

# REALPOWER

