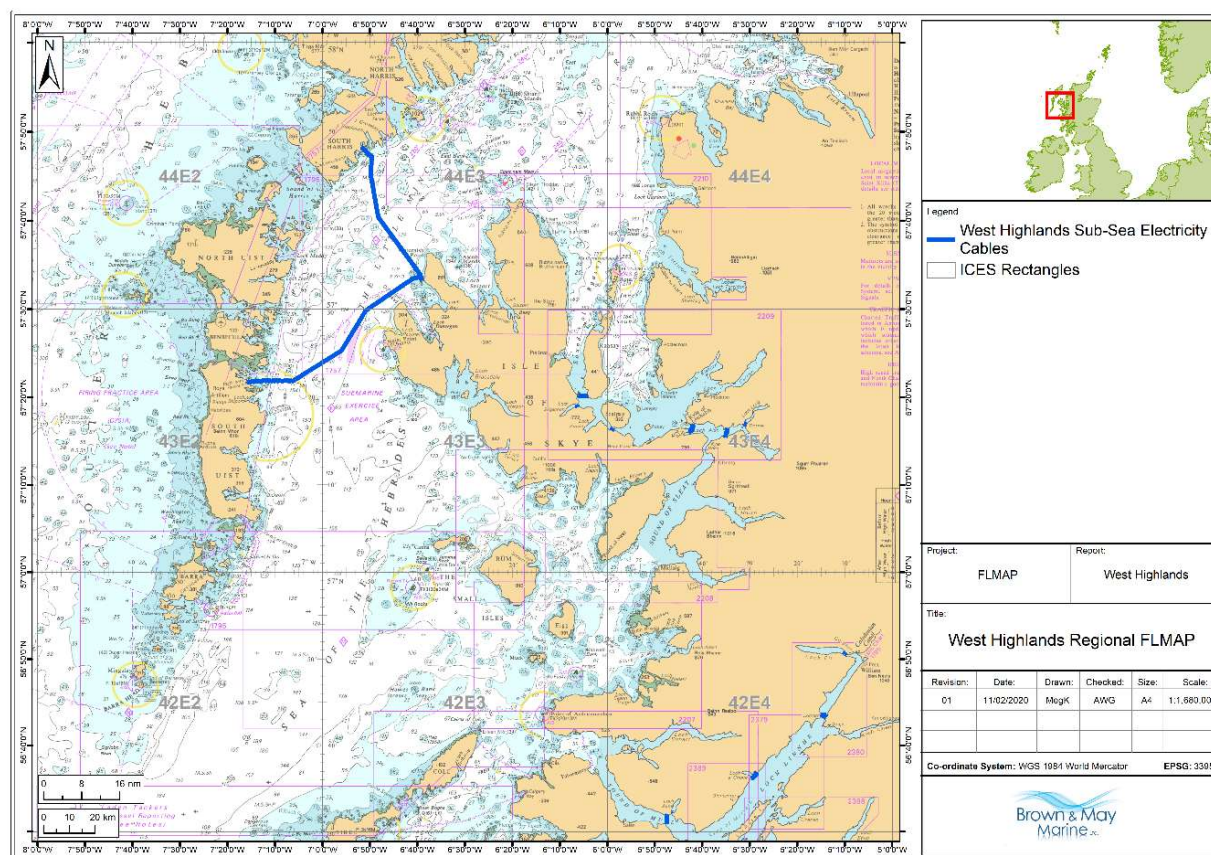


Figure 1 West Highlands study area

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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

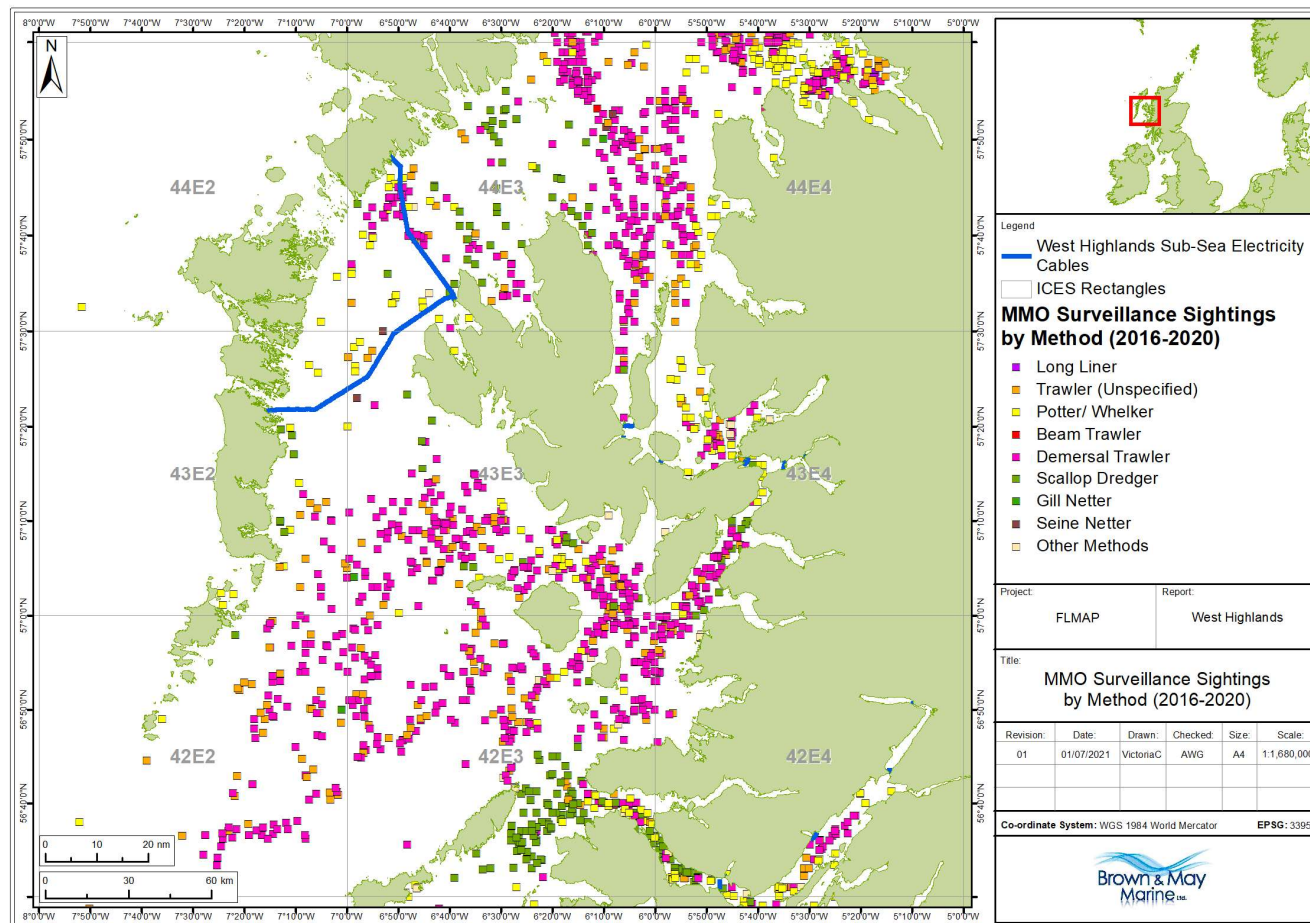


Figure 2 MMO surveillance sightings by method (2016-2020)



	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

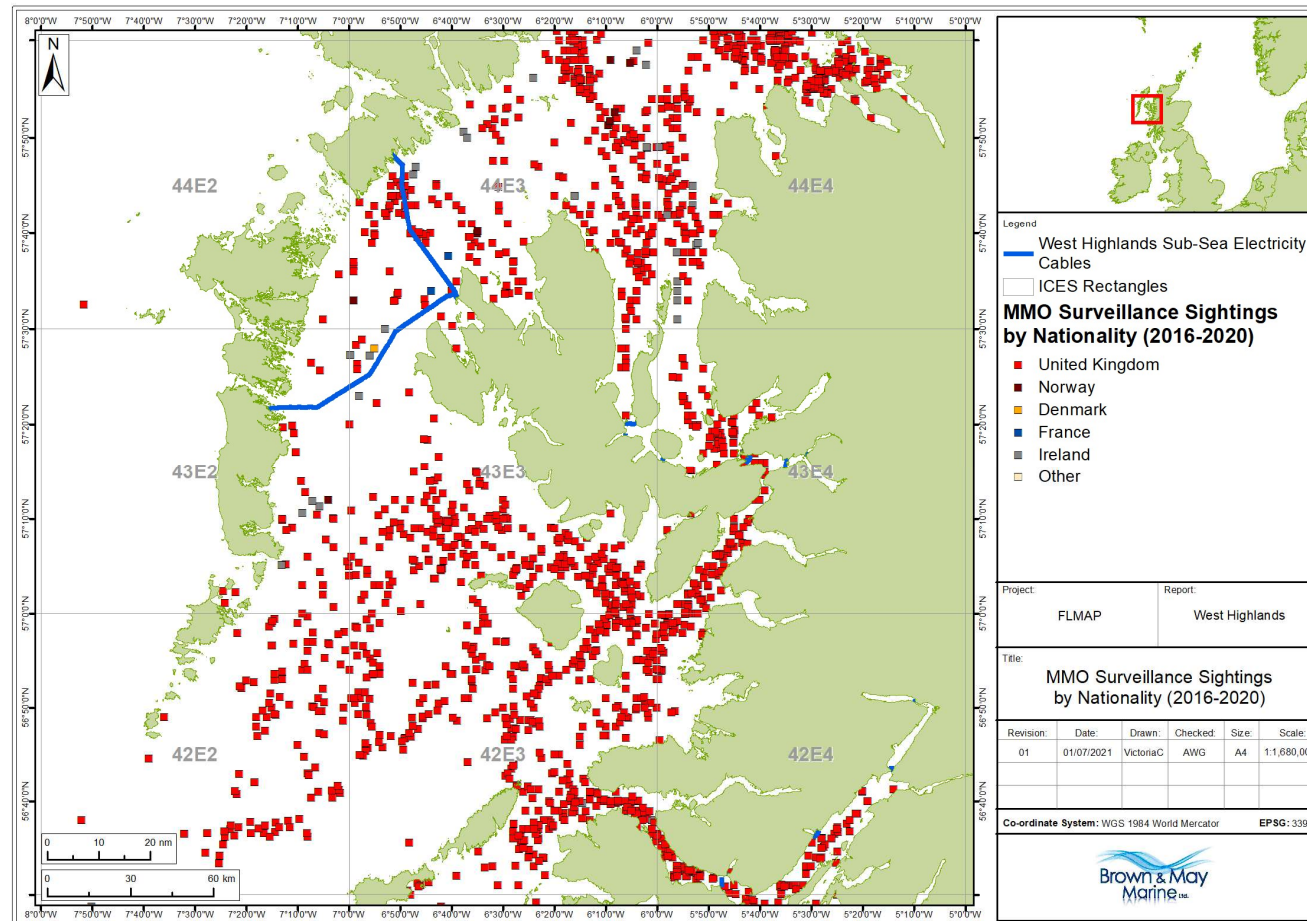


Figure 3 MMO surveillance sightings by nationality (2016-2020)

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

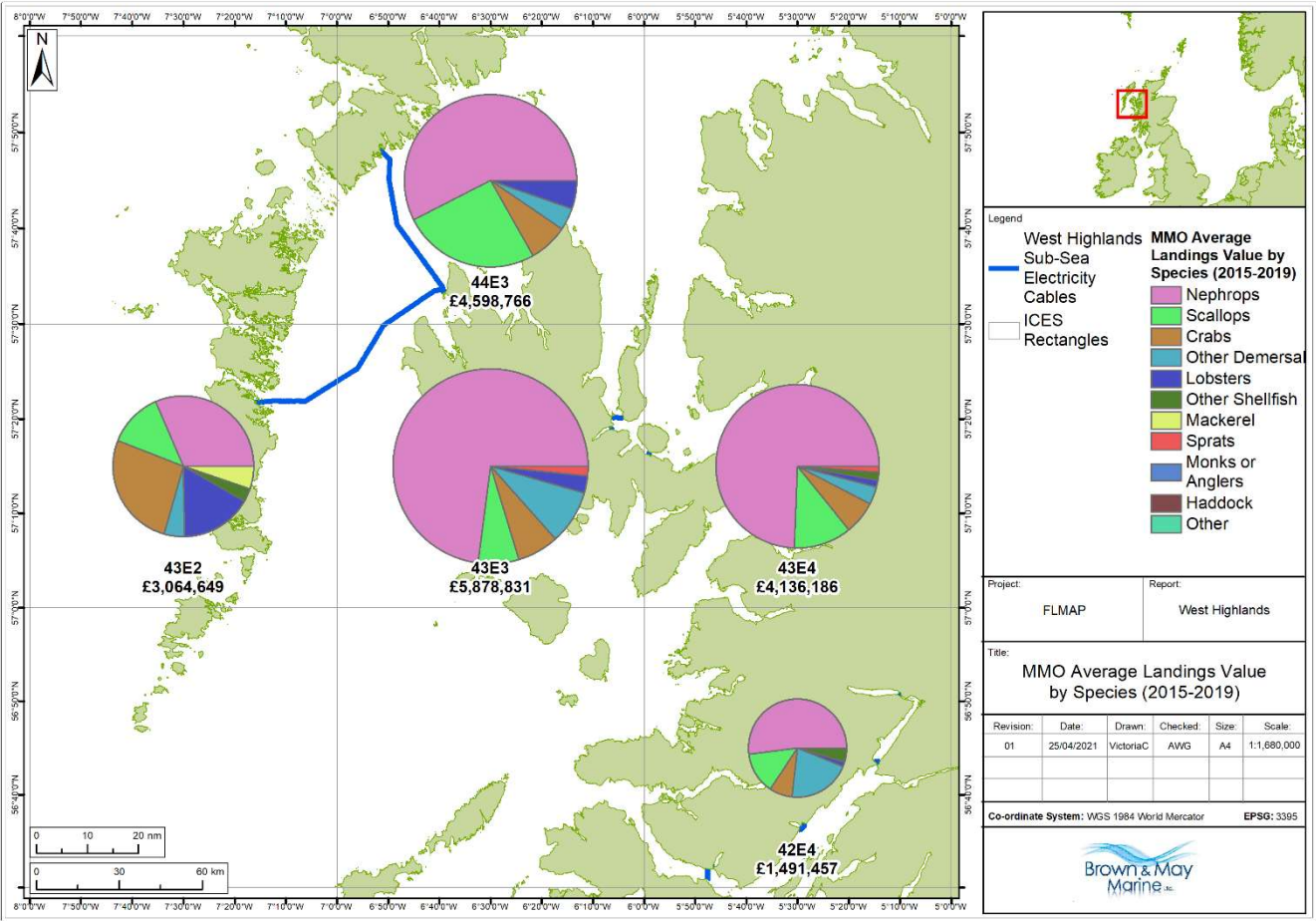


Figure 4 Average MMO landings value by species (2015-2019)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

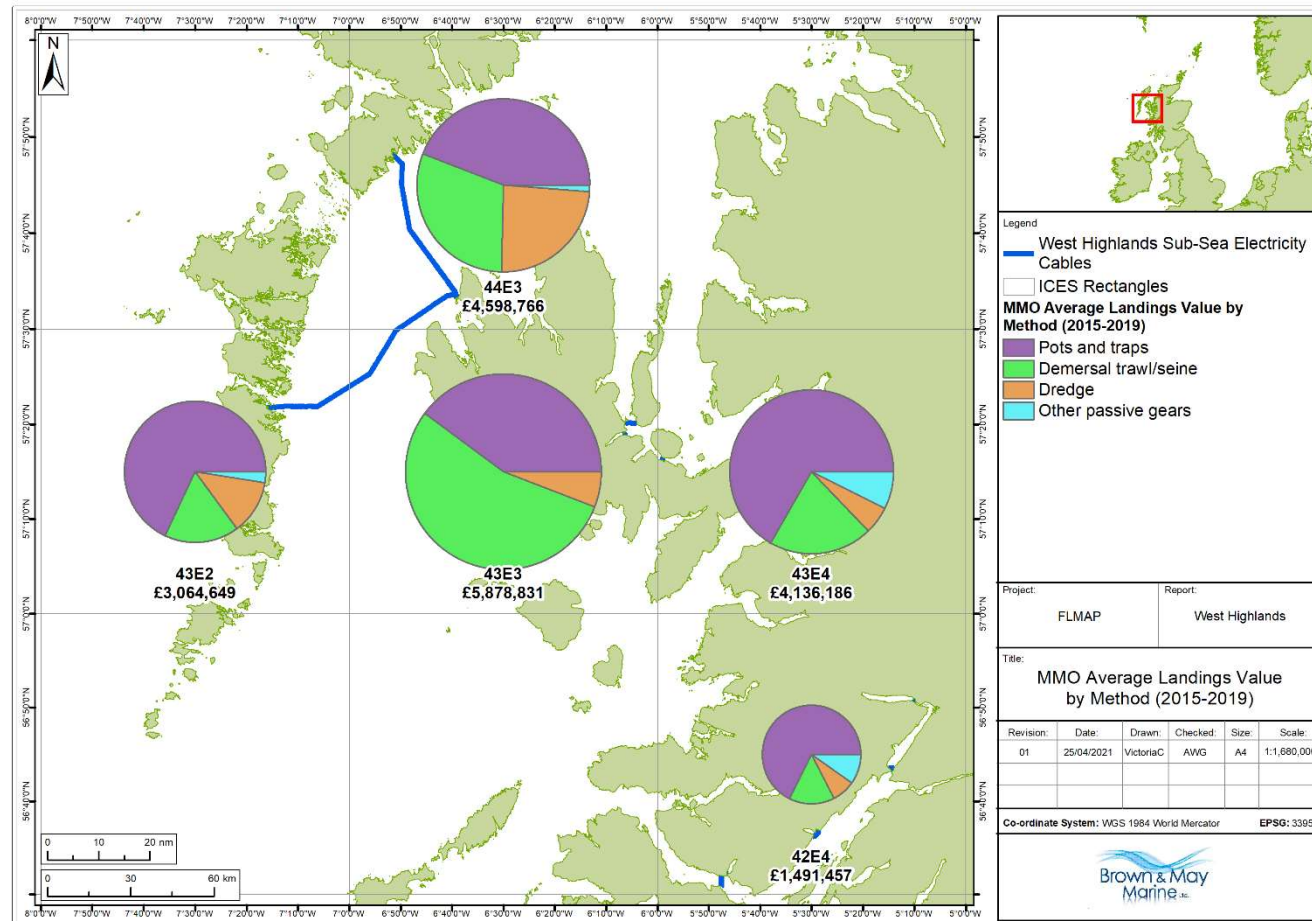


Figure 5 Average MMO landings value by method (2015-2019)



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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

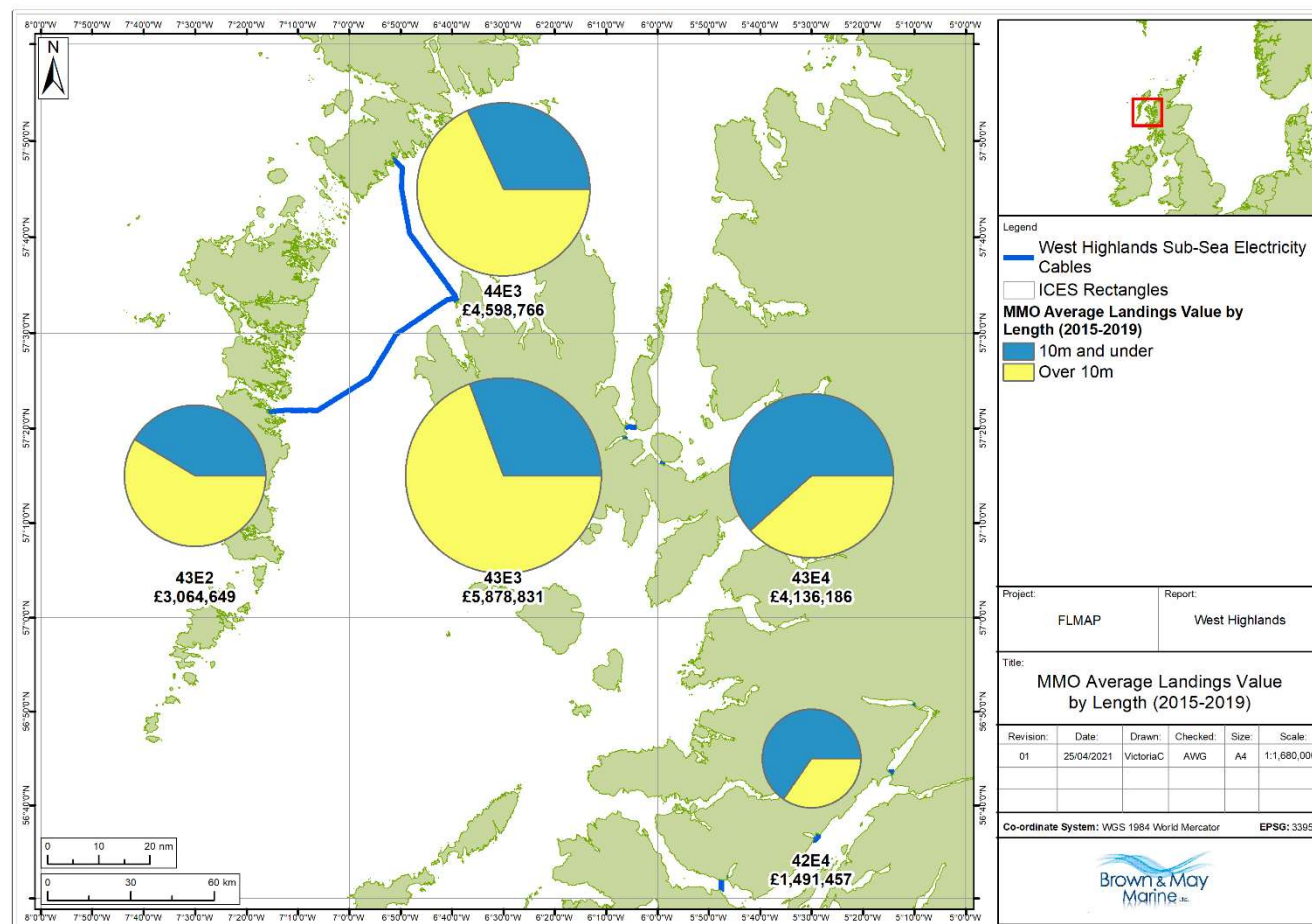


Figure 6 Average MMO landings value by vessel length (2015-2019)

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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

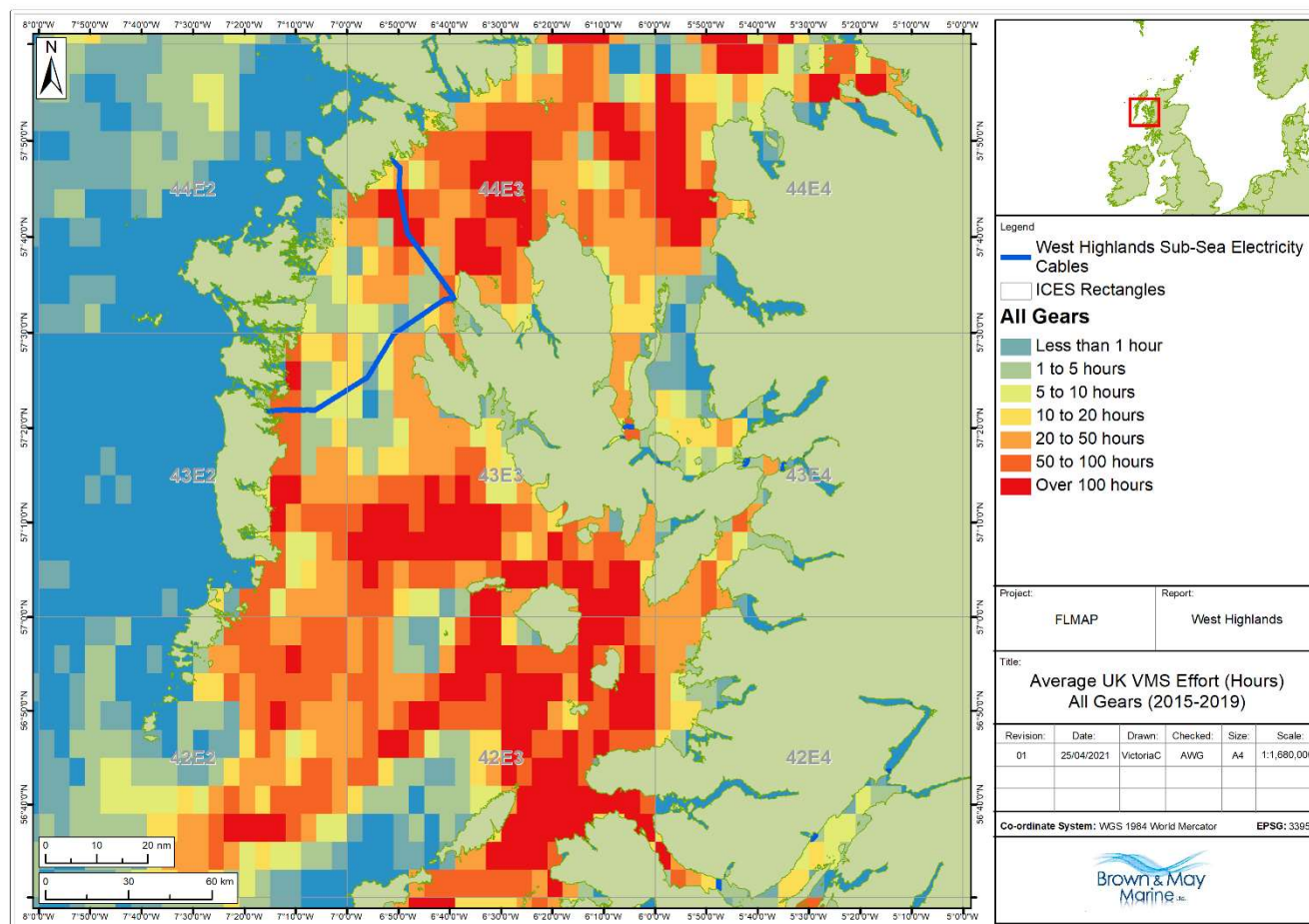


Figure 7 Average UK MMO VMS effort (hours) all gears (2015 to 2019)

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

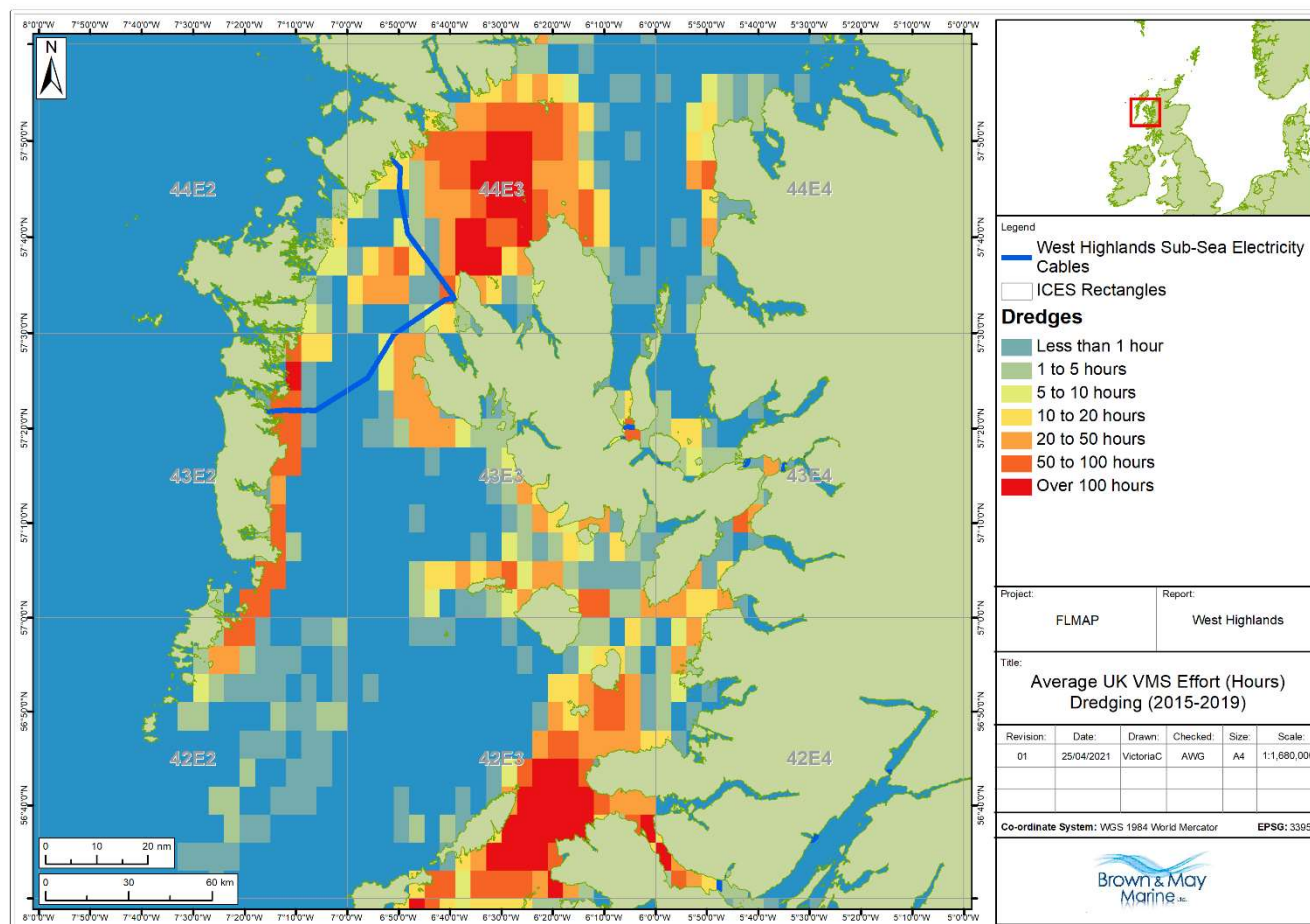


Figure 8 Average UK MMO VMS effort (hours) for dredges (2015 to 2019)

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			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

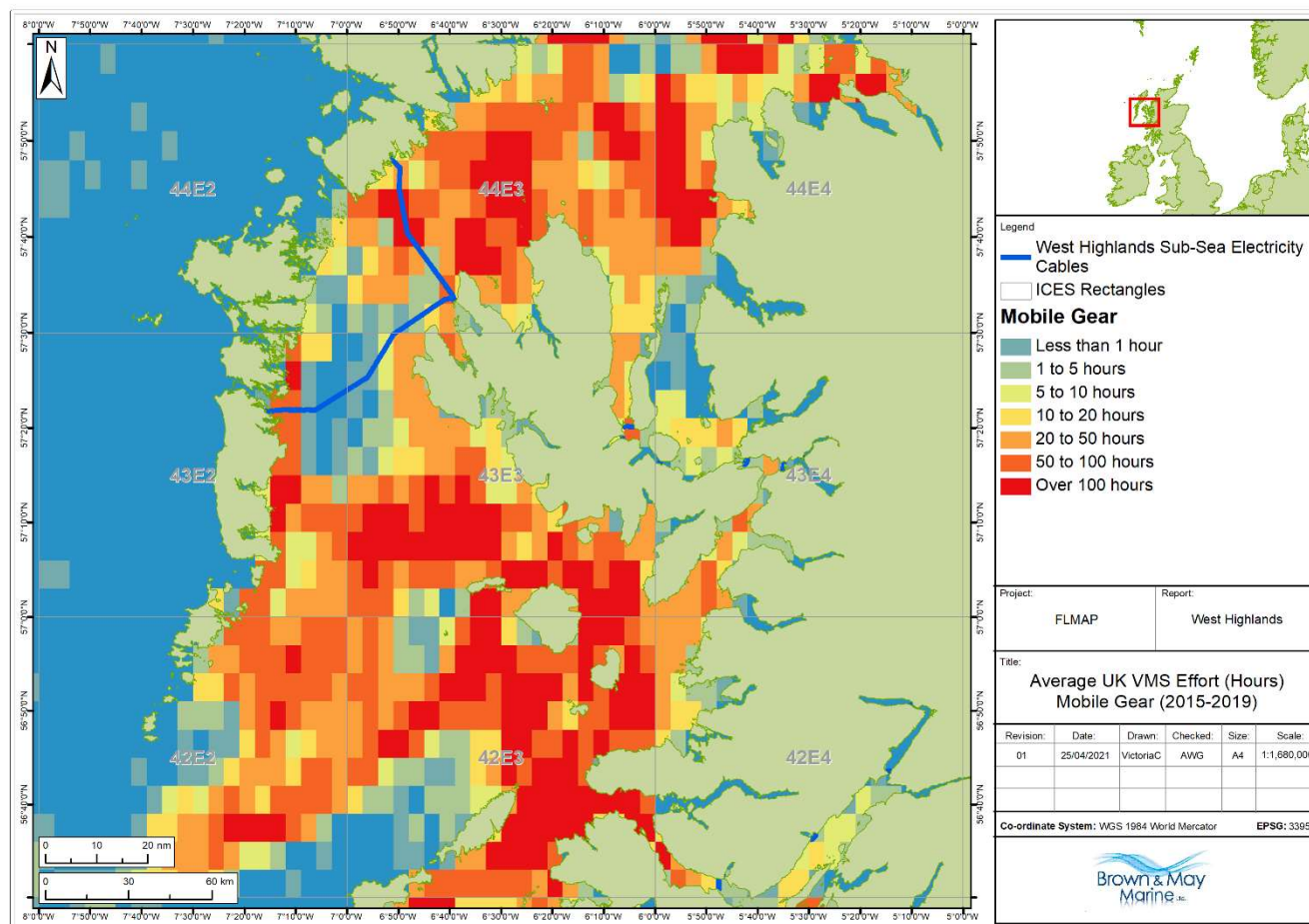


Figure 9 Average UK MMO VMS effort (hours) for mobile gear (2015 to 2019)



	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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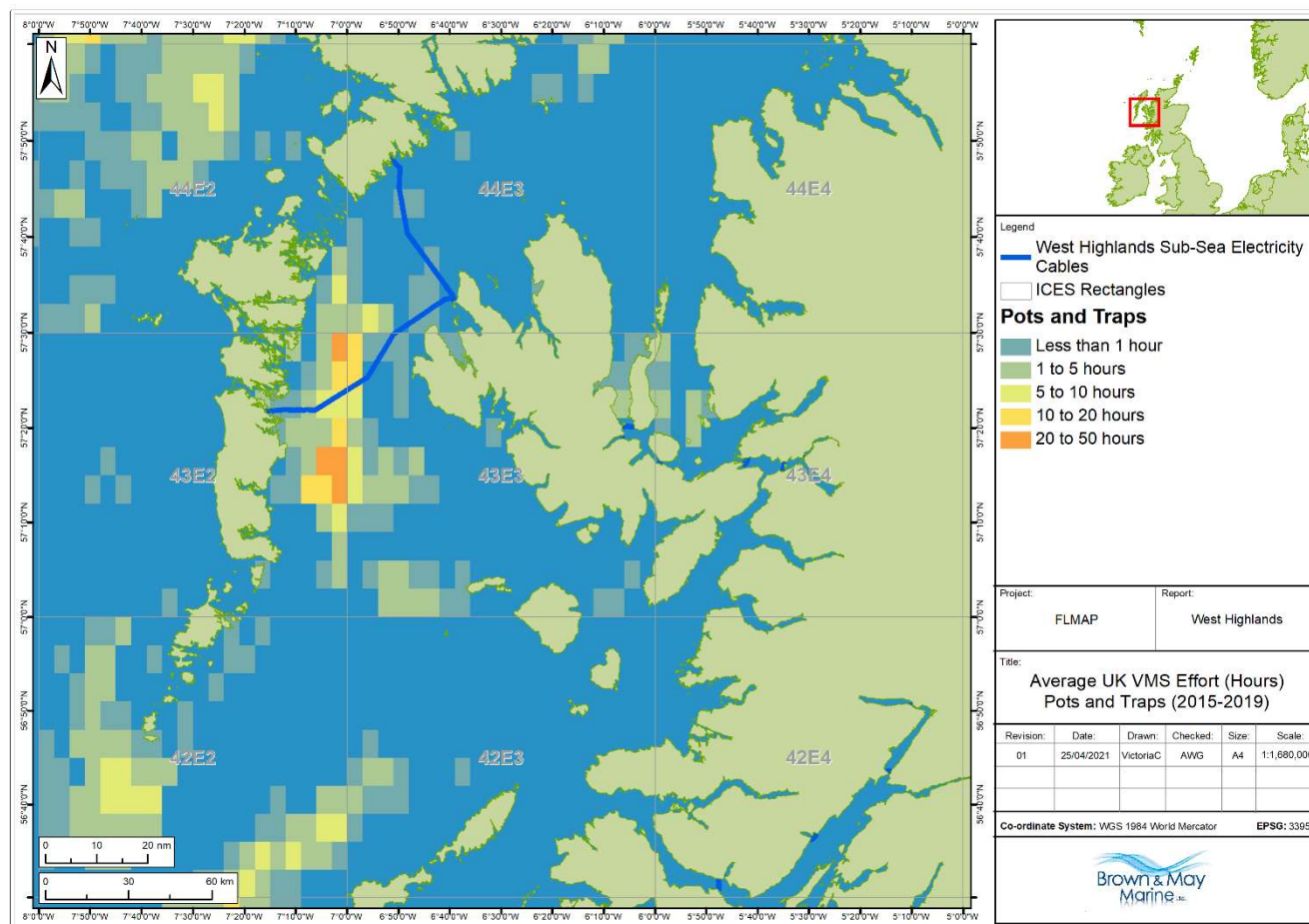


Figure 10 Average UK MMO VMS effort (hours) for pots & traps (2015 to 2019)

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

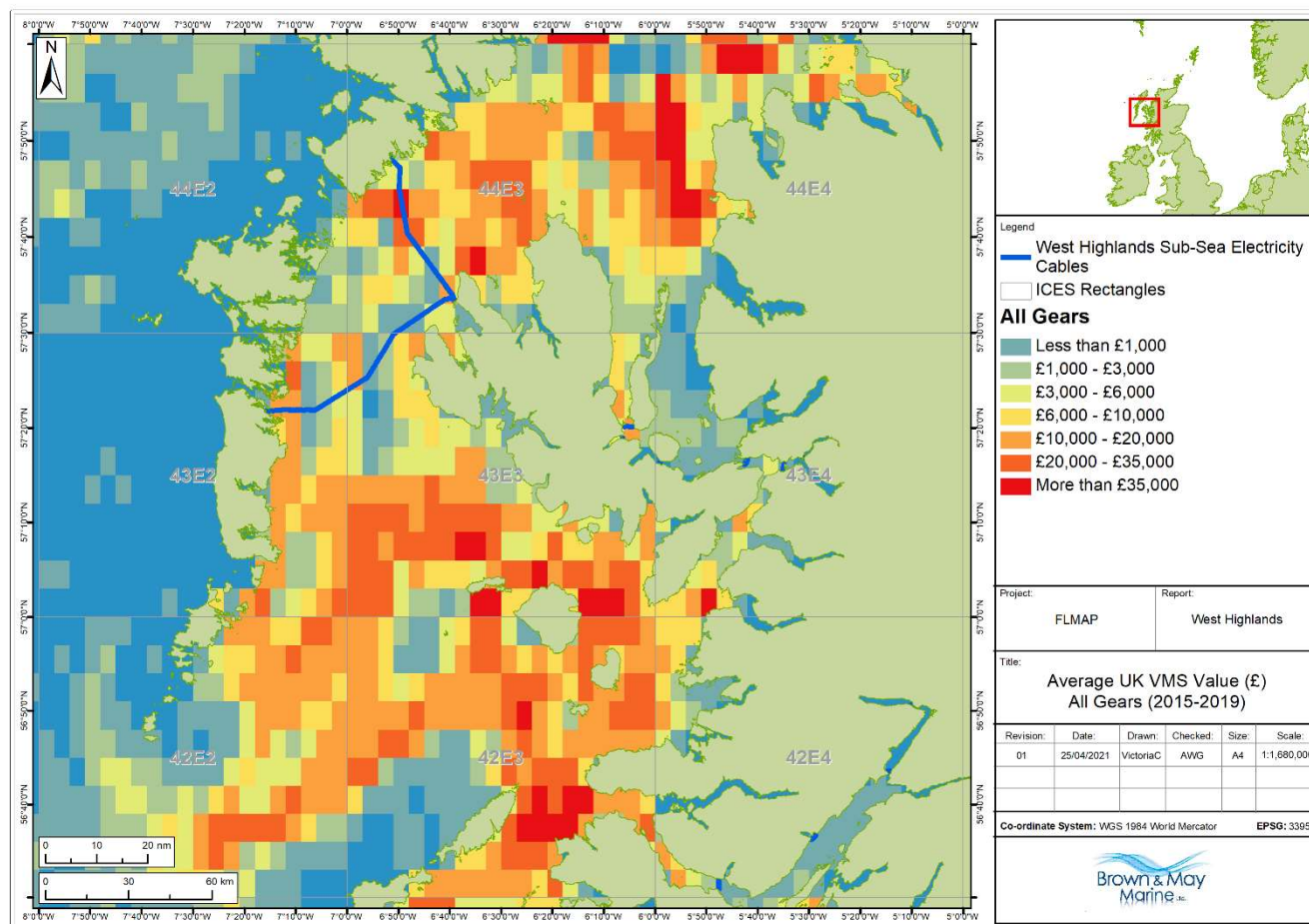


Figure 11 Average UK VMS value (£) for all gears (2015-2019)

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

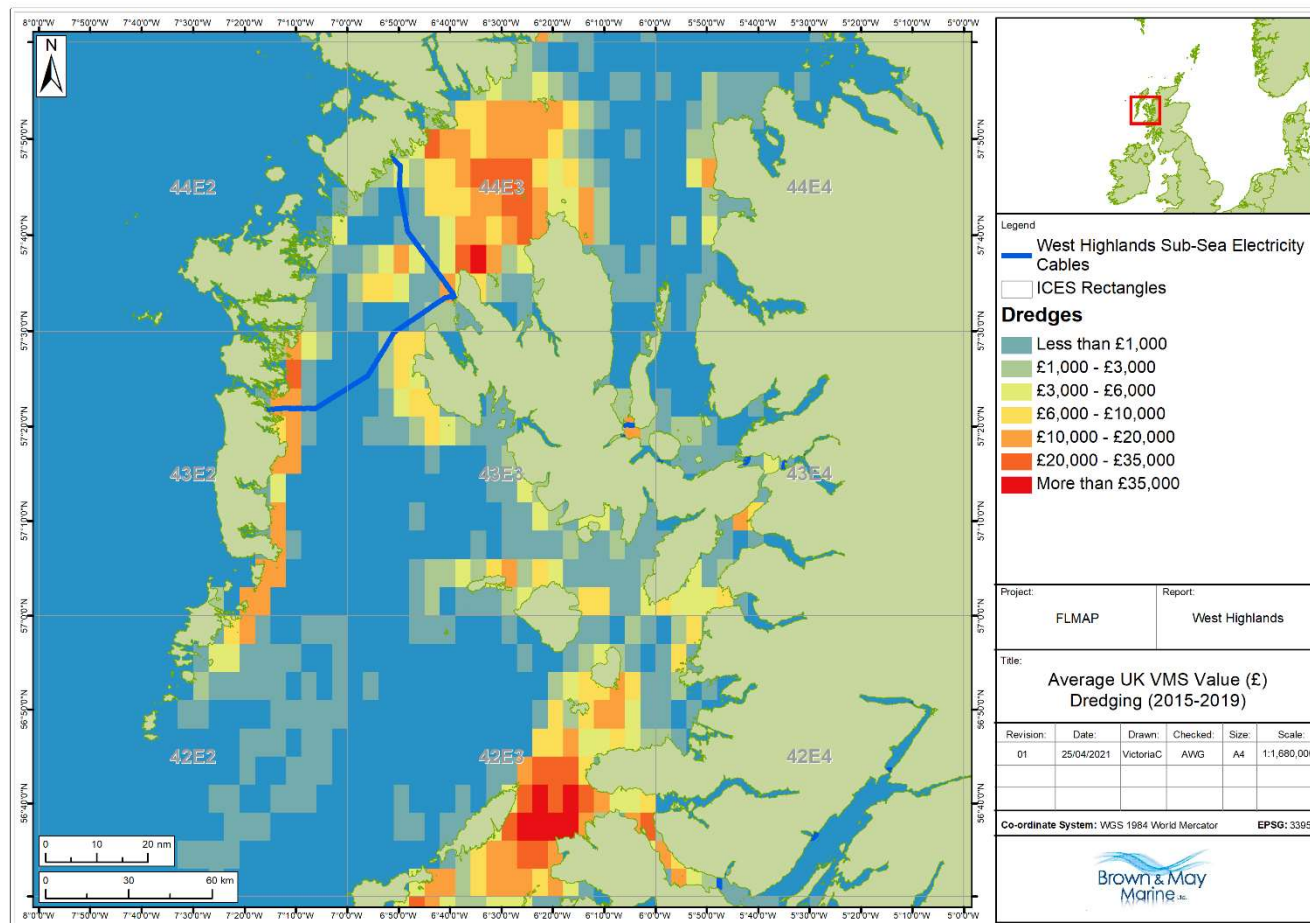


Figure 12 Average UK VMS value (£) for dredging (2015-2019)

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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

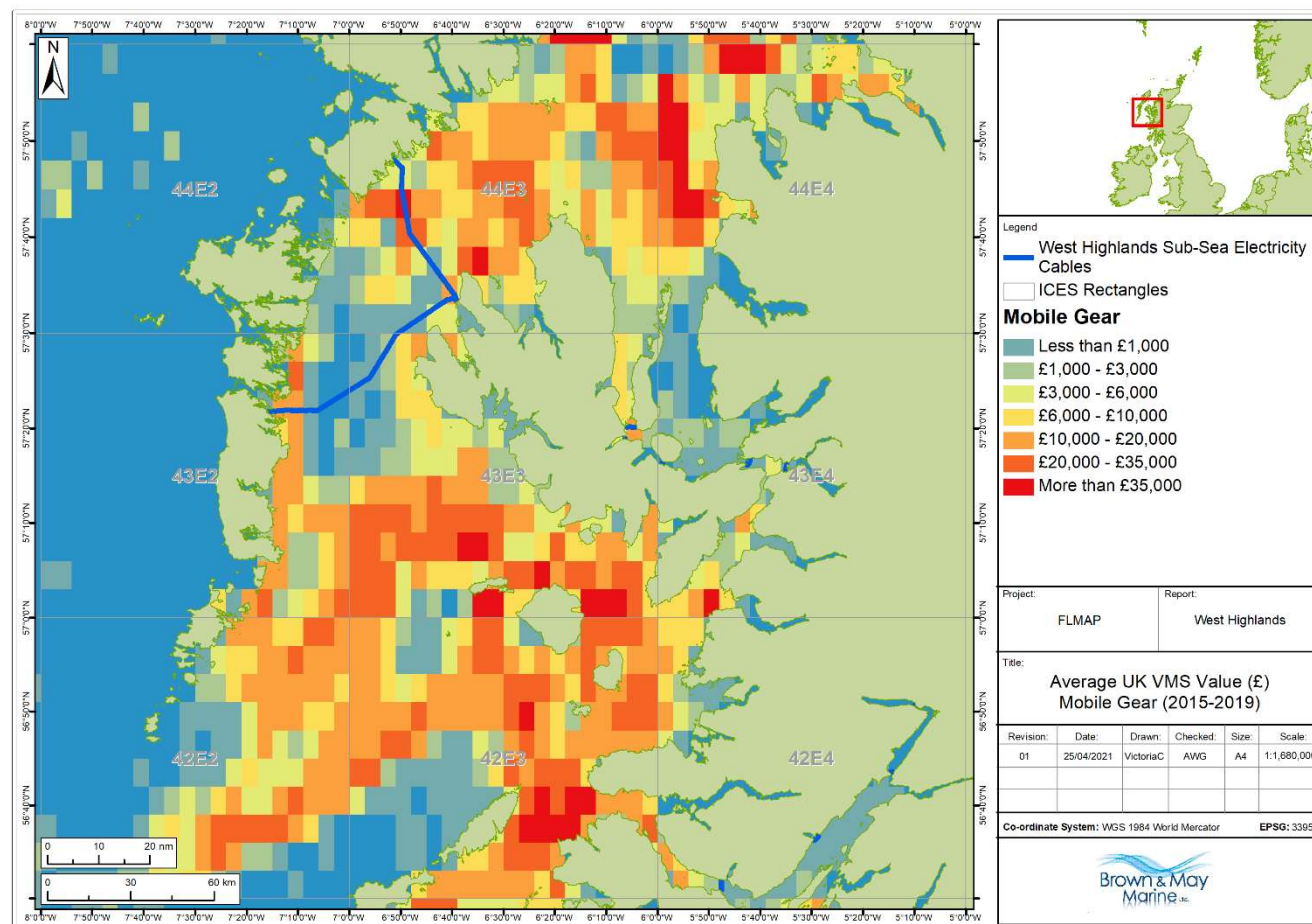


Figure 13 Average UK VMS value (£) for mobile gears (2015-2019)



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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

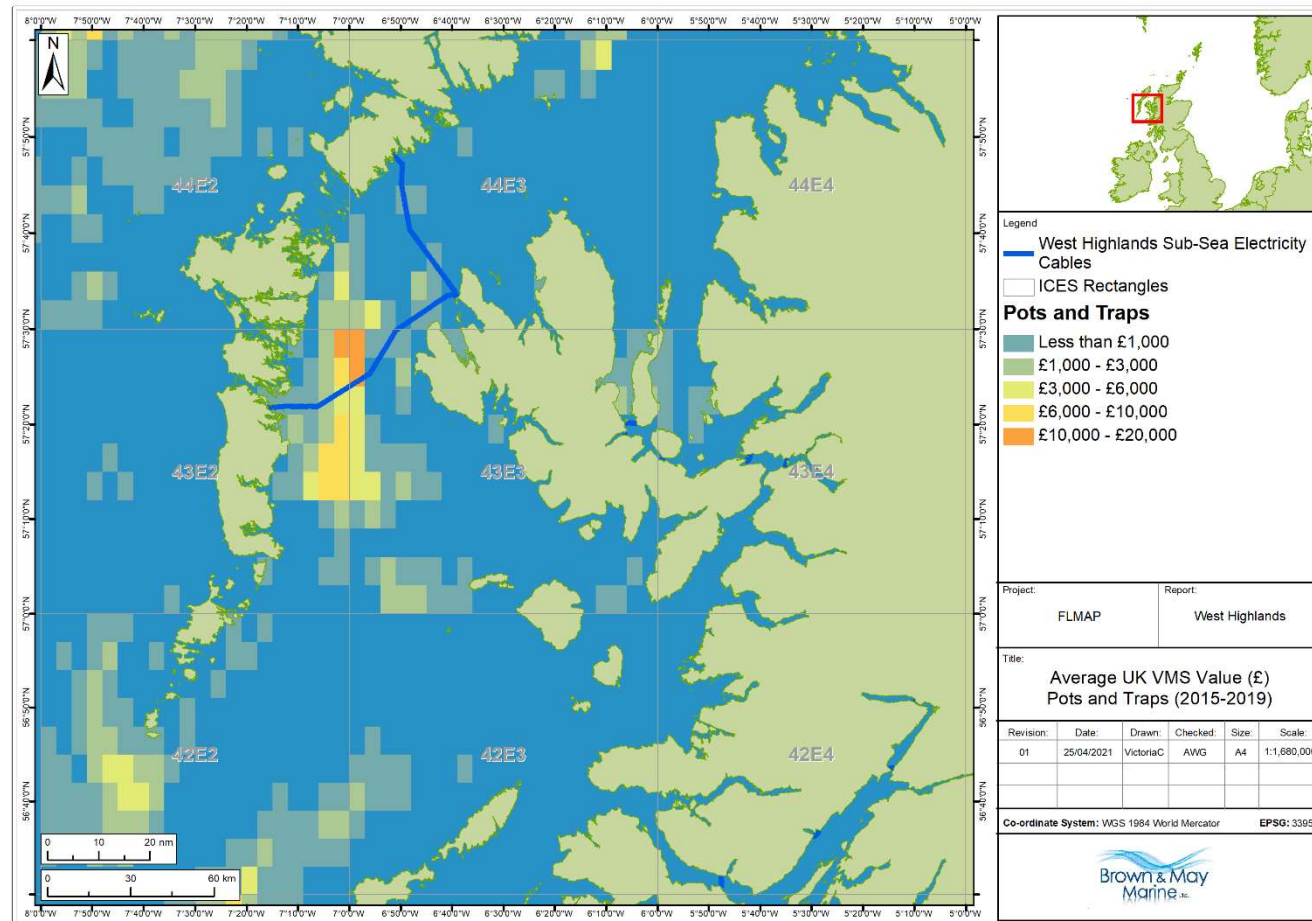


Figure 14 Average UK VMS value (£) for pots and traps (2015-2019)

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

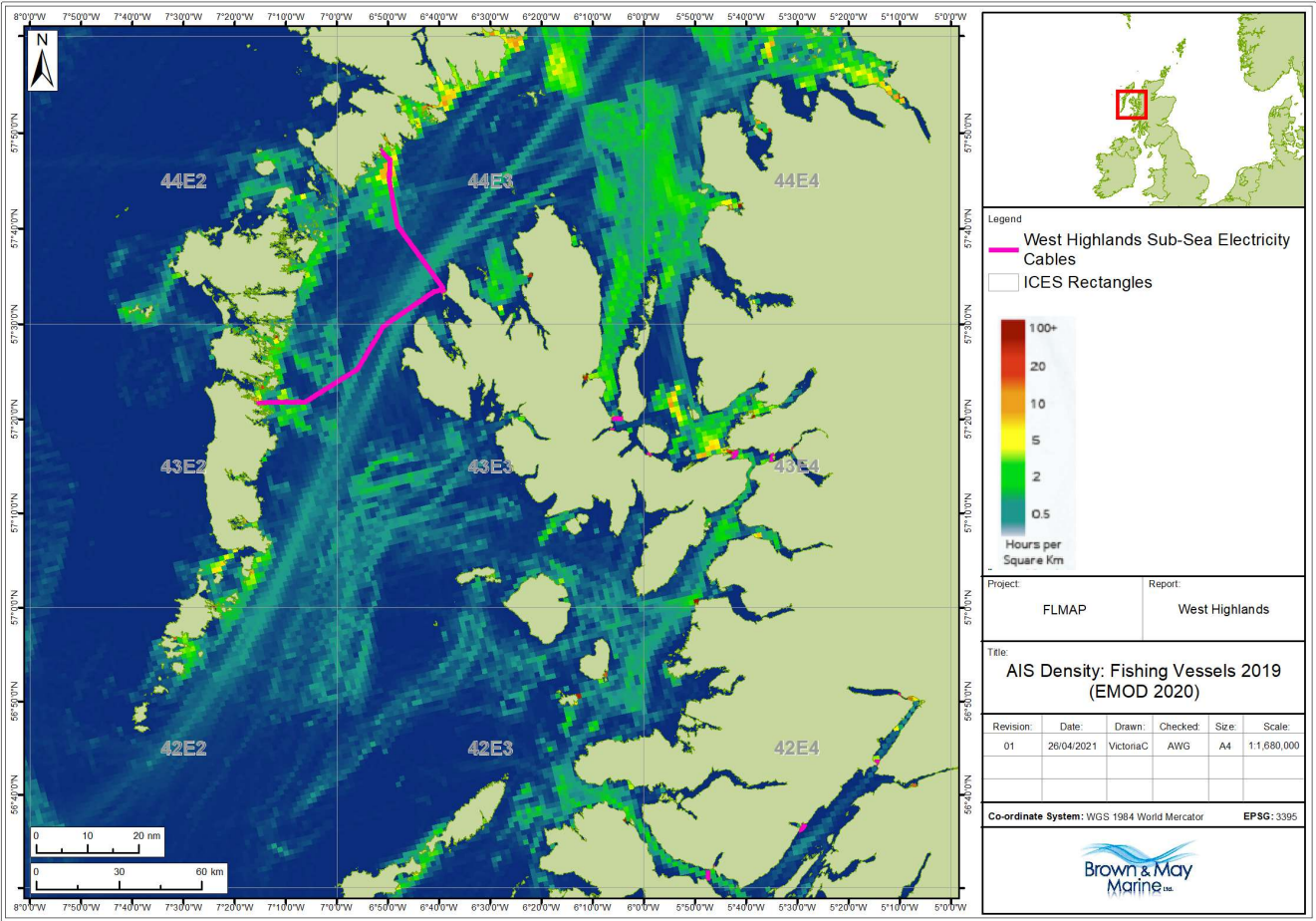


Figure 15 AIS density for fishing vessels in 2019 (EMODnet, 2020)

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

Appendix D
Other Sea Users Charts

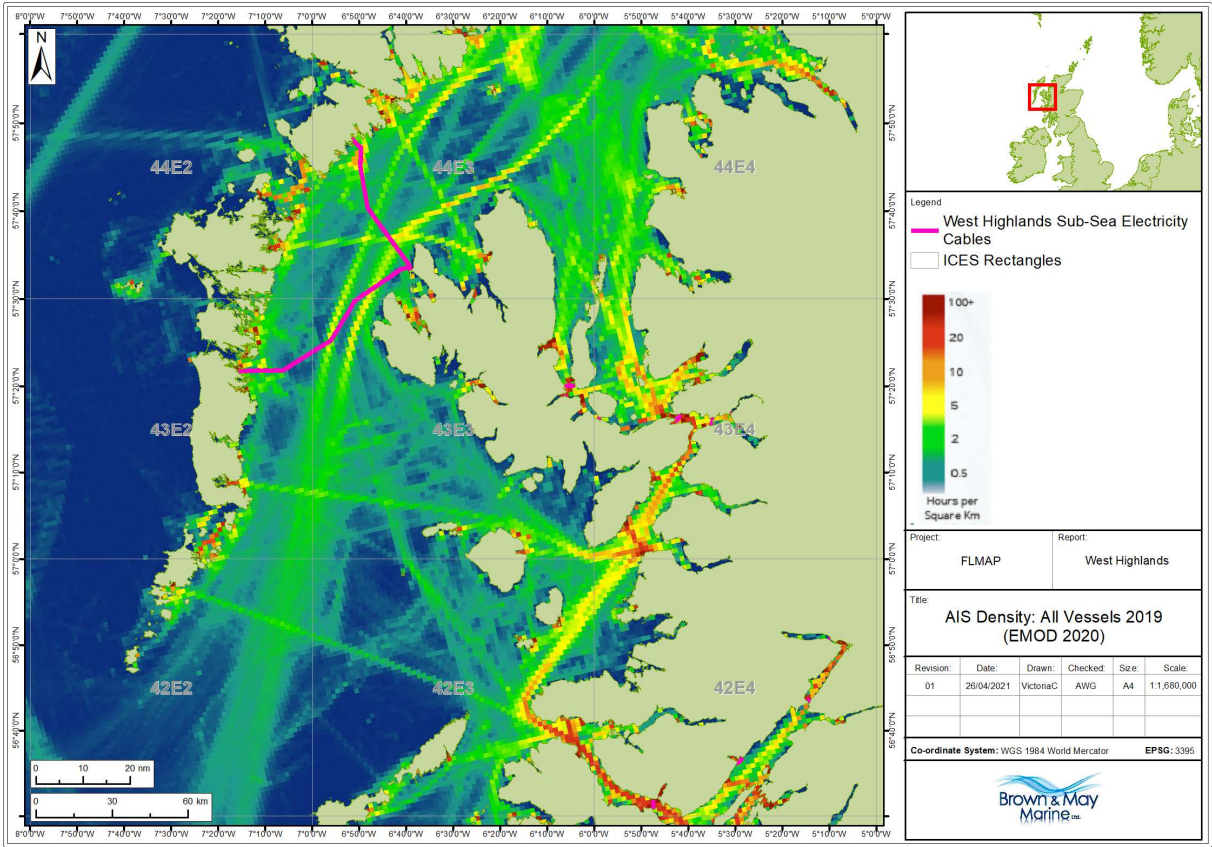


Figure 16 AIS density for all vessels (EMODnet, 2020)



	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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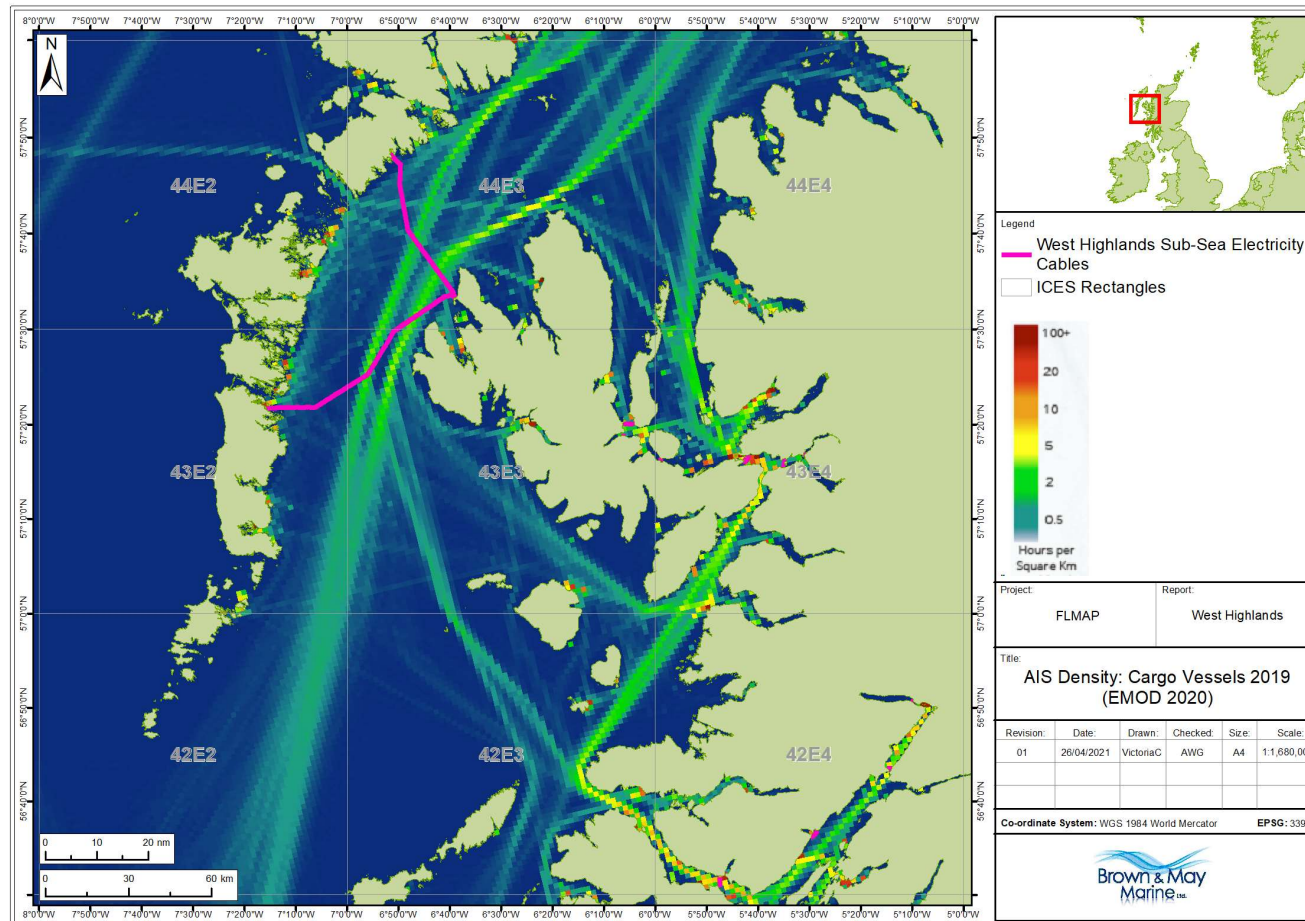


Figure 17 AIS density for cargo vessels (EMODnet, 2020)

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

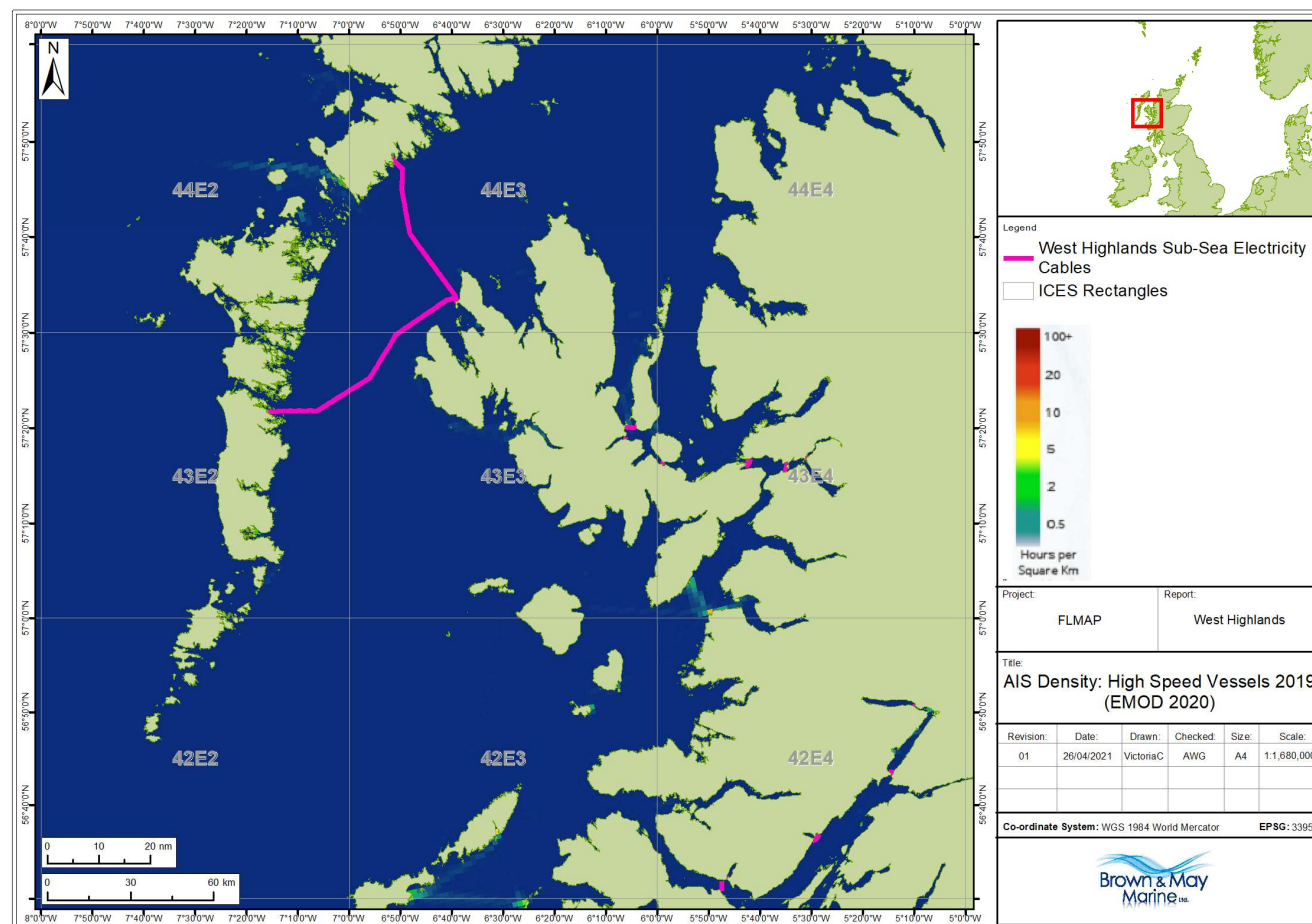


Figure 18 AIS density for high speed vessels (EMODnet, 2020)

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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

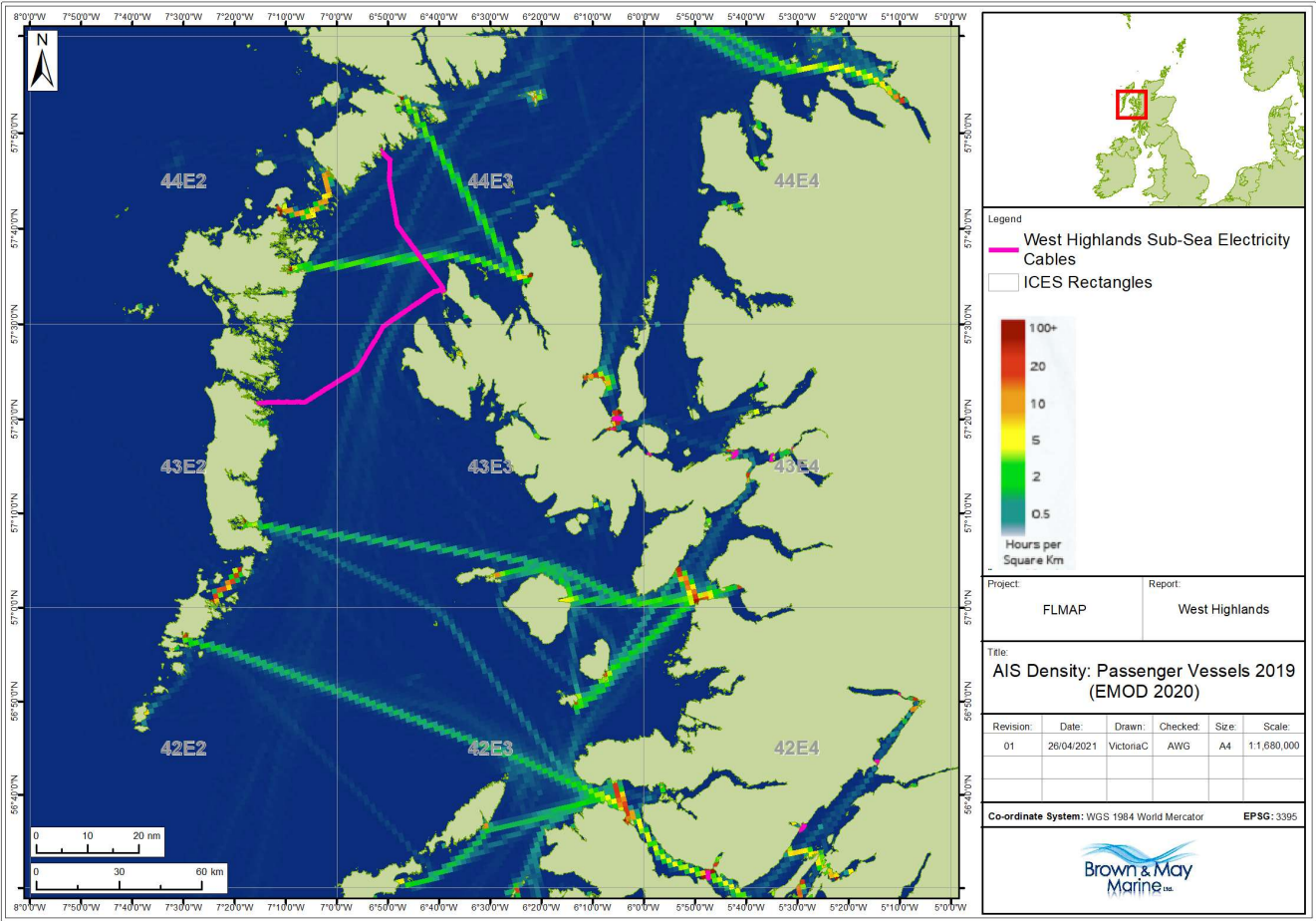


Figure 19 AIS density for passenger vessels (EMODnet, 2020)

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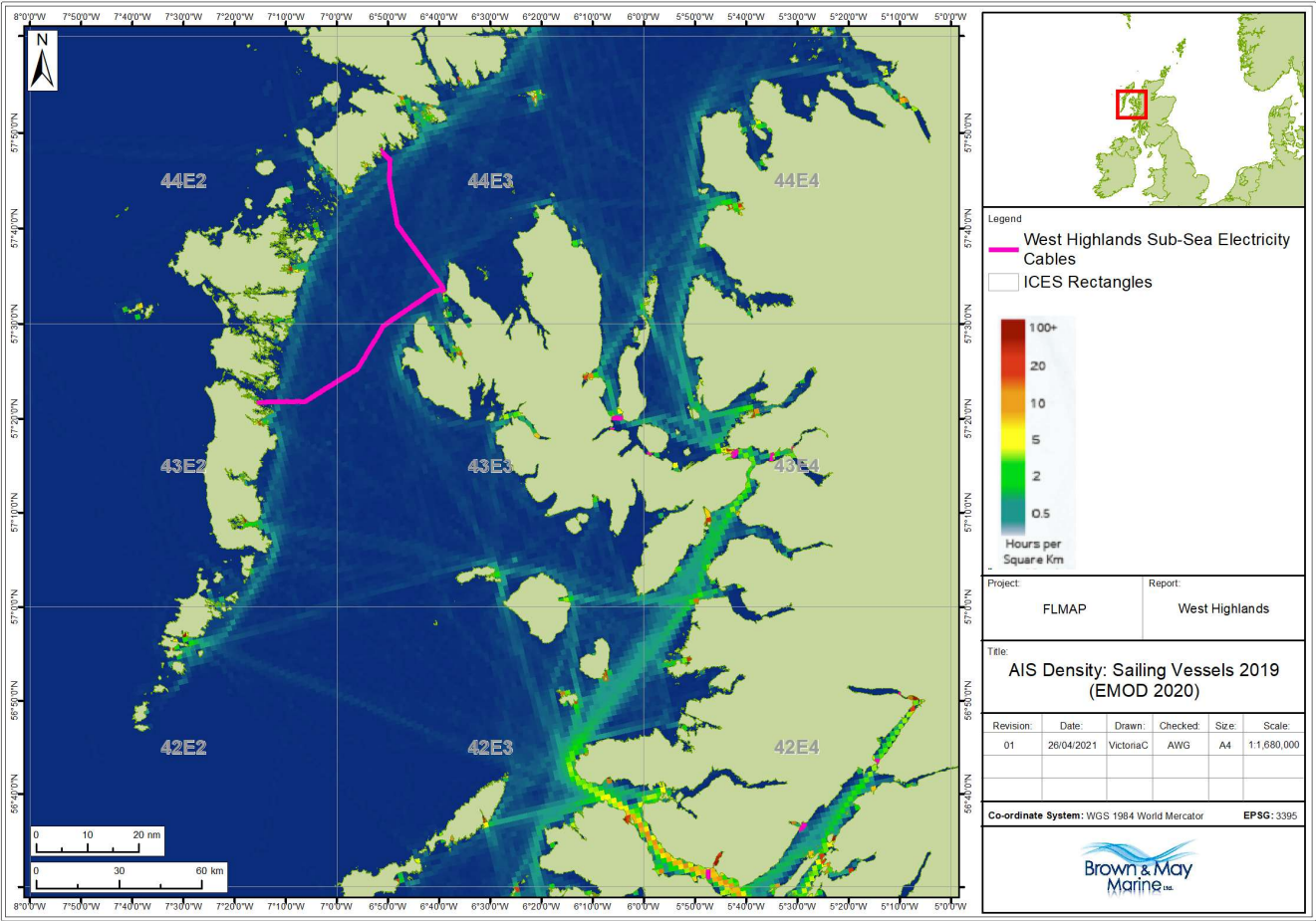
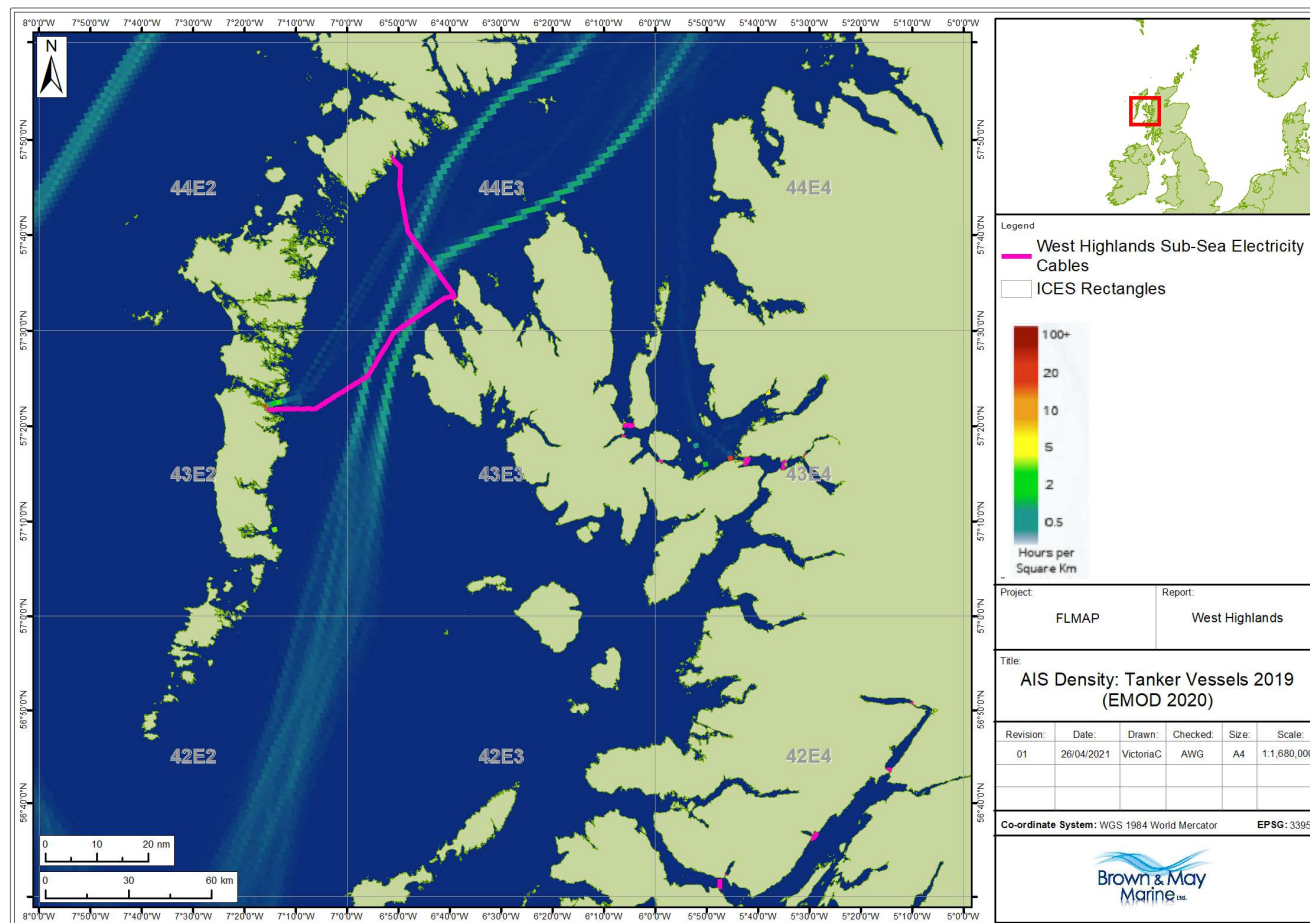


Figure 20 AIS density for sailing vessels (EMODnet, 2020)



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Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	





	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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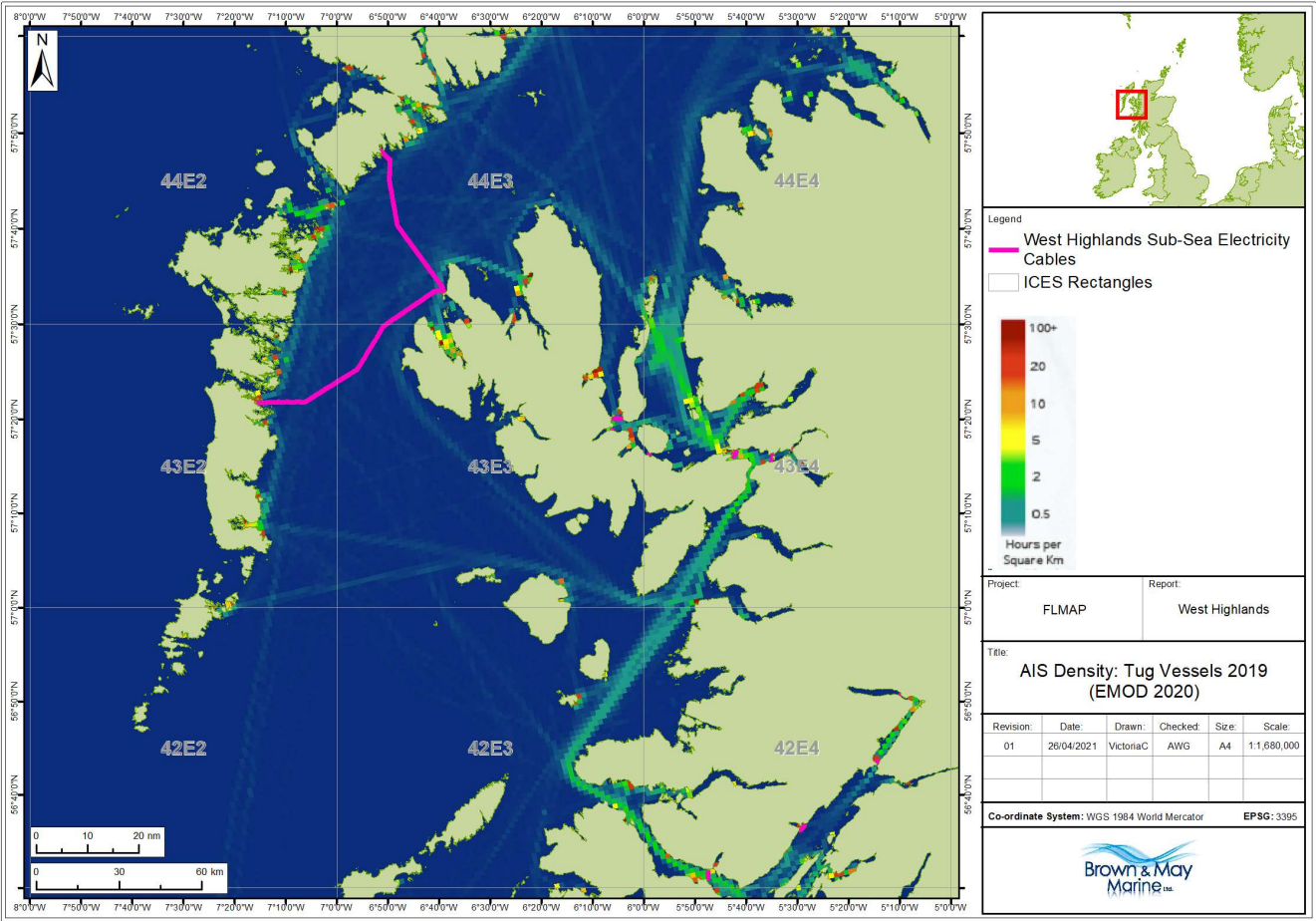


Figure 22 AIS density for tugs (EMODnet, 2020)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

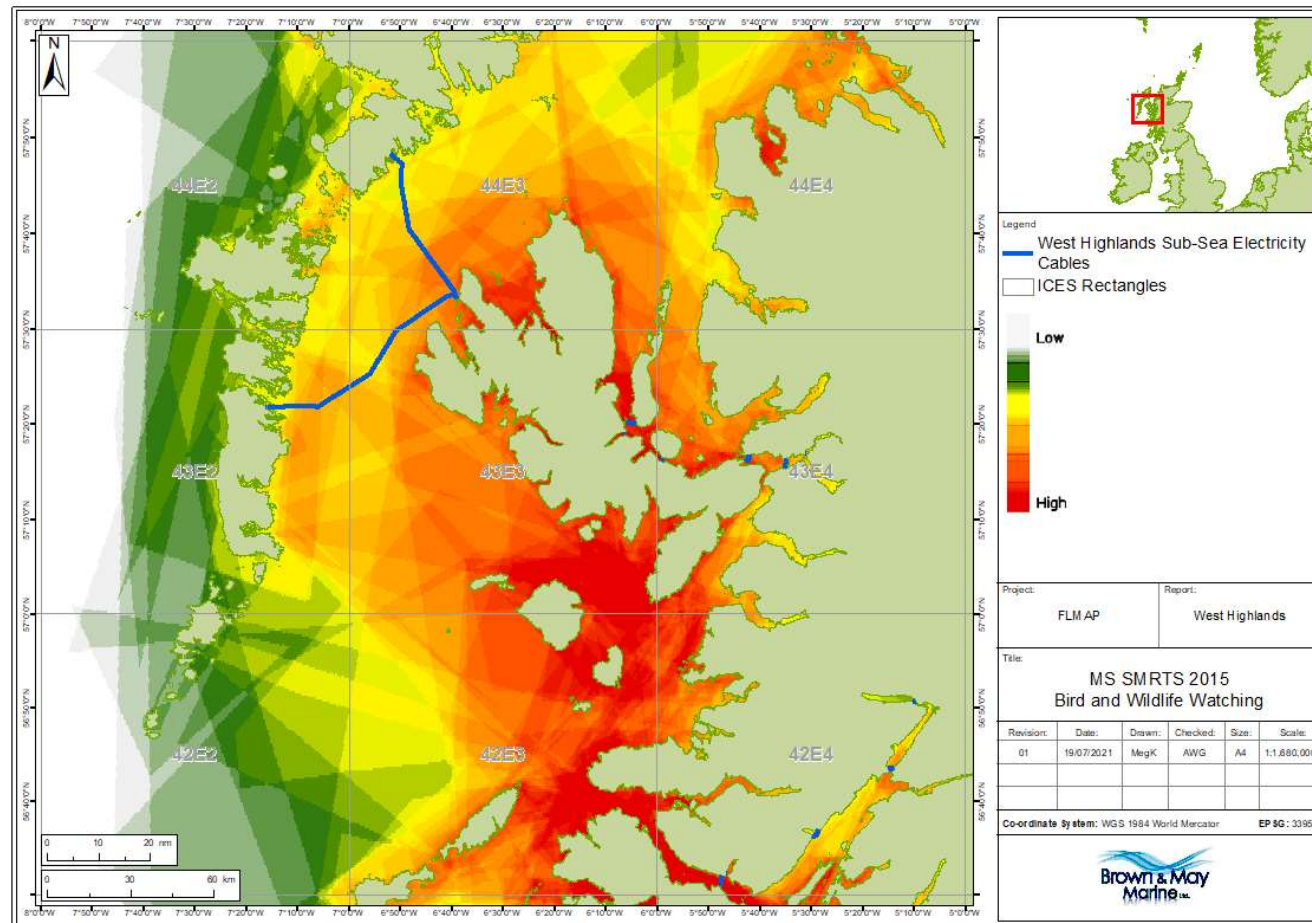


Figure 23 Bird and wildlife watching (Marine Scotland 2018)

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
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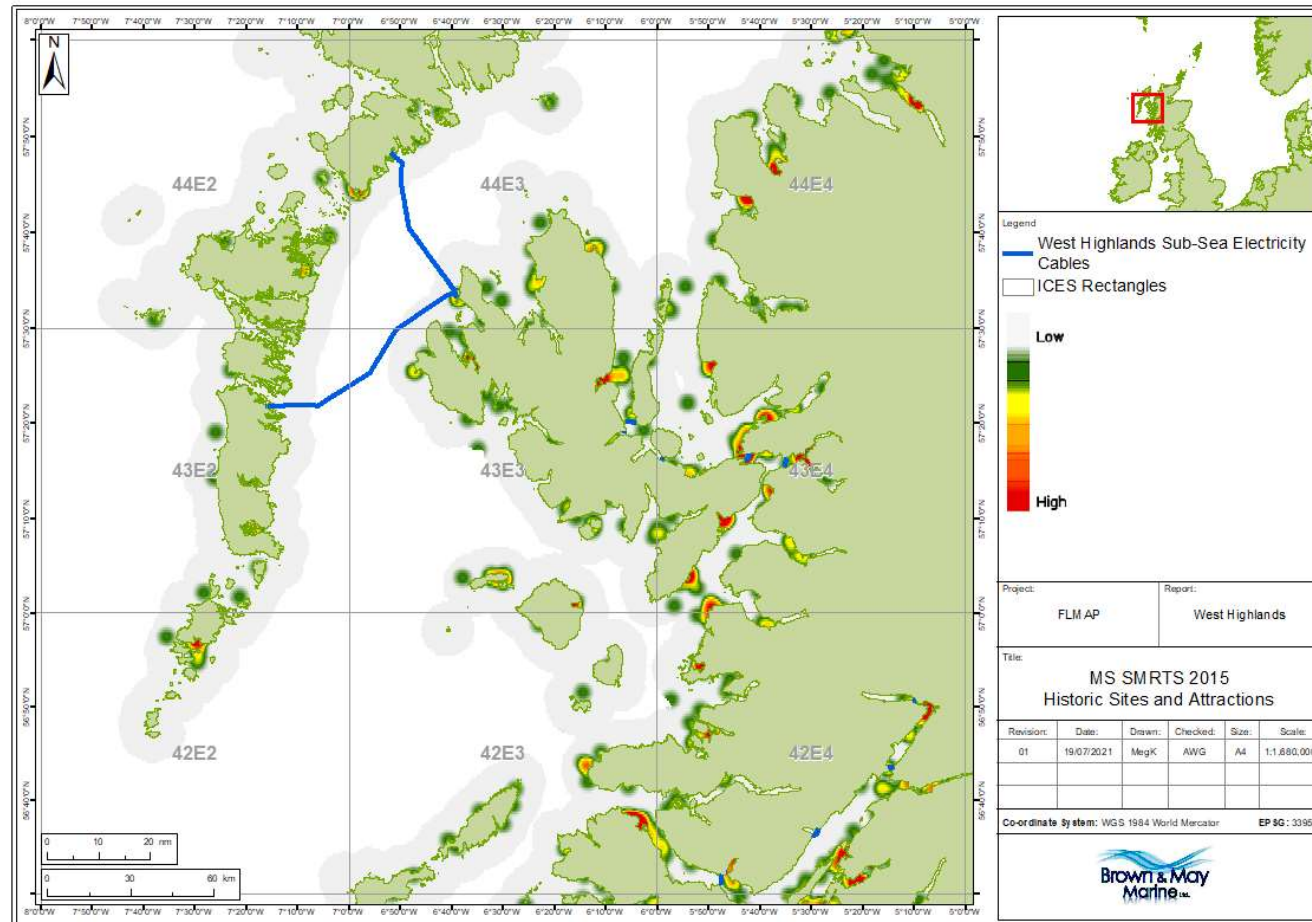


Figure 24 Historic sites and attractions (Marine Scotland 2018)

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			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

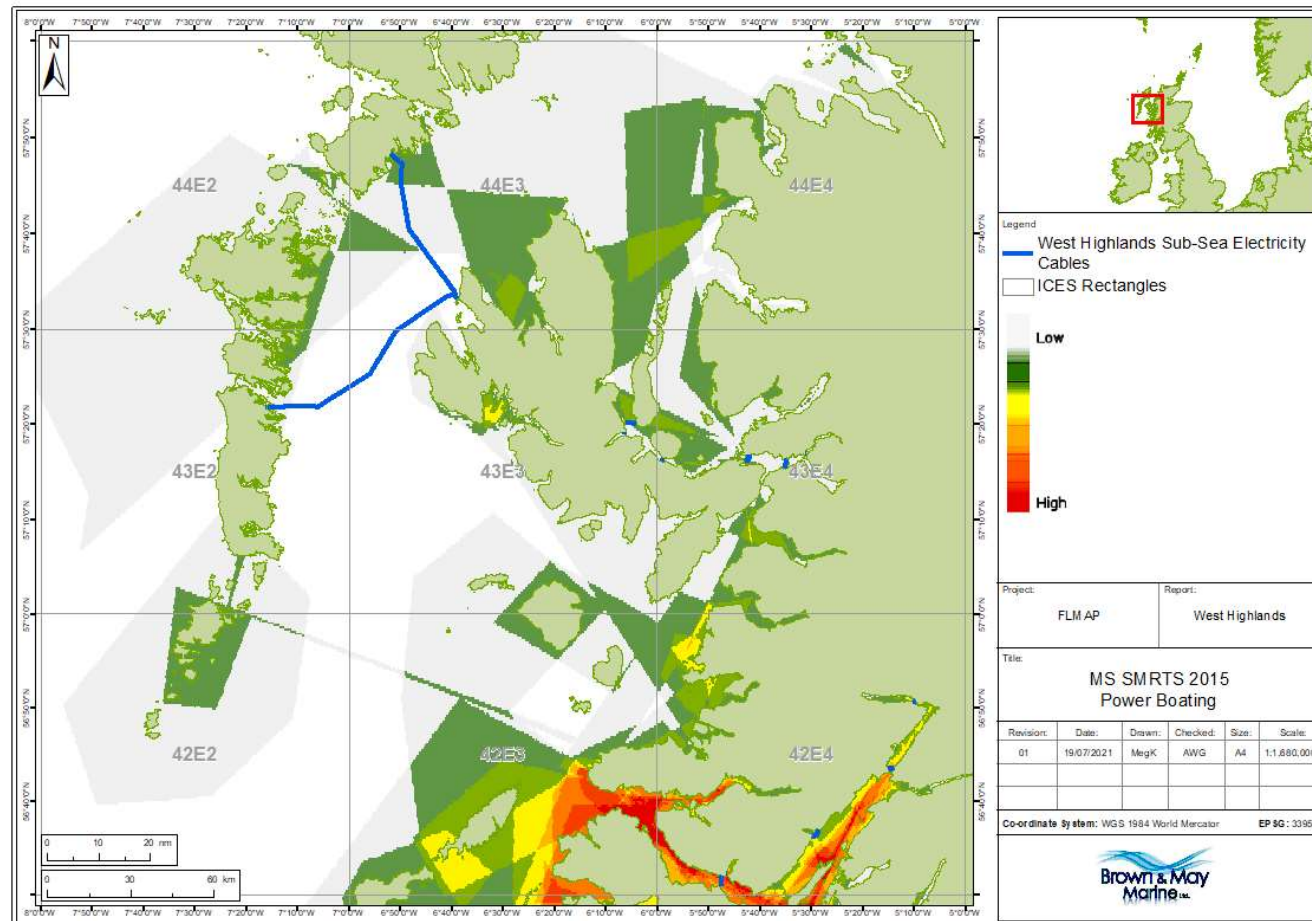


Figure 25 Power boating (Marine Scotland 2018)



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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

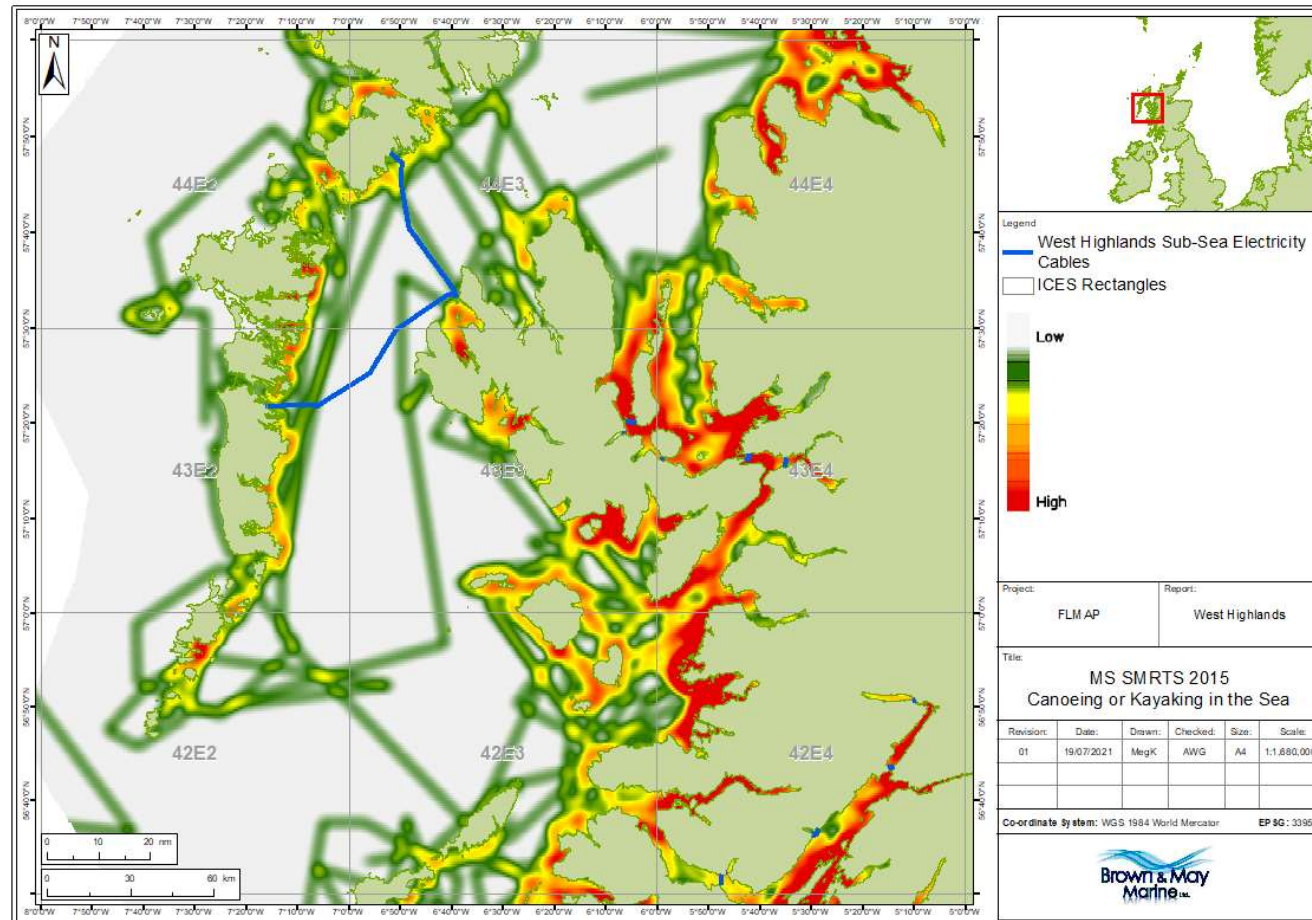


Figure 26 Canoeing and kayaking (Marine Scotland 2018)

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			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
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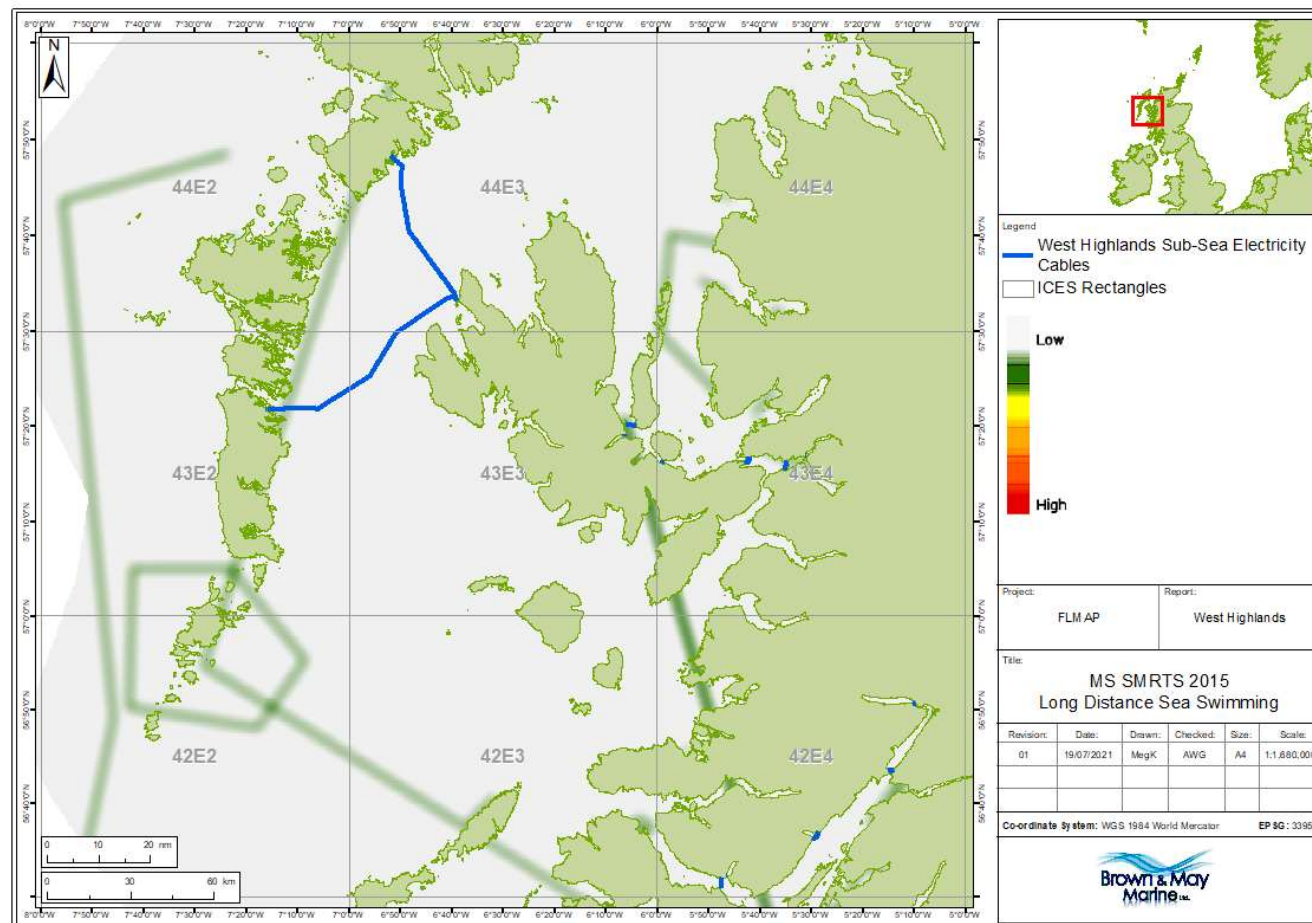


Figure 27 Long distance swimming (Marine Scotland 2018)

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			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
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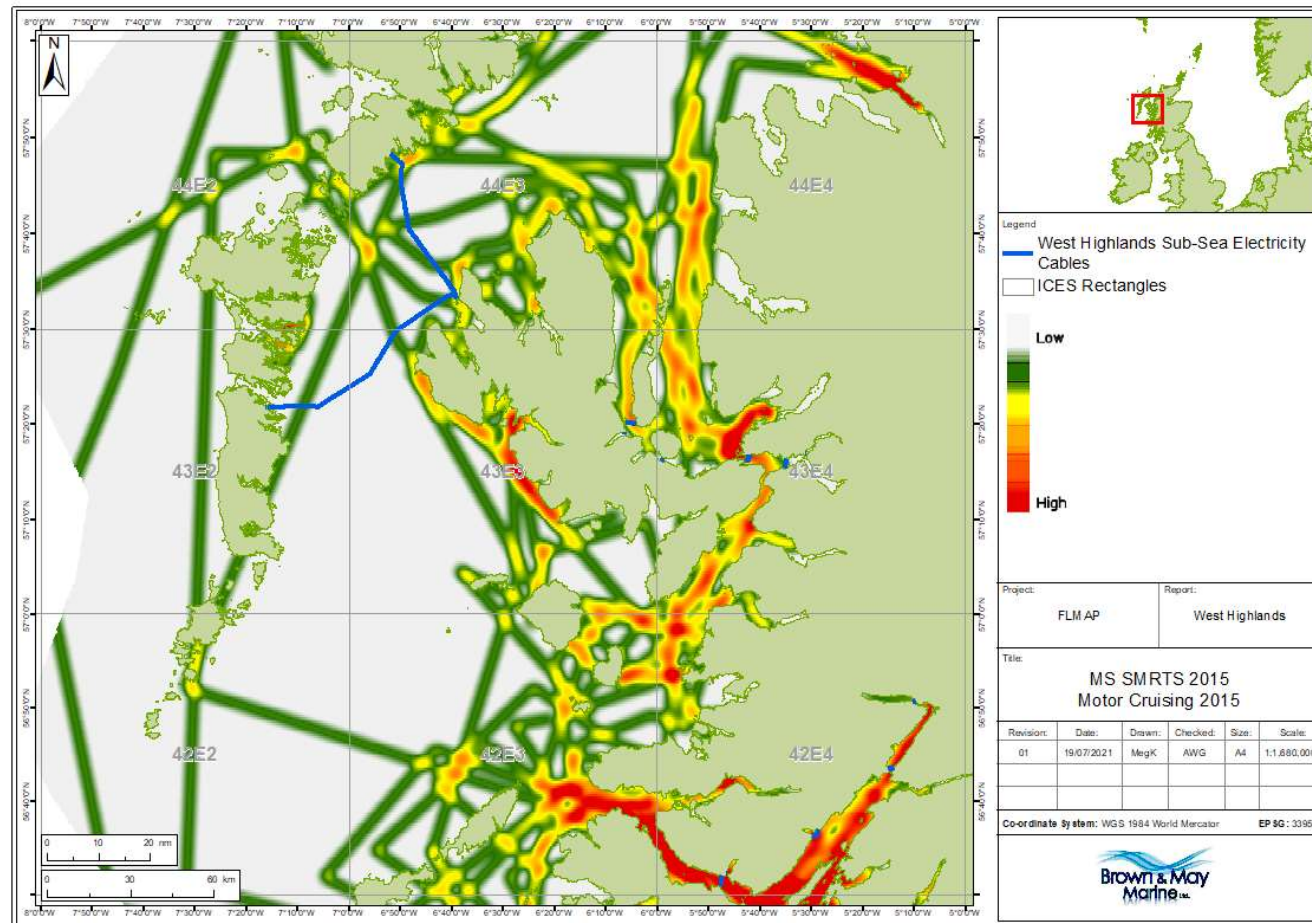


Figure 28 Motor cruising (Marine Scotland 2018)



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

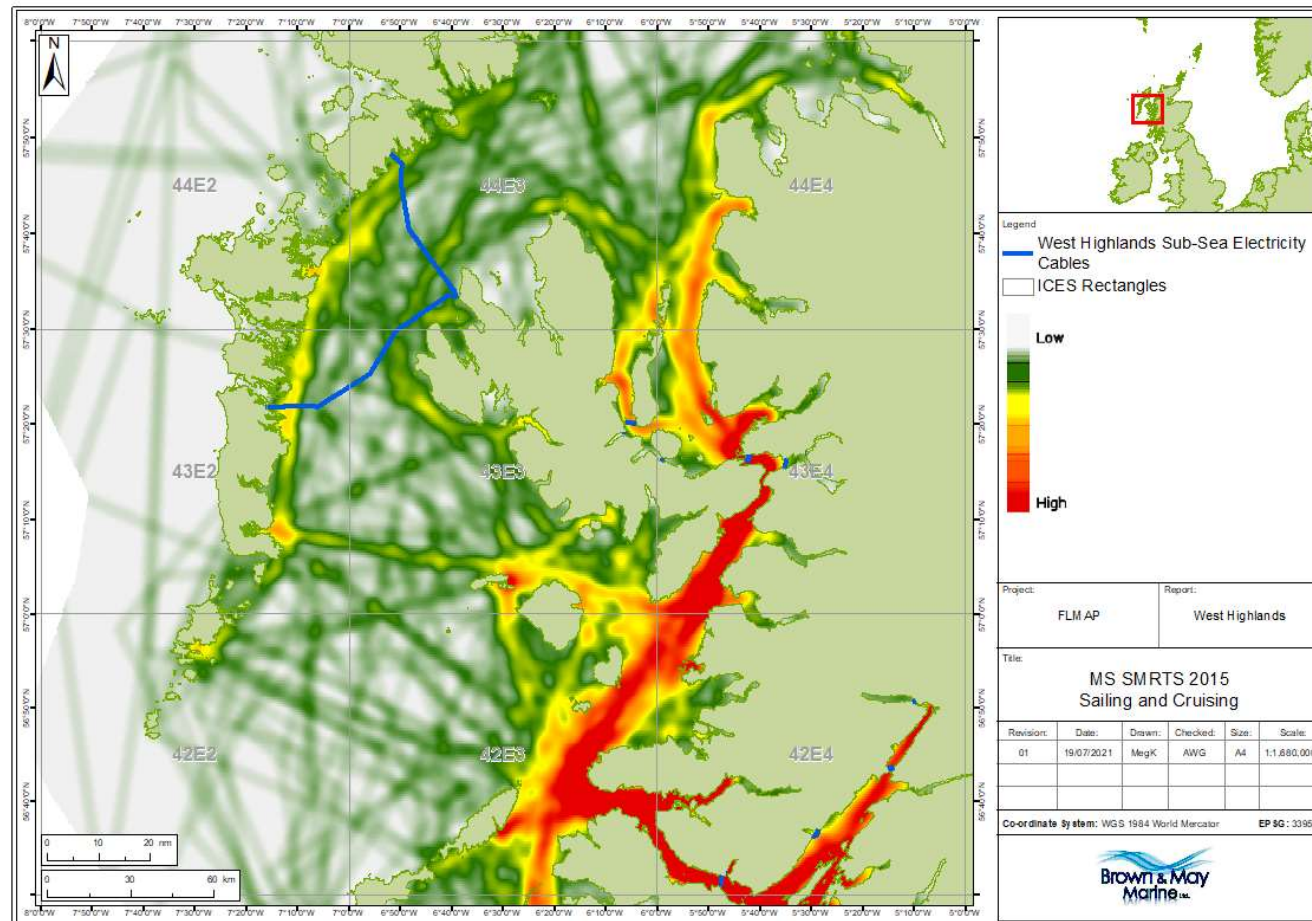


Figure 29 Sailing and cruising (Marine Scotland 2018)



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

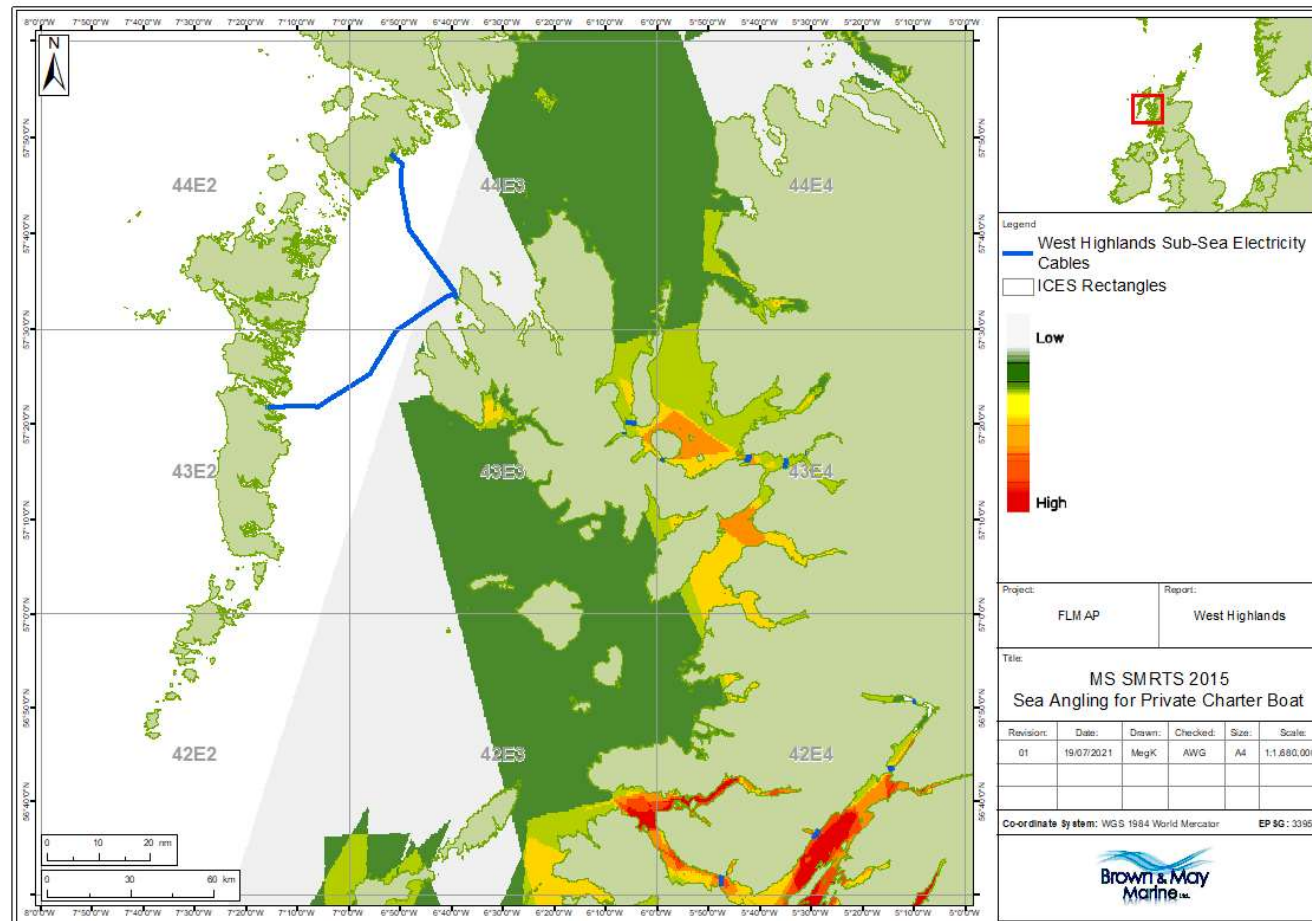


Figure 30 Chartered angling (Marine Scotland 2018)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

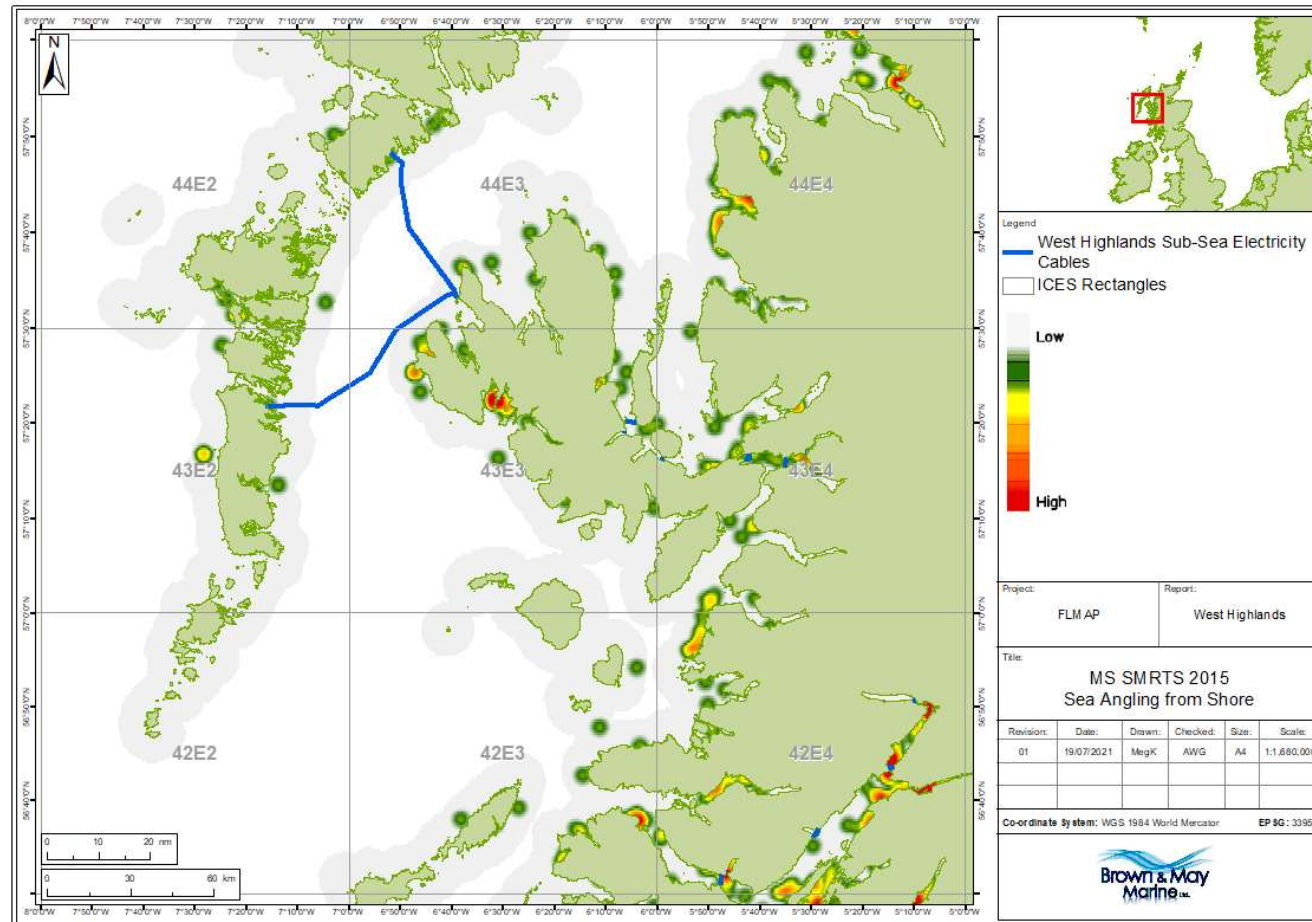


Figure 31 Sea angling from shore (Marine Scotland 2018)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

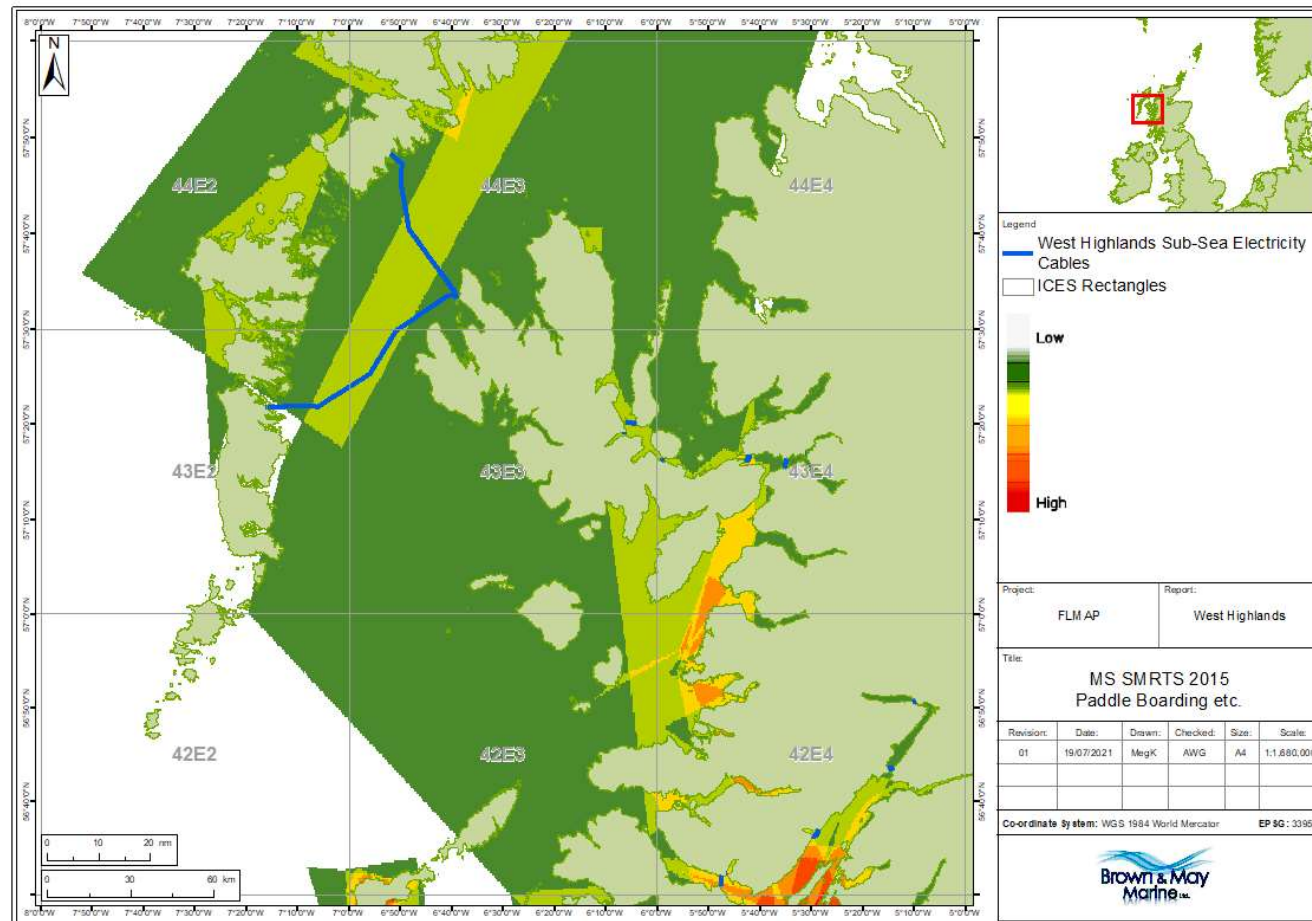


Figure 32 Surfing and paddle boarding (Marine Scotland 2018)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

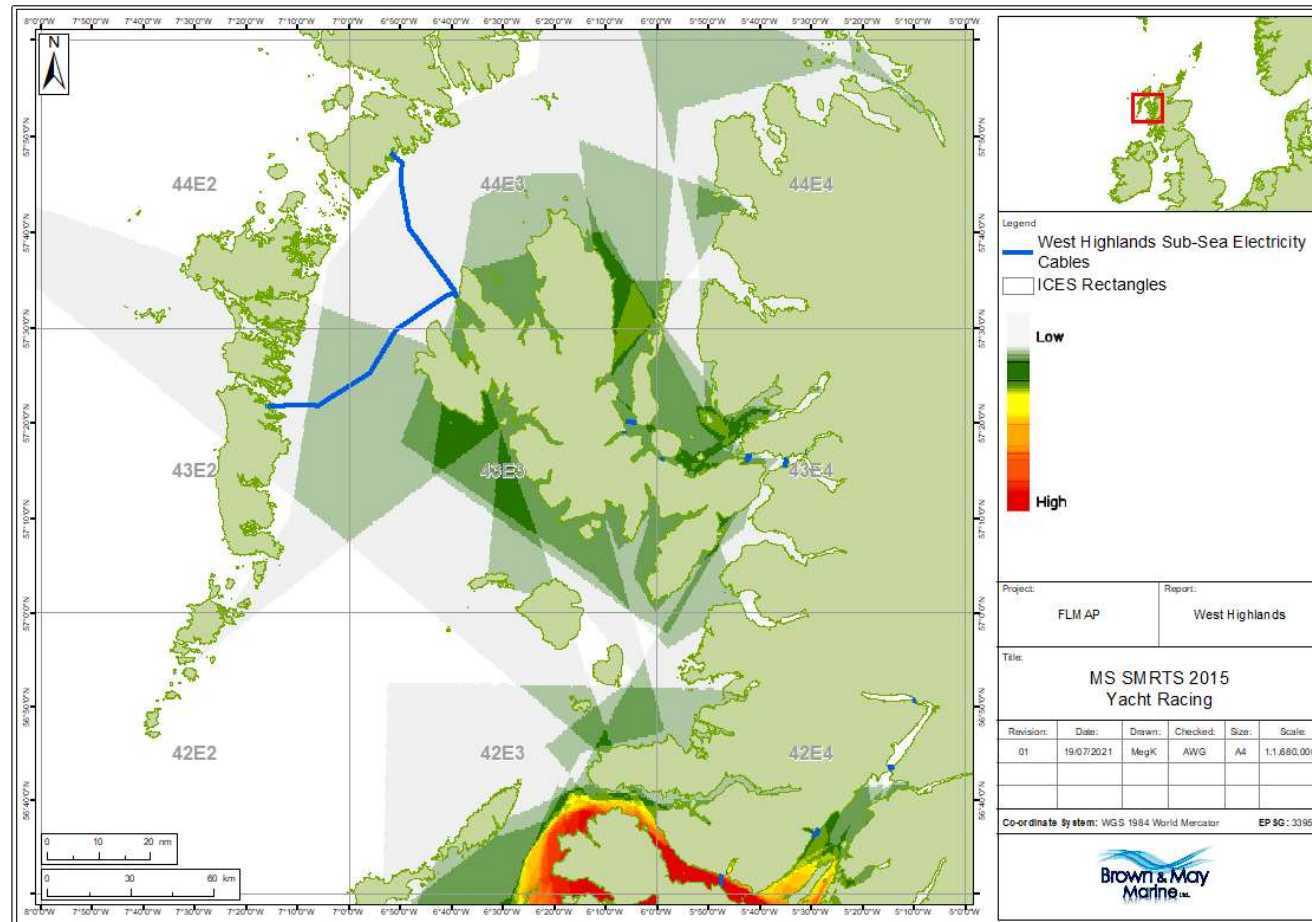


Figure 33 Yacht racing (Marine Scotland 2018)



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

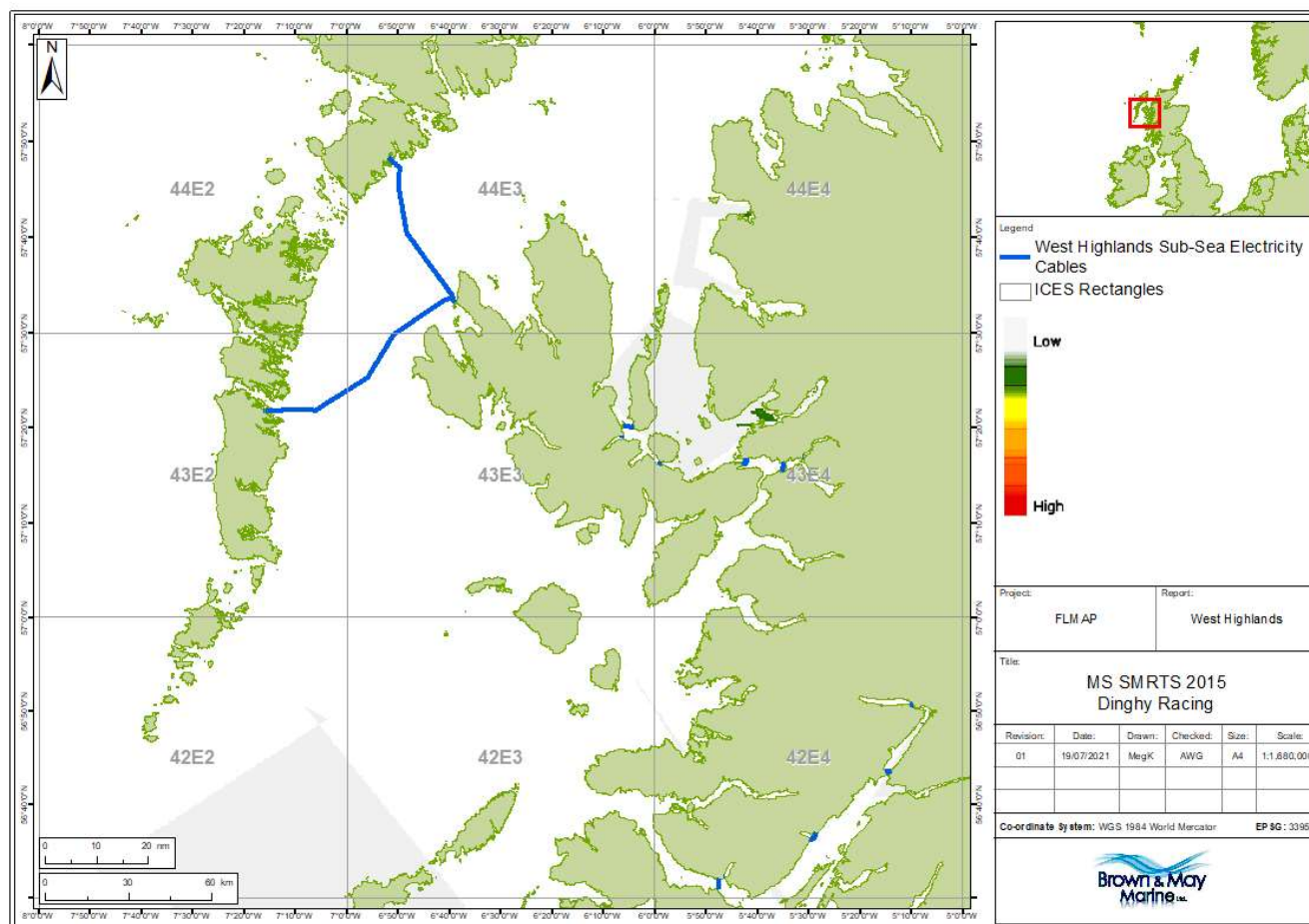


Figure 34 Dinghy racing (Marine Scotland 2018)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

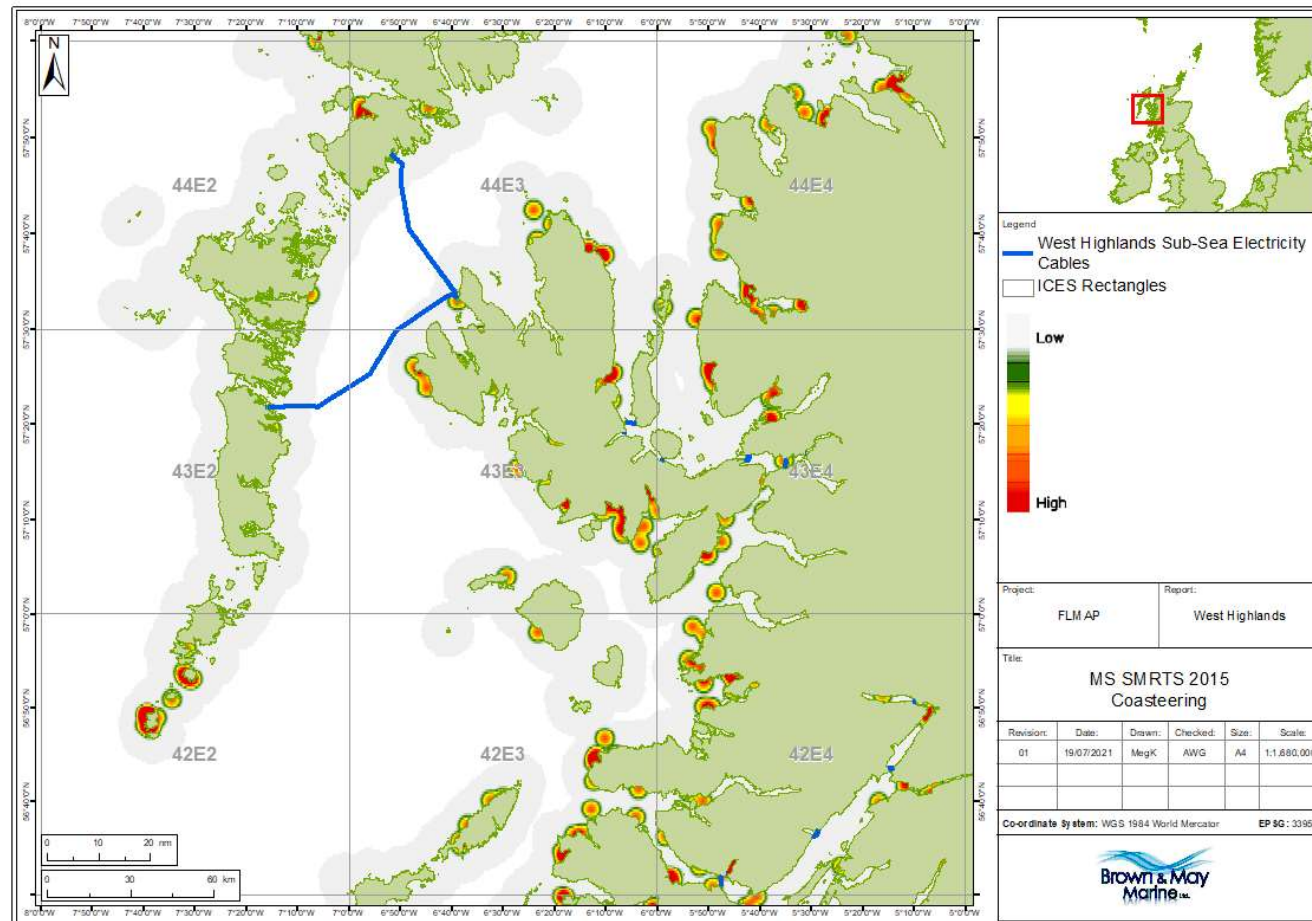


Figure 35 Coasteering (Marine Scotland 2018)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

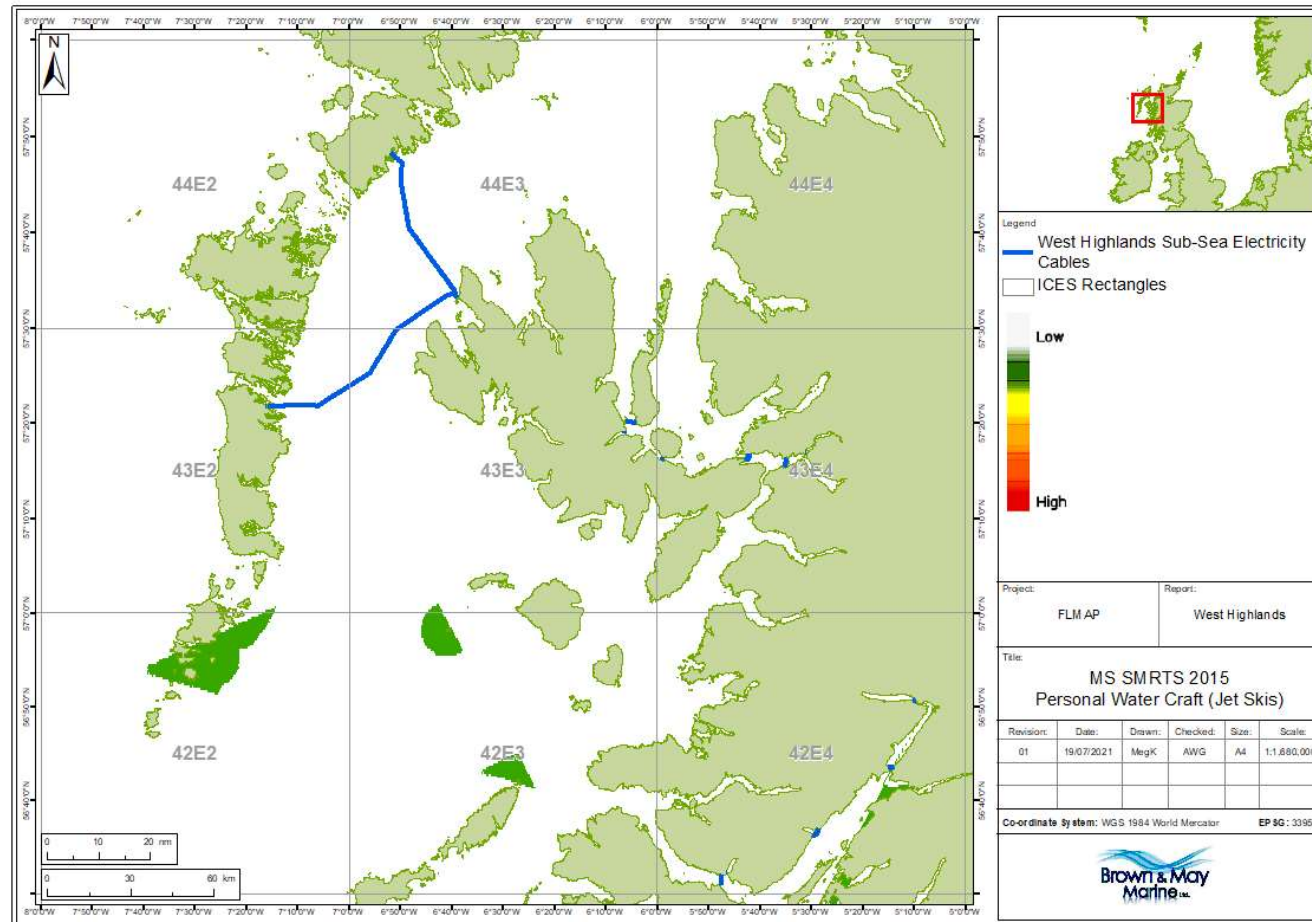


Figure 36 Personal water craft (jet skis) (Marine Scotland 2018)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

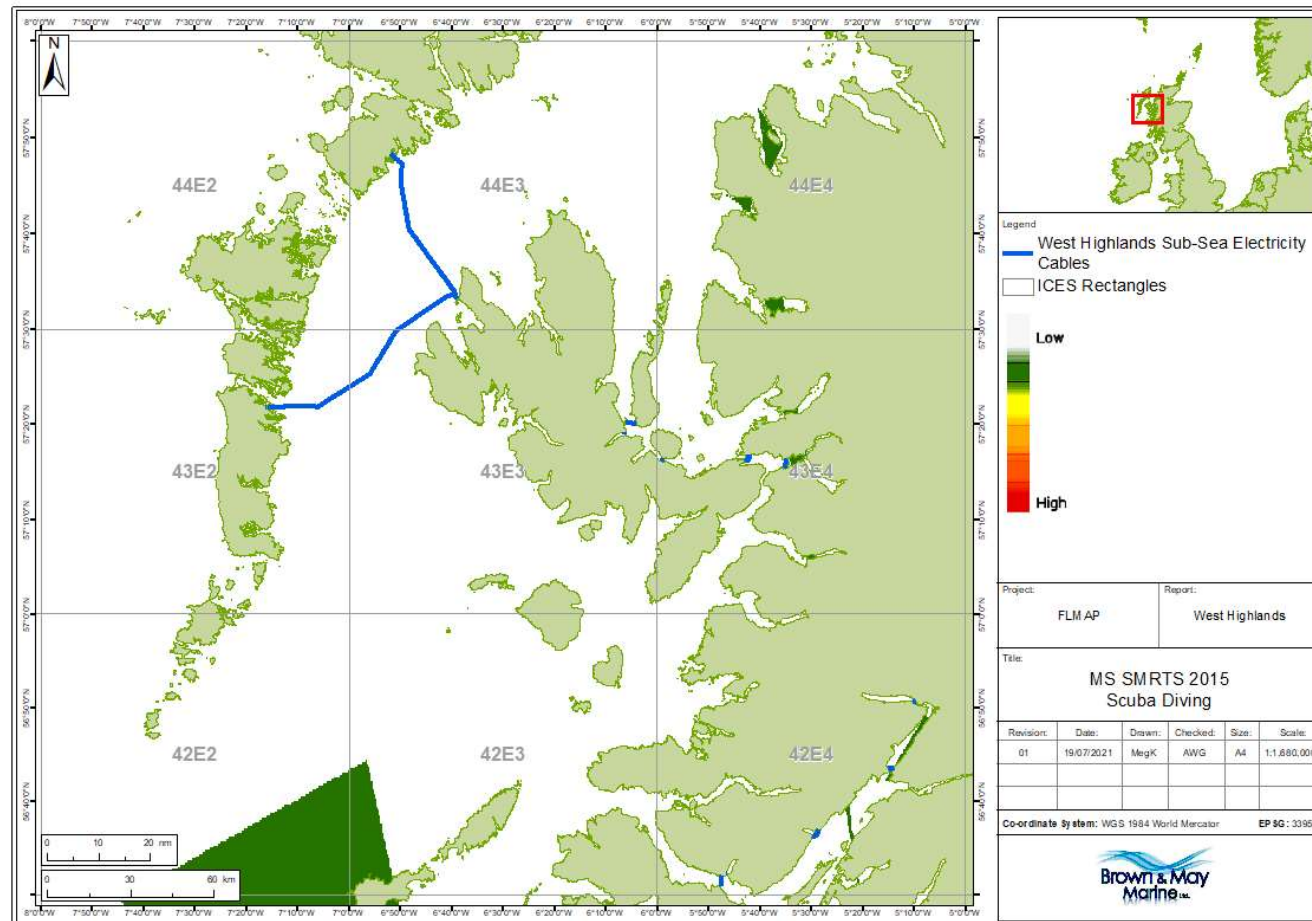


Figure 37 Water skiing and wakeboarding (Marine Scotland 2018)



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

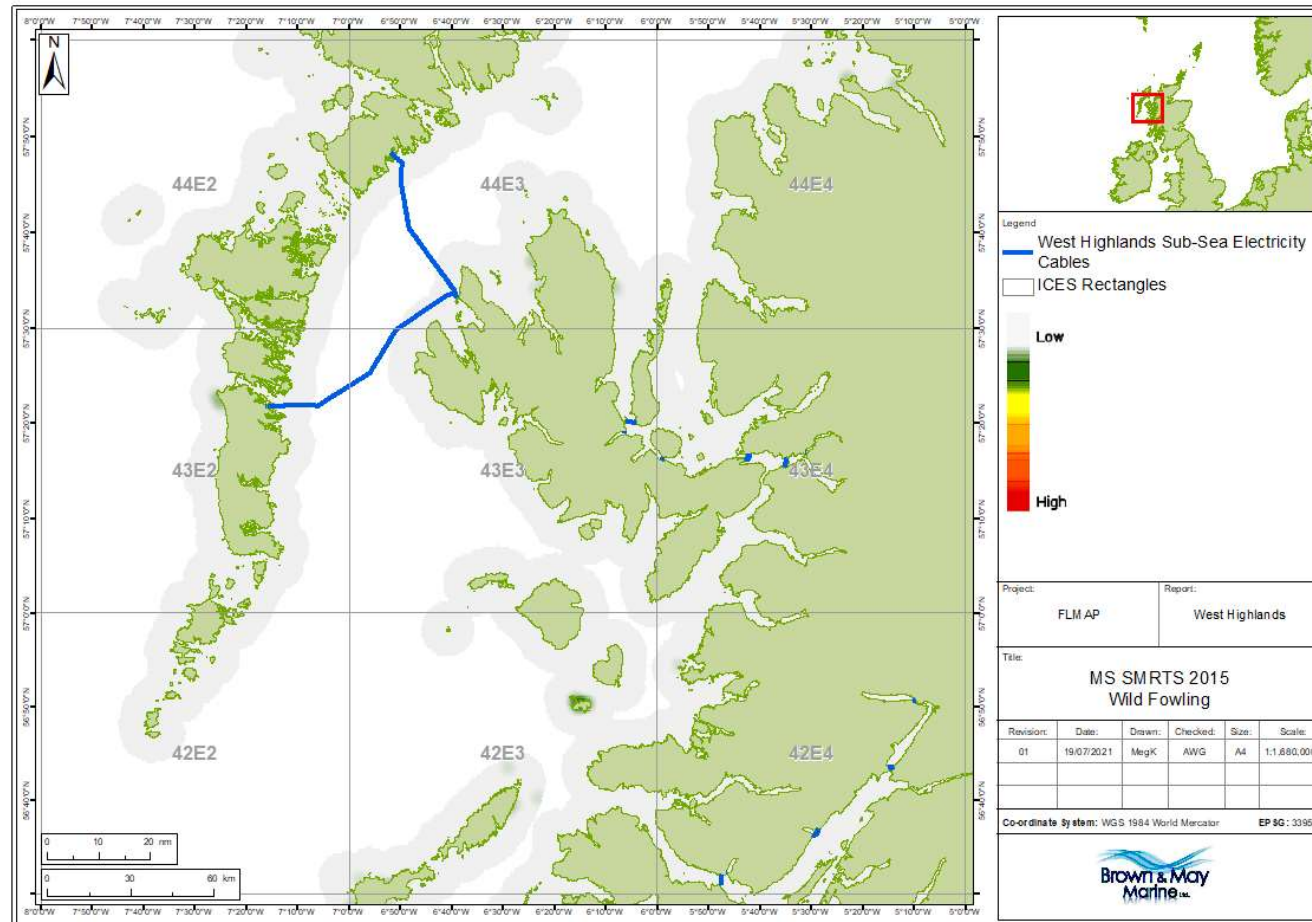


Figure 38 Wildfowling (Marine Scotland 2018)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

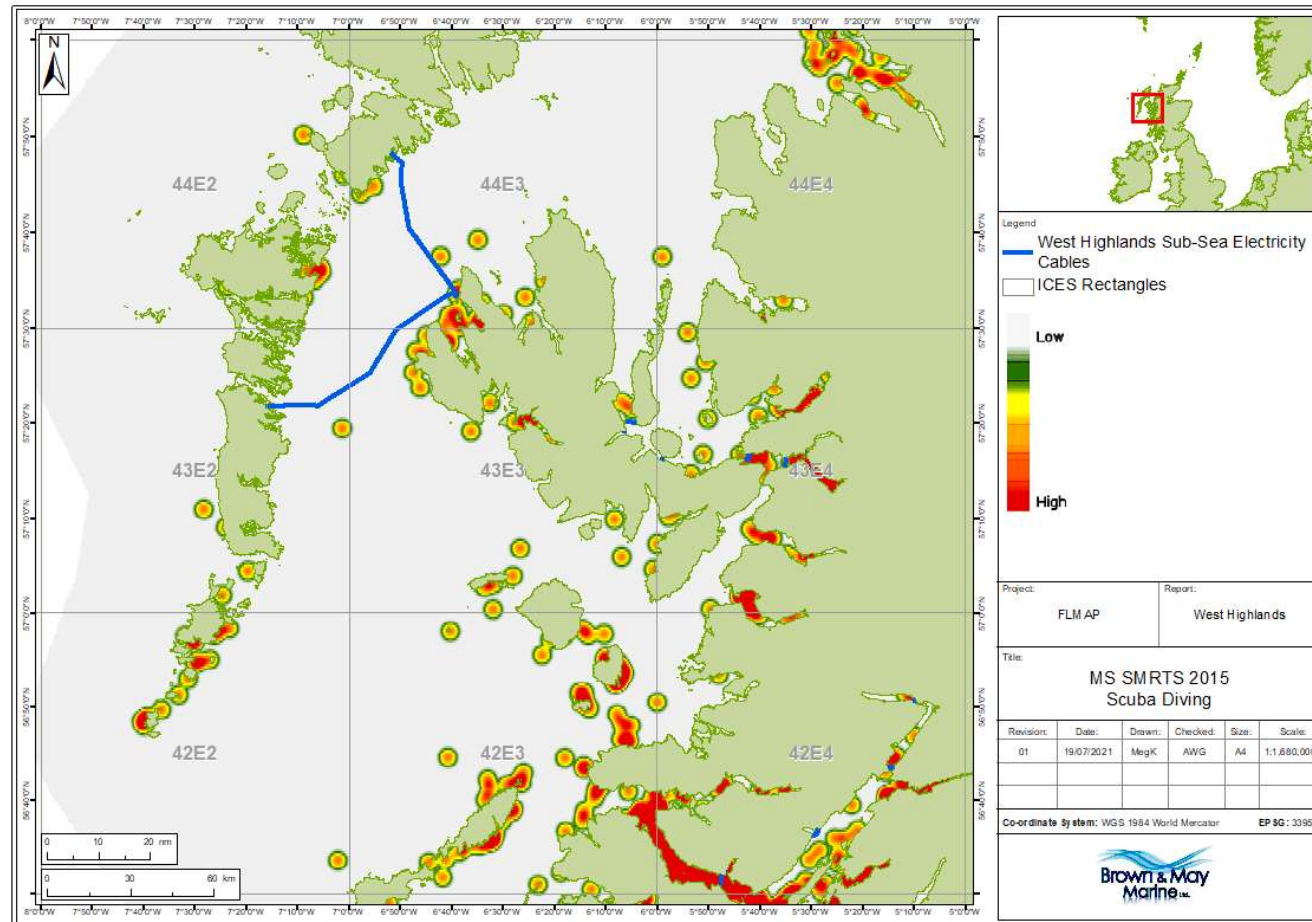


Figure 39 Scuba diving (Marine Scotland 2018)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

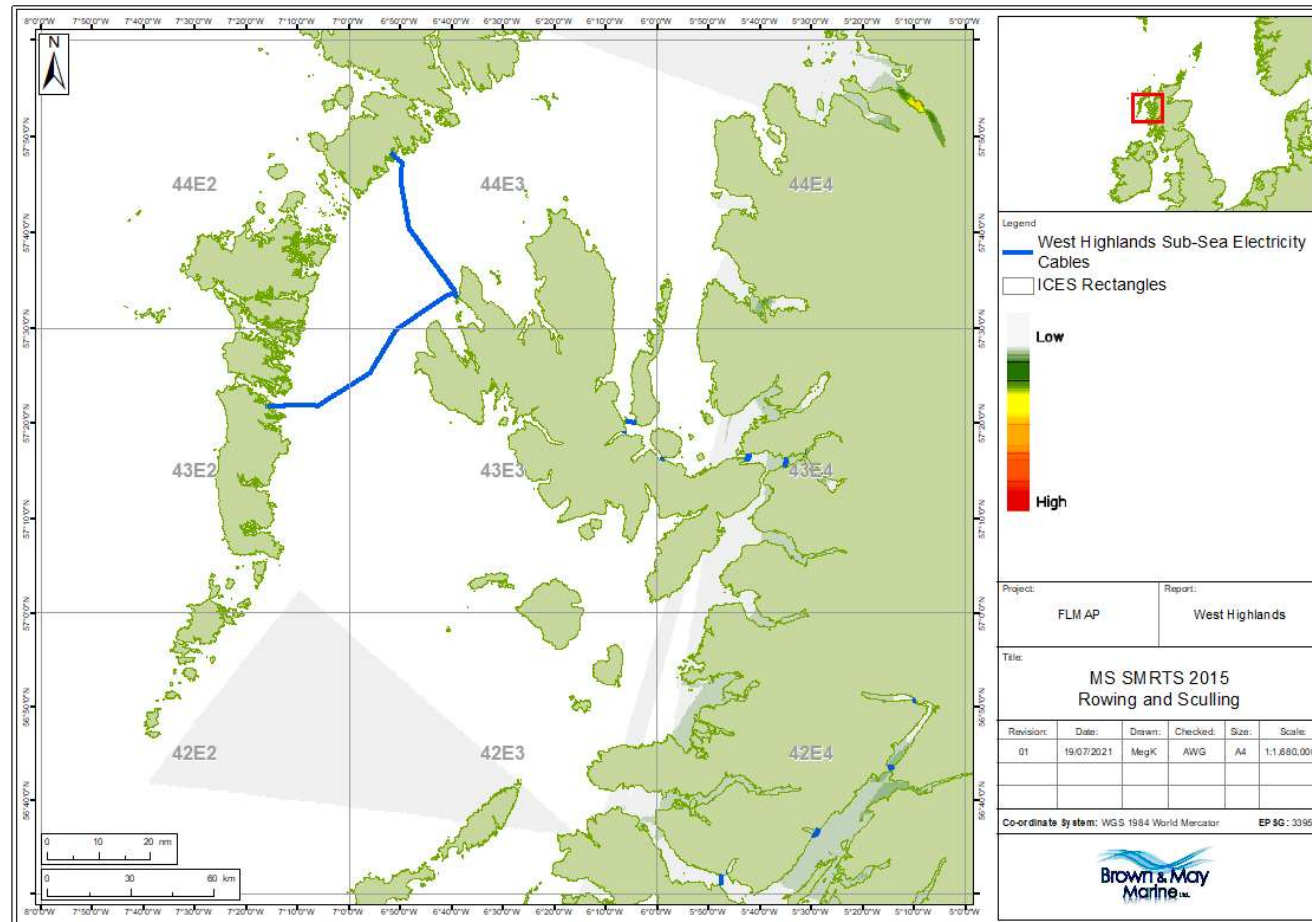


Figure 40 Rowing and sculling (Marine Scotland 2018)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

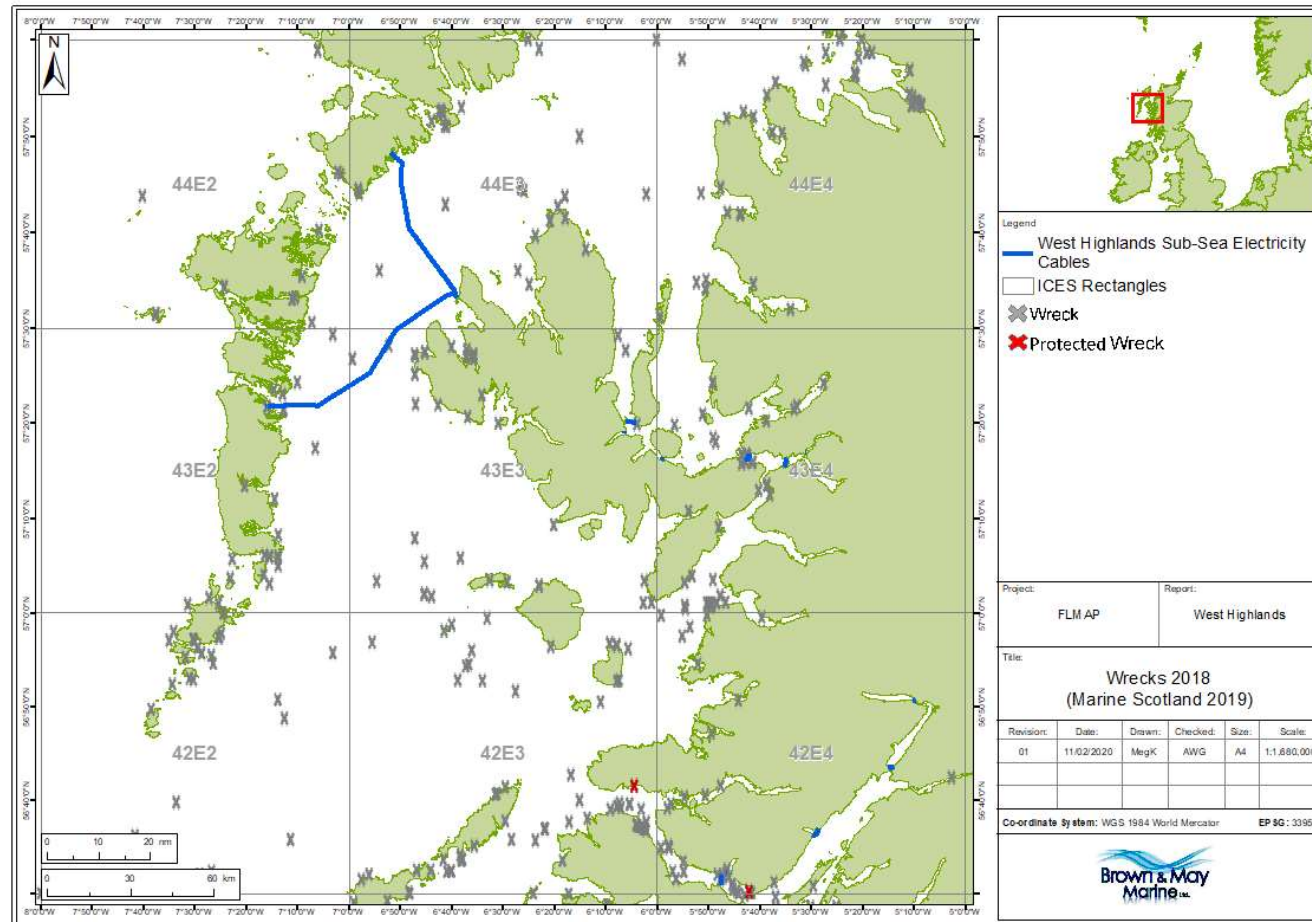


Figure 41 Known wreck sites (Marine Scotland 2019)



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

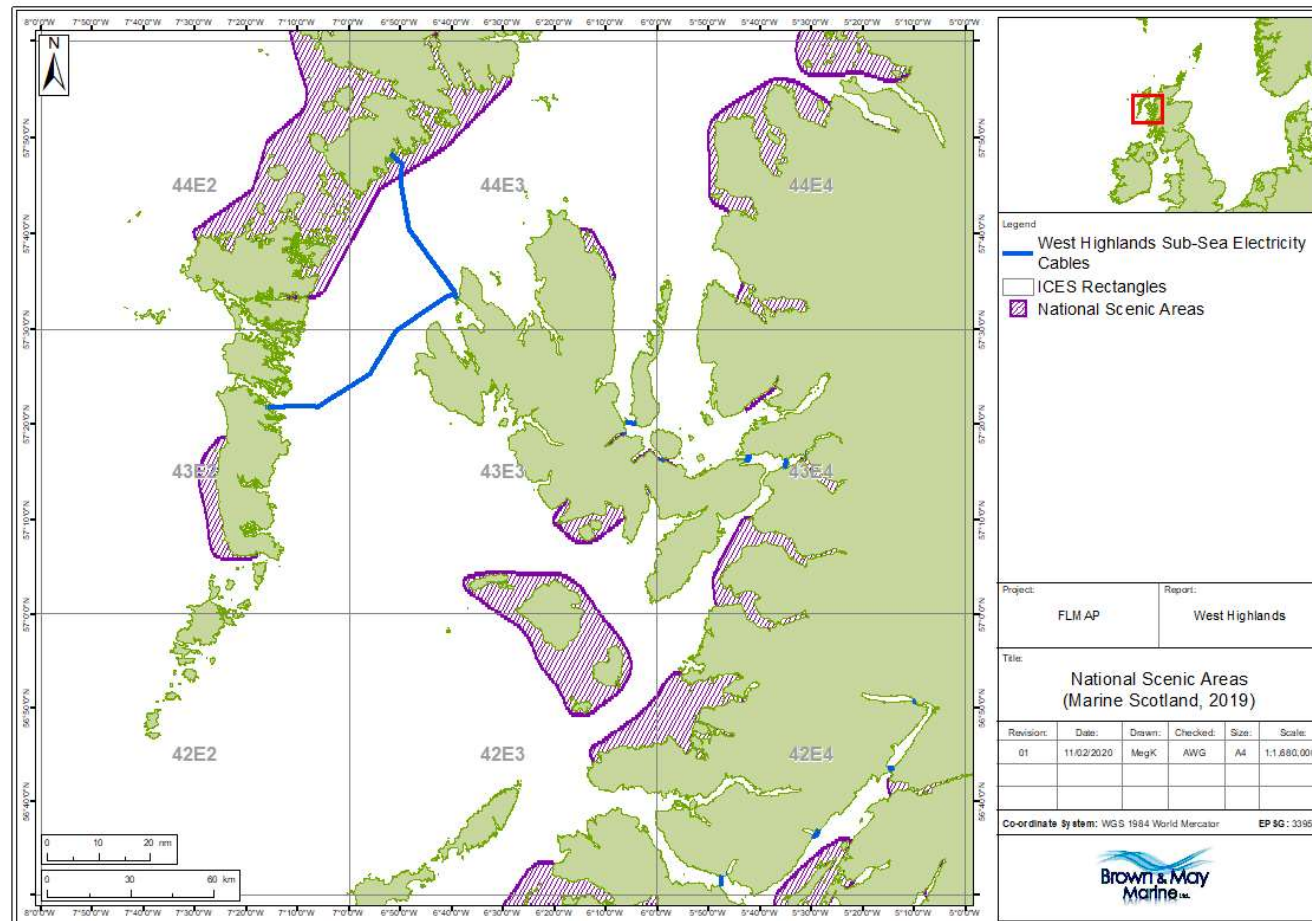


Figure 42 National Scenic Area coastal sites (Marine Scotland 2019)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

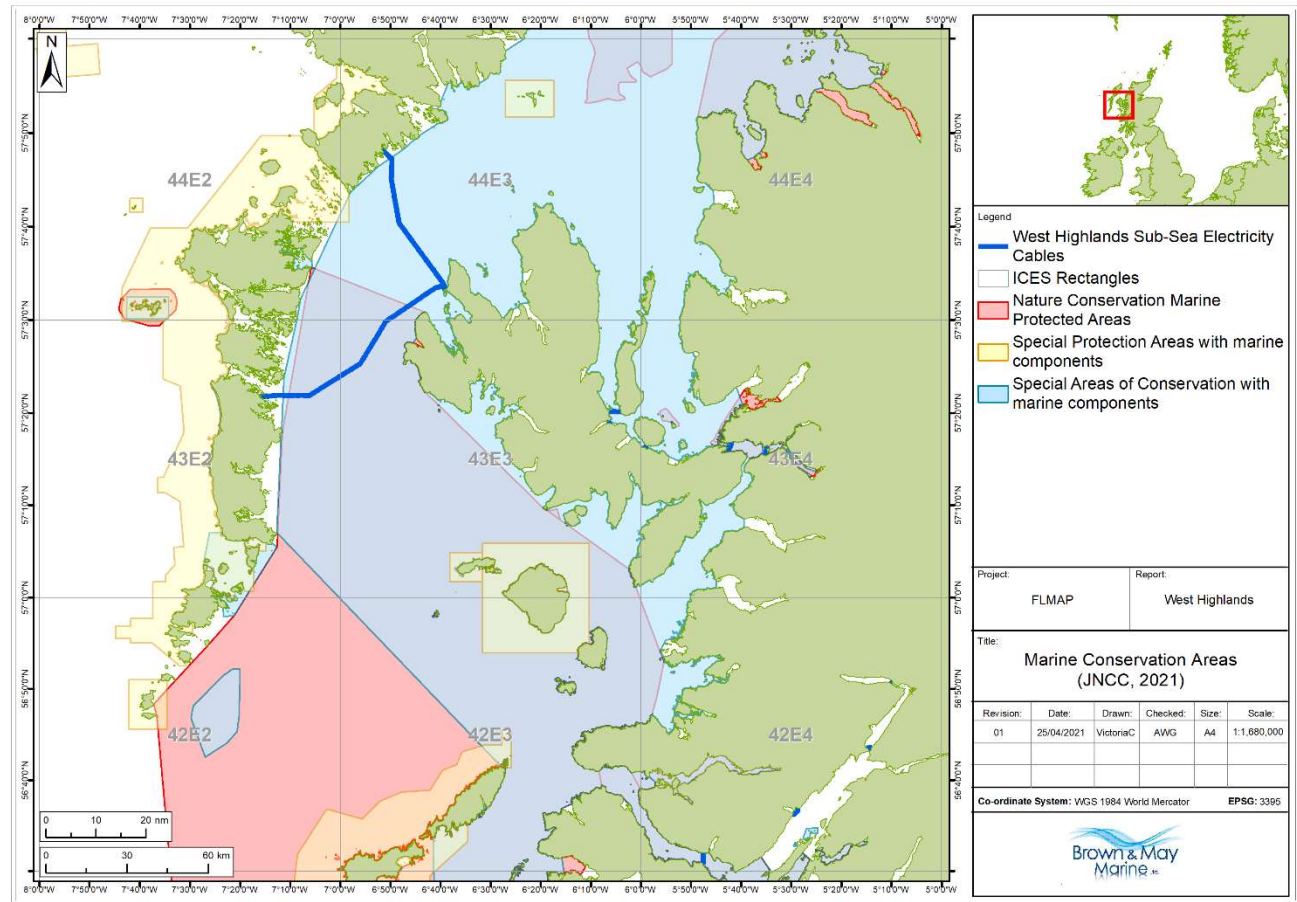


Figure 43 Marine Protected Areas, Special Protection Areas with marine components and Special Areas of Conservation with marine components (JNCC 2021)

	Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands		Applies to	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
Revision: 1.00	Internal Use	Issue Date:	Review Date:	

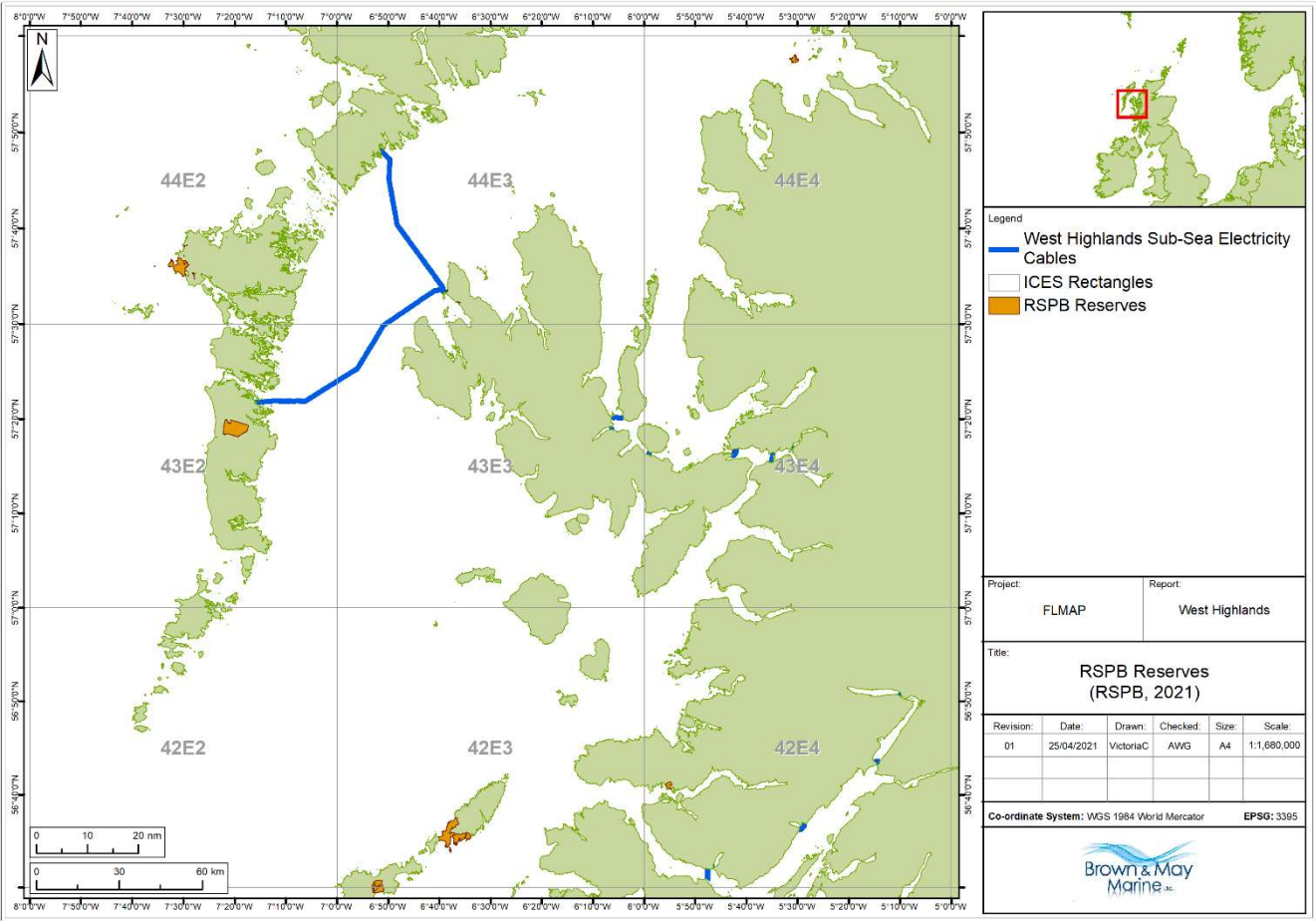


Figure 44 RSPB reserves (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds 2021)



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

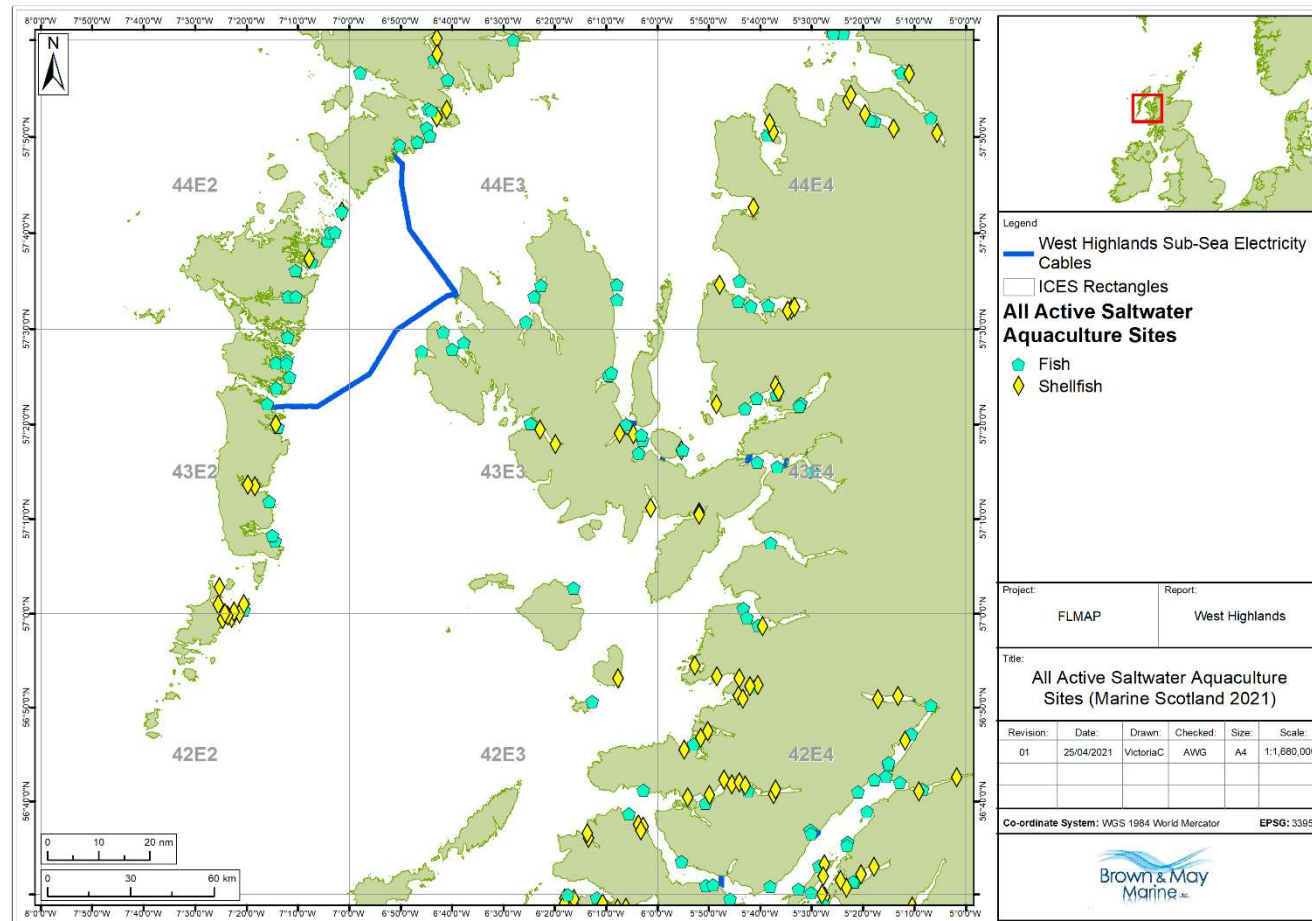


Figure 45 Active saltwater aquaculture sites (Marine Scotland 2021)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

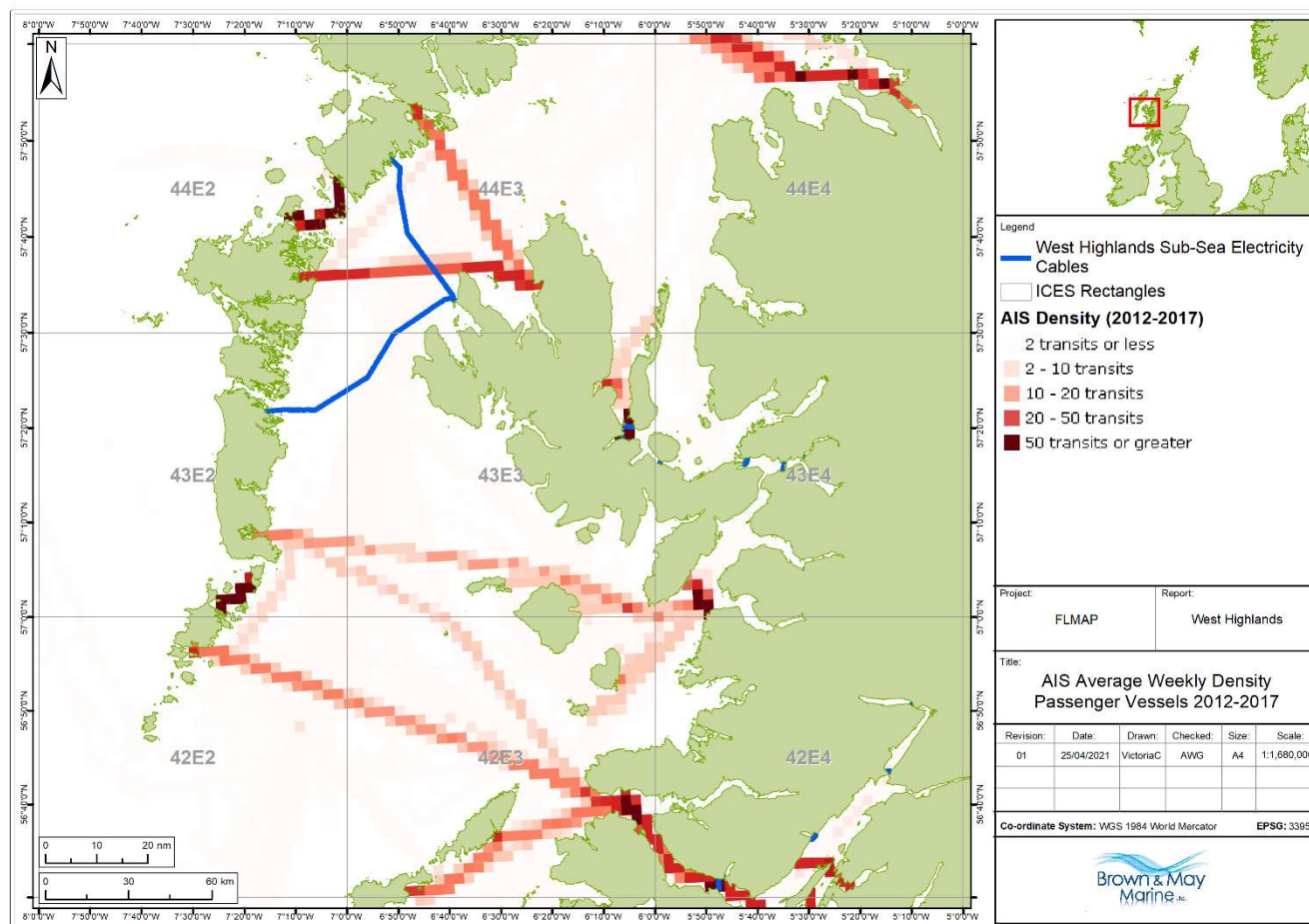


Figure 46 AIS passenger vessels – ferries 2012-2017 (Marine Scotland 2021)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

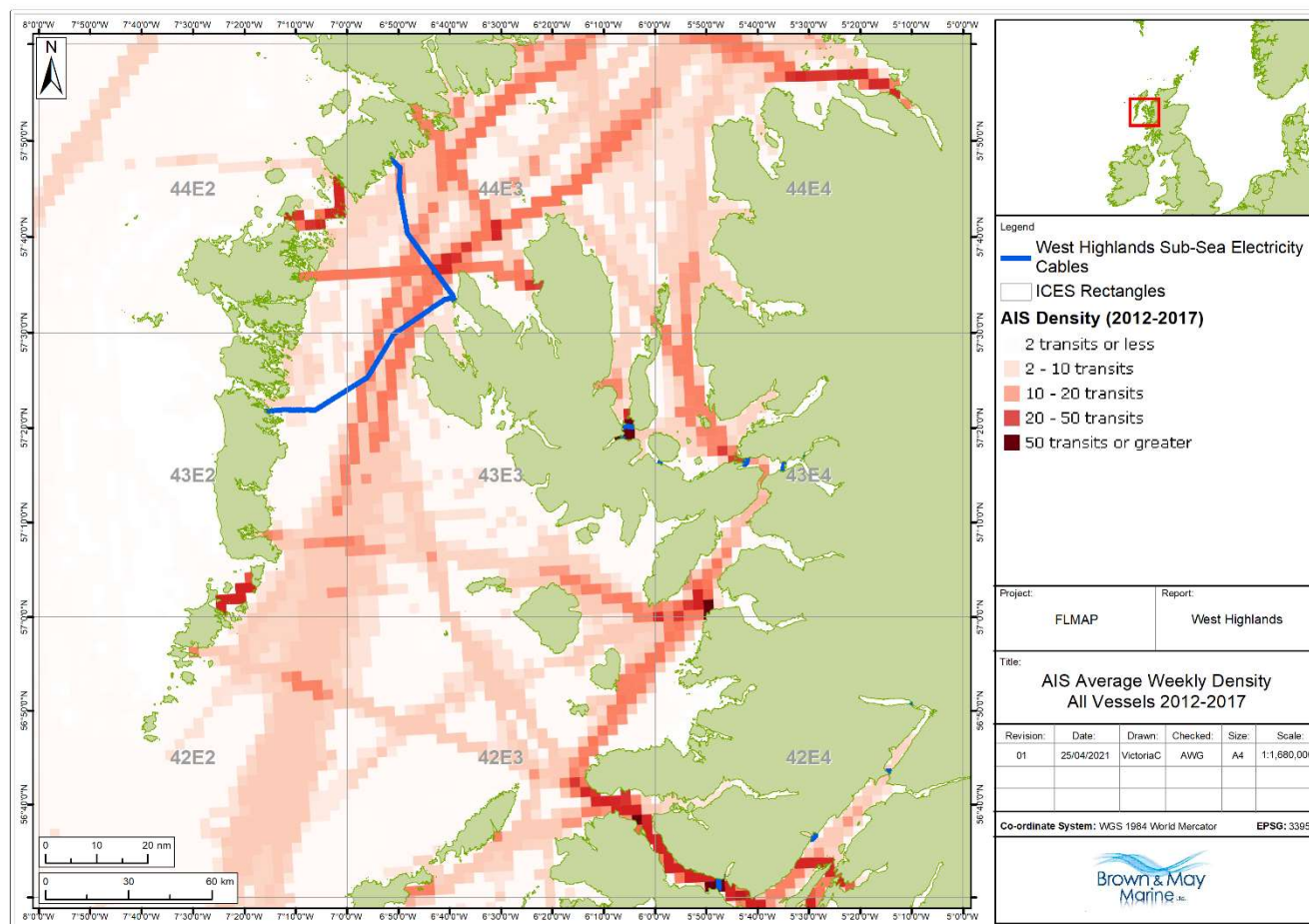


Figure 47 AIS all vessel types 2012-2017 (Marine Scotland 2021)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

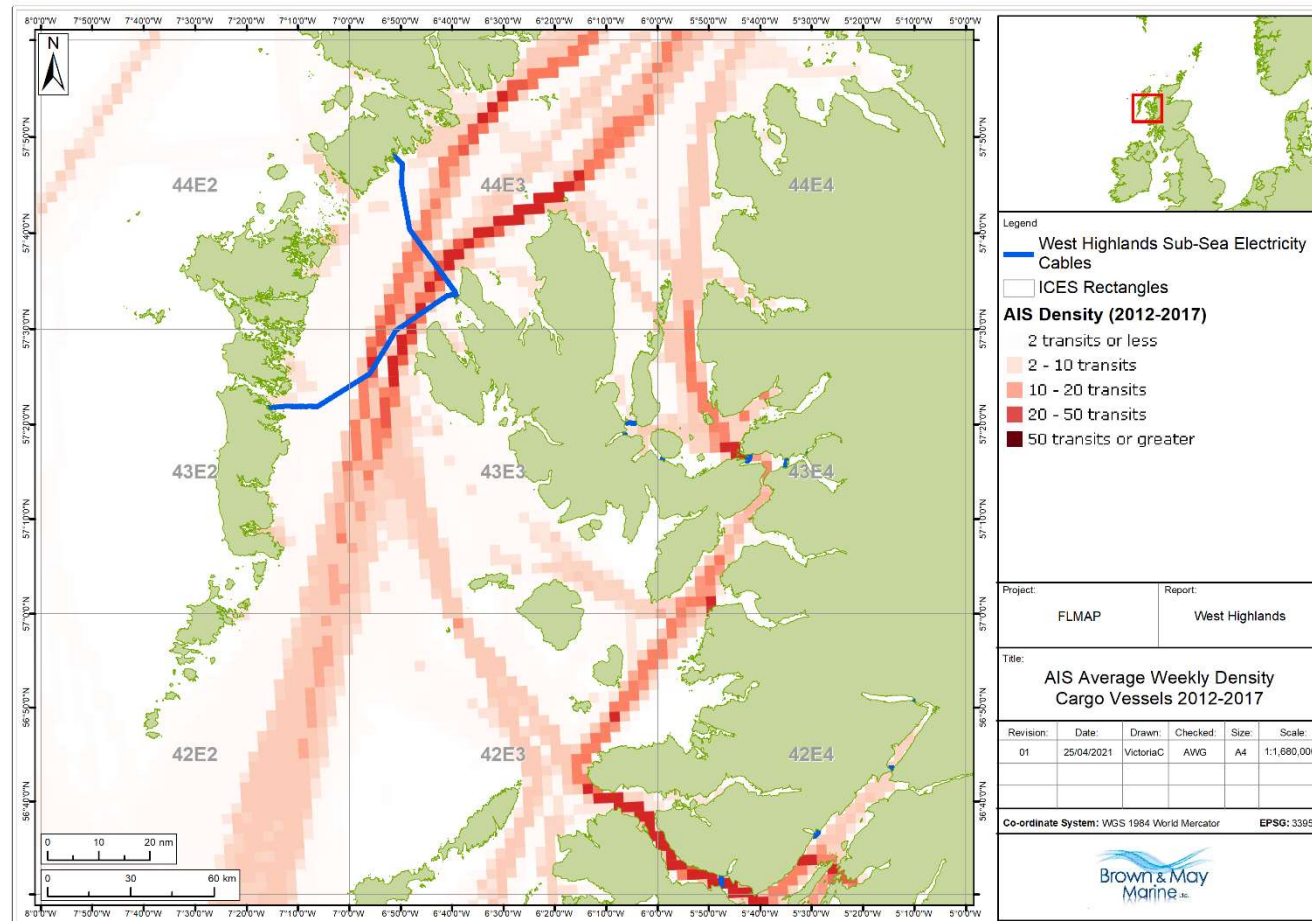


Figure 48 AIS cargo vessels 2012-2017 (Marine Scotland 2021)



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

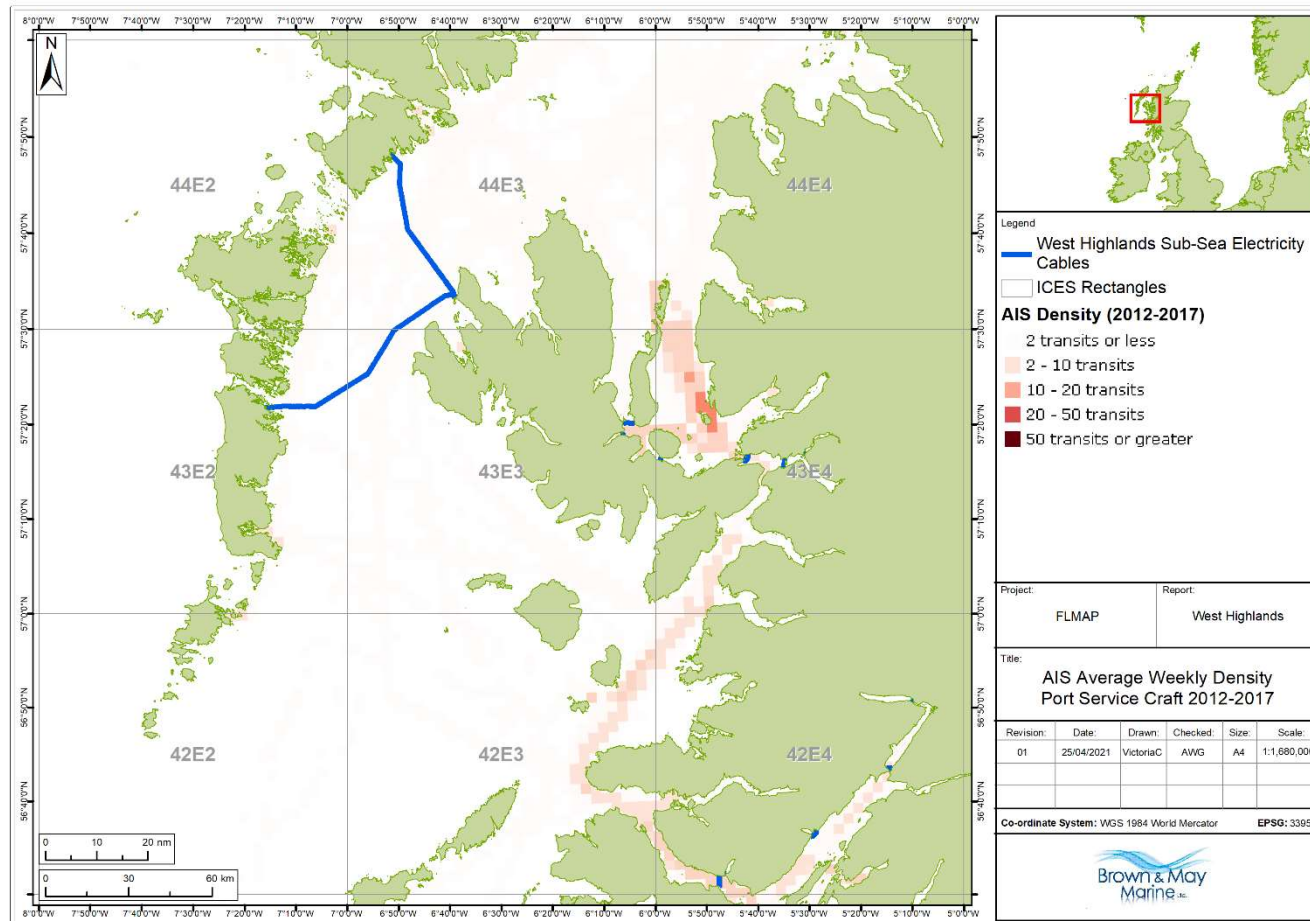


Figure 49 AIS port service craft 2012-2017 (Marine Scotland 2021)

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

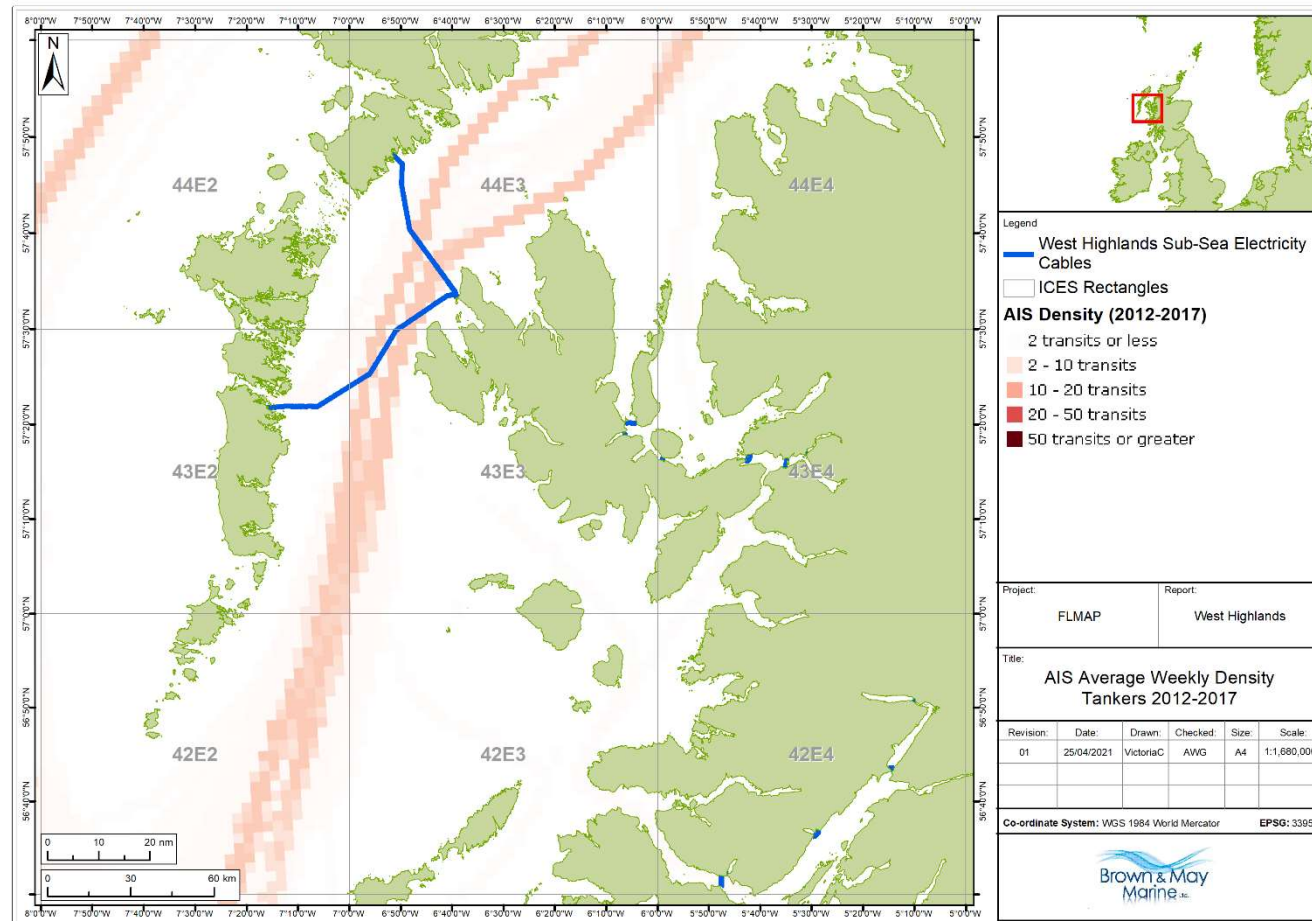


Figure 50 AIS tankers 2012-2017 (Marine Scotland 2021)



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

## Appendix E Cable-Specific Interactions

**Table 39 Interactions for Cables Loch a'Choire North and South**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	Yes	Low levels of activity from demersal stern trawlers, trawlers (all) and potters/whelkers adjacent to the cables.
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £1,491,457 landings value per year, with pots and traps making up almost three quarters of these landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under. The largest proportion of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed by scallops.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	Yes	Average fishing effort of 1-5 hours for mobile gear, but directly adjacent to an area of moderate activity – 10 to 20 hours effort per year.
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	Yes	Average landings value of <£1,000 per year for mobile gear, but directly adjacent to an area of low to moderate landings value – £1,000-£3,000 effort per year.
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	Yes	Average of <1 hour of AIS activity per square km per month.
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is a hotspot of activity approximately 5km southeast.
Power boating	Yes	Low levels of activity directly over the cables, though there is an area of high activity 3.5km south of the cables.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	Low to medium levels of activity shown in the immediate vicinity of the cables.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Motor cruising	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	Medium levels of activity over the cables, with an area of high activity to the south.
Chartered angling	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables, with a hotspot of low activity directly south of the cables.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cables, but there is an area of high activity approximately 4.5km south of the cables.
Yacht racing	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Dinghy racing	No	
Coasteering	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is an area of low activity approximately 6km to the east of the cables.
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Scuba diving	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there are hotspots of activity approximately 3km to the east of the cables.
Rowing and sculling	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Marine archaeology	No	
Conservation designations	No	None directly over the cables, but there is an NSA, Lynn of Lorn, approximately 3km southeast of the cables. An SAC, Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mor is 4km south of the cables.
Aquaculture sites	Yes	Two finfish aquaculture farms, Kingairloch and Loch a'Choire, within the loch. These are run by Mowi Scotland Ltd.
Ferry routes	No	
Local ports	Possible	Nearest port is Glensanda, approximately 4.3km southwest of the cables. This is in the form of a quay and quarry owned and operated by Foster Yeoman, a stone supplier company that exports products to Northern Europe.

**Table 40 Interactions for Cable Loch Eil Narrows**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	No	

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £1,491,457 landings value per year, with pots and traps making up almost three quarters of these landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under. The largest proportion of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed by scallops.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	No	
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	No	
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	No	
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Moderate levels of activity directly over the cable, with an area of high activity directly adjacent to the cable.
Power boating	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	Medium to high levels of activity with the immediate vicinity of the cable, with high levels close by.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Motor cruising	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, with areas of medium to high levels of activity to the right of the cable.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, with an area of moderate to high activity to the east of the cable.
Chartered angling	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, though there is a small area of low activity approximately 2km to the west of the cable.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable, but there is an area of high activity 2.2km east of the cable.
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Yacht racing	No	
Dinghy racing	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is an area of very low to low activity <4km southeast from the cable.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Coasteering	Yes	Very low levels of activity directly over the cable, but there are hotspots of activity approximately 5km to the west and 2km to the right of the cable respectively.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is an area of low activity approximately 6km to the southeast of the cable.
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Scuba diving	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Rowing and sculling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Marine archaeology	No	
Conservation designations	No	
Aquaculture sites	Yes	Since Loch Eil is a narrow, confined area for shipping, the aquaculture farms within the loch, - Loch Eil (Fassfern) and Garvan, located approximately 3.5km and 7.3km west of the cable respectively – may have transiting traffic that could intersect with those used for the cable. These are both operated by Fassfern Mussels. There is a finfish site, Site 1 Head of Loch Linnhe, 3.5km east of the cable.
Ferry routes	No	
Local ports	Possible	The nearest port is Corpach, used for freight and commercial purposes, approximately 2.5km east of the cable. There is a high density of traffic to and from Corpach, which may intersect the cable.

**Table 41 Interactions for Cable Skye-Scalpay**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	No	Within 10km radius there are low levels of activity from potters/whelkers and demersal stern trawlers.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £4,136,186 landings value per year, with pots and traps constituting the majority of landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines and other passive gears. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under in length. The majority of landings are from Nephrops, with lower levels of scallops and crabs.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	No	
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	No	
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	No	
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Very low levels of activity directly over the cable, though there are low levels of activity 1km east of the cable.
Power boating	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable, with an area of low activity approximately 2.5km to the east of the cable.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is a small area of low activity <6km west.
Motor cruising	Yes	Very low activity over the cable, though there is an area of low activity <5km north west.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	Very low activity over the cable.
Chartered angling	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable, with areas of low to moderate activity 8km to the southeast and 6km north.
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Yacht racing	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Dinghy racing	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is an area of very low activity approximately 2.5km east of the cable.
Coasteering	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Scuba diving	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is a hotspot of activity approximately 6km to the east of the cable.
Rowing and sculling	No	
Marine archaeology	No	No wreck sites in the immediate vicinity, but the nearest is 8.3km away.
Conservation designations	Yes	The Cuillin Hills NSA – covers Skye cable landfall. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers central section of cable.
Aquaculture sites	Yes	One shellfish aquaculture site, Scalpay (operated by Scalpay Estate), 4.2km northeast of the cable. A finfish aquaculture site also named Scalpay (operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.) sits 4.4km northeast of the cable. Three finfish sites, Cairidh, Maol Ban and Sconser Quarry, are all within 6km of the cable. These are all operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.
Ferry routes	No	No ferry routes directly over the cable, but a ferry route from Sconser to Raasay (operated by CalMac Ferries) runs approximately 6km northwest of the cable.
Local ports	No	Broadford Pier is located approximately 6.7km east of the cable, and is used primarily for leisure vessels and a few commercial fishing vessels.

**Table 42 Interactions for Cable Lochaline-Mull**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	Yes	Low levels of activity from scallop dredgers (French/Newhaven type) and potters/whelkers.
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £1,491,457 landings value per year, with pots and traps making up almost three quarters of these landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under. The largest proportion of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed by scallops.



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	Yes	Average fishing effort of 1-5 hours for dredging and mobile gear, and directly adjacent to an area of moderate activity (10-20 hours).
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	Yes	Average landings value of <£1,000 per year for mobile gear.
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	Yes	Average of 2 hours of AIS activity per square km per month.
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Hotspot of activity directly adjacent to the cable.
Power boating	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	Medium levels of activity over the cable.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Motor cruising	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Chartered angling	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Yacht racing	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Dinghy racing	No	
Coasteering	Yes	There are two hotspots of activity in the vicinity, with the outer bounds of these intersecting with each end of the cable.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Scuba diving	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Rowing and sculling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Marine archaeology	Yes	Possible interaction with wreck sites.
Conservation designations	Yes	Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA – covers entirety of cable. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers entirety of cable.
Aquaculture sites	Possible	Three finfish aquaculture sites within the vicinity of the cable: Fishnish (A), Fishnish (B) and Scallastle, all within 3km of the cable. Another, Fiunary, is 8.8km northwest of the cable. These are all operated by Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
Ferry routes	Yes	There is a ferry route from Lochaline to Mull (Fishnish) that intersects the cable. This route is operated by CalMac Ferries. Two more, from Oban-Coll and from Oban-Barra (Castlebay) also intersect the cable route. These are also operated by CalMac Ferries.
Local ports	Yes	The ports of Lochaline and Fishnish lie adjacent to the cable.

**Table 43 Interactions for Cable Lochalsh (Glenelg)**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	No	Within 10km radius there are low levels of activity from scallop dredgers (French/Newhaven type) and potters/whelkers.
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £4,136,186 landings value per year, with pots and traps constituting the majority of landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines and other passive gears. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under in length. The majority of landings are from Nephrops, with lower levels of scallops and crabs.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	Yes	Average fishing effort of <1 hour for dredging and mobile gear. Adjacent to an area of moderately high activity (20-50 hours).
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	Yes	Average landings value of <£1,000 per year for dredging and mobile gear over the cable. Adjacent to an area of £3,000-£6,000 average landings value for both dredging and mobile gear.
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	Yes	Average of 2 hours of AIS activity per square km per month.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Low levels of activity directly over the cable, though there is an area of high activity approximately 1.5km right of the cable.
Power boating	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable, with an area of low activity approximately 5.5km west of the cable.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	Medium to high levels of activity over the cable, with high levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low Levels of activity over the cable.
Motor cruising	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, with areas of moderate to high level activity to the left of the cable.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cable, with an area of high activity approximately 2km to the west of the cable.
Chartered angling	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable but there is a small area of moderate activity approximately 6km to the west of the cable.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cable. There is an area of high activity approximately 3km east of the cable.
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Yacht racing	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, though there is an area of low activity <2km to the west of the cable.
Dinghy racing	No	
Coasteering	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	No activity directly over the cable, but there is an area of low activity approximately 0.5km to the east of the cable.
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Scuba diving	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable, though there is an area of high activity directly adjacent to it.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Rowing and sculling	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Marine archaeology	No	No wreck sites in the immediate vicinity, but the nearest is 6.5km away.
Conservation designations	Yes	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh MPA – covers entirety of cable. Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC – covers entirety of cables. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – adjacent to cable.
Aquaculture sites	Possible	One finfish aquaculture site, Ardintoul, 1.5km west of the cable. Another, Loch Alsh (Sron) is located 5.5km to the west of the cable, and Loch Duich, is approximately 7km southeast of the cable. These are all operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.
Ferry routes	No	
Local ports	Possible	Nearest port is Kyle of Lochalsh, approximately 8km west of the cables, a busy deep-water port (greater than 7m), which plays host to a variety of cargo, fishing, fish farming, leisure and small to medium sized cruise liners.

**Table 44 Interactions for Cables Corran Narrows North, Centre and South**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	No	Within 10km radius there are low levels of activity from demersal stern trawlers and potters/whelkers.
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £1,491,457 landings value per year, with pots and traps making up almost three quarters of these landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under. The largest proportion of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed by scallops.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	No	No effort directly over the cables, but adjacent to an area of very low activity (<1 hour).
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	No	
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	Yes	Low levels over the cables (≤0.5 hours per square km per month). Adjacent to an area of slightly higher activity (2-3 hours per square km per month).
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Power boating	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables, with an area of high activity 9km southwest of the cables.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is a small area of low activity <5km south.
Motor cruising	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Chartered angling	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables, with an area of high activity approximately 1km south of the cables.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables, but there is an area of moderate activity approximately 5km south of the cables.
Yacht racing	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is an area of low activity approximately 2km to the southwest of the cable.
Dinghy racing	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Coasteering	Yes	Very low activity directly over the cables, but there are hotspots of activity approximately 5km to the east and 5km to the south of the cables respectively.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Water skiing/wakeboarding	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Scuba diving	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cables.
Rowing and sculling	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Marine archaeology	No	
Conservation designations	No	None directly over the cables, but there is an NSA, Ben Nevis and Glencoe, approximately 2.5km south of the cables.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Aquaculture sites	Yes	Two finfish aquaculture sites, Linnhe (operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.) and Site 2 North of the Corran Narrows, 600m and 1km north of the cables respectively.
Ferry routes	Yes	There is a ferry route from Nether Lochaber to Ardgour that runs directly adjacent to the cables. This route is operated by Highland Council.
Local ports	Yes	Ardgour ferry terminal lies adjacent to the cables, used for the Nether Lochaber-Ardgour service.

**Table 45 Interactions for Cables Kyle-Skye North and South**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	Yes	Moderate levels of activity from potters/whelkers, trawlers and a single sighting of a scallop dredger.
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £4,136,186 landings value per year, with pots and traps constituting the majority of landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines and other passive gears. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under in length. The majority of landings are from Nephrops, with lower levels of scallops and crabs.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	Yes	Average fishing effort of 1-5 hours for dredging and mobile gear.
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	Yes	Average landings value of <£1,000 per year for dredging and mobile gear over the cable. There is an area of £3,000-£6,000 average landings value for both dredging and mobile gear approximately 3km east of the cable.
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	Yes	Average of 2 hours of AIS activity per square km per month over the cable midsections, with average of 100+ hours at each of the cables' landfalls.
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Power boating	Yes	Very low to low levels of activity over the cables.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Motor cruising	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Chartered angling	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cables.
Yacht racing	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Dinghy racing	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is an area of very low activity approximately 3.5km east of the cables.
Coasteering	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables., though there is a hotspot of activity approximately 5km east of the cables.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is an area of low activity approximately 8km to the east of the cables.
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Scuba diving	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Rowing and sculling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Marine archaeology	Yes	Possible interaction with wreck sites.
Conservation designations	Yes	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh MPA – covers entirety of cables. Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC – covers entirety of cables.
Aquaculture sites	Possible	One finfish aquaculture site, Loch Alsh (Sron) 1.8km east of the cables, and another, Ardintoul, 5.8km east. These are both operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.
Ferry routes	No	
Local ports	Yes	Kyle of Lochalsh Harbour lies adjacent to the cables. Kyleakin is also adjacent to the Isle of Skye cable landfall, and is used by leisure and fishing vessels.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

**Table 46 Interactions for Cables Loch Sligachan-Skye East and West**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	No	Within 10km radius there is a single demersal stern trawler sighting.
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £5,878,831 landings value per year, with demersal trawls/seines constituting the highest proportion of landings followed by pots and traps. There is a much lower proportion of landings from dredges. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are from vessels over 10m. The majority of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed at much lower levels by other demersal species, scallops and crabs.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	Yes	Average fishing effort of 5-10 hours for dredging and mobile gear. Adjacent to an area of high (50-100 hours) activity.
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	Yes	Average landings value of £1,000-£3,000 per year for dredging and £3,000-£6,000 for mobile gear over the cable. Adjacent to an area of £10,000-£20,000 average landings value for both dredging and mobile gear.
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	No	
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Very low levels of activity directly over the cables, though but there is a hotspot of low to medium activity approximately 1.3km west.
Power boating	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables, with an area of low activity approximately 2.5km to the east of the cables.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	Low Levels of activity in immediate vicinity, high levels close by the cables.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Low Levels of activity by the cables.
Motor cruising	Yes	Low Levels of activity in immediate vicinity of the cables, close to an area of high intensity motor cruising activity.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	Low Levels in immediate vicinity of the cables, close to an area of medium sailing and cruising activity.
Chartered angling	Yes	Low Levels in immediate vicinity of the cables.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables, but there is an area of high activity 3km east of the cables.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low Levels in immediate vicinity of the cables.
Yacht racing	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cables.
Dinghy racing	No	No activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is an area of very low activity approximately 4km northwest of the cables.
Coasteering	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Scuba diving	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cables, but there is a hotspot of activity approximately 4km to the north of the cables.
Rowing and sculling	No	
Marine archaeology	No	No wreck sites in the immediate vicinity, but the nearest is 3.2km away.
Conservation designations	Yes	The Cuillin Hills NSA – covers Sconser landfall of cables. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – cable falls just left of this.
Aquaculture sites	Possible	Two shellfish aquaculture sites, Loch Sligachan and the Moll, are 1km and 1.7km from the cables respectively. These are both run by Oakes Marine The finfish sites Sconser, Sconser Quarry and Maol Ban are all within 5km of the cables. These are both operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.
Ferry routes	Yes	There is a ferry route from Skye (Sconser) to Raasay (Churchton Bay) which intersects the cables. This route is operated by CalMac Ferries.
Local ports	Yes	Sconser lies adjacent to the cables.

**Table 47 Interactions for Cable Skye-Harris**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	Yes	High levels of demersal stern trawler activity over the cable route, with lower levels of potter/whelkers, trawlers (all) and scallop dredgers (French/Newhaven type) activity. Two Norwegian stern trawlers and a French demersal stern trawler have been sighted within 10km of the cable.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £4,598,766 landings value per year, with pots and traps constituting the largest proportion of landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines and dredges. Almost three quarters of landings are from the over 10m fleet. The largest proportion of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed by scallops and crabs.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	Yes	Moderate-high levels of fishing activity, with up to 50 hours of dredging effort along cable (at the Skye landfall), and mobile gear activity shown at over 100 hours in the central portion of the cable. Low levels of potting/trapping activity (1-5 hours).
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	Yes	Moderate-high landings values over the cable, with an area of >£35,000 per year for mobile gear in the nearshore Harris area, and £10,000-£20,000 average dredging value at the Skye landfall of the cable. There are very low levels (<£1,000) of potting/ trapping value as well.
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	Yes	Low to medium levels of AIS activity within the cable corridor, with a small pocket of 10-20 hours per square km per month towards the nearshore area at Harris.
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the Skye landfall of the cable, though there is an area of high activity approximately 7km west of the cable at Harris. There is another area of low activity on Harris 5km east of the cable. Much of the cable records no activity.
Power boating	Yes	Low levels of activity over the nearshore Harris section of the cable, with very low levels of activity elsewhere.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	Medium level of activity over the nearshore Harris portion of the cable route, with low levels over the rest of the cable.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables.
Motor cruising	Yes	Low to medium levels of activity in the nearshore regions of the cable route, with very low to low levels elsewhere along the route.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, with small area of moderate activity in the nearshore Harris area.
Chartered angling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Low levels of activity at the Harris landfall of the cable, with very low levels of activity elsewhere over the cable. There is an area of moderate activity approximately 7.5km southeast of the cable.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Yacht racing	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Dinghy racing	No	
Coasteering	Yes	There is a hotspot of activity at the Skye landfall of the cable.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Scuba diving	Yes	High levels of activity at the Skye landfall of the cable, with a smaller hotspot of activity towards the centre of the route. Another area of moderate activity is approximately 4km west of the cable at Harris. Elsewhere activity levels are very low.
Rowing and sculling	No	
Marine archaeology	No	No wreck sites in the immediate vicinity, but the nearest is 7.6km away.
Conservation designations	Yes	South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA – covers Harris cable landfall. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers entirety of cable.
Aquaculture sites	Possible	The finfish aquaculture site Loch Stockinish is situated 2.5km away from the Harris landfall of the cable. This is operated by the Scottish Salmon Company.
Ferry routes	Yes	There is a ferry route from Skye (Uig) to North Uist (Lochmaddy) that intersects the cable route. Another ferry route, from Uig to Tarbert, lies approximately 10km away. These routes are both operated by CalMac Ferries.
Local ports	Possible	Stockinish Harbour is located approximately 2km east of the cable at the Harris landfall. This is used mainly by fishing vessels and leisure craft.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

**Table 48 Interactions for Cable Skye-South Uist**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	Yes	There is a single sighting of a UK-registered scallop dredger (French/Newhaven type) and a potter/whelker directly over the cable at the South Uist nearshore area. Within a 10km radius, there are moderate levels of UK potter/whelker activity, and lower levels of demersal stern trawler and scallop dredger (French/Newhaven type) activity from UK vessels. There are four sightings of Irish vessels: two purse seiners, a pelagic stern trawler and a trawler (all). One Danish stern trawler has also been sighted..
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	(ICES 43E2) average of £3,064,649 landings value per year, with pots and traps constituting the majority of landings, followed at much lower levels by demersal trawls/seines and dredges. There is a 59%/41% split between vessel over 10m and vessels 10m and under. The largest proportion of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed by crabs, then lobsters.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	Yes	Generally low levels of both dredging and mobile gear activity (up to 20 hours) along cable, except for each landfall section, with high levels of activity – average of 50-100 hours effort annually. Low to moderate potting and trapping activity concentrated in cable centre (5-20 hours).
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	Yes	There are moderate landings values (£10,000-£20,000) at the South Uist landfall of the cable for both dredging and mobile gear, with some more pockets along the centre of the route. There are moderate landings values for potting and trapping at the centre of the cable, between £6,000 and £20,000 landings per year.
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	Yes	Low activity levels across the cable, with higher levels of activity in the nearshore/landfall South Uist portion; up to 10 hours per square km per month.
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the Skye landfall of the cable, with hotspots of low to medium activity between 5-6km southeast of the cable. Much of the cable records no activity.
Power boating	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	Medium level of activity over the nearshore Harris portion of the cable route, with low levels over the rest of the cable.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the nearshore South Uist section of the cable, with no other activity elsewhere.



	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Motor cruising	Yes	Low to medium levels of activity in the nearshore Skye region of the cable route, with very low to low levels elsewhere along the route.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, with an area of moderate activity at the South Uist landfall.
Chartered angling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Low levels of activity at the South Uist landfall of the cable, with very low levels of activity elsewhere over the cable. There is an area of moderate activity approximately 3.8km east of the cable.
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Yacht racing	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Dinghy racing	No	
Coasteering	Yes	There is a hotspot of activity at the Skye landfall of the cable, with another hotspot approximately 5km south of the South Uist landfall, and another 5km to the southeast of the cable at Waterstein on Skye.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Scuba diving	Yes	High levels of activity at the Skye landfall of the cable, with more activity along the northwest coast of Skye within 4km of the cable. Elsewhere activity levels are very low.
Rowing and sculling	No	
Marine archaeology	Yes	Possible interaction with wreck sites.
Conservation designations	Yes	Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers entirety of cable. Sea of Hebrides MPA – covers majority of the cable.
Aquaculture sites	Yes	The finfish aquaculture site Loch Carnan (operated by Loch Duart Ltd.), lies 770m north of the cable at the South Uist landfall. Further finfish sites within 5km of the cable landfall are Kilerivagh (Petersport), and Orinish Island, operated by the Scottish Salmon Company and Mowi Scotland Ltd respectively. There is a shellfish aquaculture site, Loch Skipport (Whiteshore Cockles Ltd.), 4.5km southwest of the cable on South Uist.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Ferry routes	No	No ferry routes directly over the cable, but a ferry route from Uig to Lochmaddy runs approximately 3km north of the cable.
Local ports	No	Nearest port is Lochmaddy (on North Uist), approximately 22km northwest of the cable. Lochboisdale is approximately 28km south of the cable.

**Table 49 Interactions for Cable Skye-Raasay**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	No	Within 10km radius there is a single demersal stern trawler sighting.
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £5,878,831 landings value per year, with demersal trawls/seines constituting the highest proportion of landings followed by pots and traps. There is a much lower proportion of landings from dredges. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are from vessels over 10m. The majority of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed at much lower levels by other demersal species, scallops and crabs.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	Yes	High levels of fishing activity, with an average fishing effort of 50-100 hours for dredging and mobile gear.
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	Yes	Average landings value of £10,000-£20,000 per year for dredging and mobile gear.
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	Yes	Average of <1 hour of AIS activity per square km per month.
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Hotspot of low to medium activity directly adjacent to the cable.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Power boating	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	High levels of activity over the cables.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Low Levels of activity over the cable.
Motor cruising	Yes	Medium to high levels of activity over the cable.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable, with higher levels of activity towards Raasay.
Chartered angling	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable, but there is an area of moderate activity <2km to the south of the cable.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cables, but there is an area of high activity 3km east of the cables.
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Yacht racing	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Dinghy racing	Yes	There is an area of very low activity directly adjacent to the Raasay landfall of the cable.
Coasteering	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable., though there is a hotspot of activity approximately 4.5km north of the cable.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Scuba diving	Yes	Very low levels of activity in the immediate vicinity of the cable, but there is a hotspot of activity <1km to the north of the cable.
Rowing and sculling	No	
Marine archaeology	Yes	Possible interaction with wreck sites.
Conservation designations	Yes	Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – covers entirety of cable.

	<b>Fishing Liaison Mitigation Action Plan for West Highlands</b>		<b>Applies to</b>	
			Distribution ✓	Transmission ✗
<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Aquaculture sites	Yes	Sconser finfish aquaculture site (operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd.) is approximately 360m south of the cable. Additional finfish sites Sconser Quarry and Maol Ban, and shellfish sites Loch Sligachan and the Moll, are all within 4km of the cable.
Ferry routes	Yes	There is a ferry route from Skye (Sconser) to Raasay (Churchton Bay) that intersects the cable route.
Local ports	Yes	There is a ferry terminal, Suisnish, on the Isle of Raasay, that is adjacent to the cable landfall. The nearest commercial port is Sconser, approximately 2.2km south of the cable.

**Table 50 Interactions for Cable Lochaline (Ardtornish)**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	Yes	There are two potters/whelkers and a demersal stern trawler sighted within 700m of the cable. Within 10km radius there are low levels of activity from scallop dredgers (French/Newhaven type), demersal stern trawlers, trawlers (all) and potters/whelkers.
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £1,491,457 landings value per year, with pots and traps making up almost three quarters of these landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under. The largest proportion of landings value comes from Nephrops, followed by scallops.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	Yes	Average fishing effort of 1-5 hours for dredging and mobile gear.
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	Yes	Average landings value of <£1,000 per year for dredging and mobile gear.
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	No	
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.

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Activity	Interaction	Notes
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable , adjacent to area of high activity.
Power boating	Yes	Moderate to high levels of activity over the cable.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	Medium levels of activity over the cable.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Motor cruising	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Sailing and cruising	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Chartered angling	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable, but there is an area of high activity approximately 1km to the southwest of the cable.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low to moderate levels of activity over the cable, however there is an area of moderate activity approximately 2km south of the cable.
Yacht racing	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable, but there is an area of high activity approximately 1km to the southwest of the cable.
Dinghy racing	No	
Coasteering	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Scuba diving	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Rowing and sculling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Marine archaeology	Yes	Possible interaction with wreck sites.
Conservation designations	Yes	Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA – cable falls just north of this. Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC – cable falls just north of this.
Aquaculture sites	Possible	Three finfish aquaculture sites within the vicinity of the cable: Fishnish (A), Fishnish (B) and Scallastle, all within 6km of the cable.

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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Ferry routes	Yes	There is a ferry route from Lochaline to Fishnish that intersects the cable route.
Local ports	Yes	Lochaline pier/ferry terminal is adjacent to the cable. Fishnish lies approximately 3.5km southwest of the cable.

**Table 51 Interactions for Cable Loch Long (Dornie)**

Activity	Interaction	Notes
MMO Surveillance sightings, 2016-2020	No	Within 10km radius there are low levels of activity from potters/whelkers.
MMO landings value (£) 2015-2019 by species, gear type and gear length	Yes	Average of £4,136,186 landings value per year, with pots and traps constituting the majority of landings, followed by demersal trawls/seines and other passive gears. The largest proportion of vessels returning these landings are 10m and under in length. The majority of landings are from Nephrops, with lower levels of scallops and crabs.
MMO VMS effort (hours) 2015-2019	No	No effort over the cable, though there is an area of <1 hour for dredging and mobile gear 2.6km west of the cable.
MMO VMS landings value (£) 2015-2019	No	No value over the cable, though there is an area of <£,1000 for dredging and mobile gear 2.6km west of the cable.
EMODnet AIS vessel density (fishing) 2019	No	
Bird and wildlife watching	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable.
Visits to historic sites or to attractions	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Power boating	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Canoeing and kayaking	Yes	Medium to high levels of activity with the immediate vicinity of the cable.
Long distance swimming	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Motor cruising	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.



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<b>Revision: 1.00</b>	<b>Internal Use</b>	<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	

Activity	Interaction	Notes
Sailing and cruising	Yes	Very low activity over the cable.
Chartered angling	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Sea angling from shore	Yes	Moderate levels of activity over the cable, though there is an area of high activity adjacent to the south of the cable.
Surfing and paddle boarding	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Yacht racing	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Dinghy racing	No	
Coasteering	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable, though there is a hotspot of activity approximately 3km west of the cable.
Personal water craft (jet skis)	No	
Water skiing/wakeboarding	No	No activity directly over the cable, but there is an area of low activity adjacent to the west of the cable.
Wild fowling	Yes	Very low levels of activity over the cable.
Scuba diving	Yes	High levels of activity over the cable.
Rowing and sculling	Yes	Low levels of activity over the cable.
Marine archaeology	No	
Conservation designations	Yes	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh MPA – covers entirety of cable. Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC – covers entirety of cable. Kintail NSA – cable falls just north of this.
Aquaculture sites	Possible	One finfish aquaculture site, Loch Duich 4km east of the cables.
Ferry routes	No	
Local ports	Yes	Dornie Slipway lies adjacent to the cable, and is used occasionally by local fishing vessels. Eoligarry Pier and Conchra Jetty are located within 1km of the cable, and are also used by fishing boats.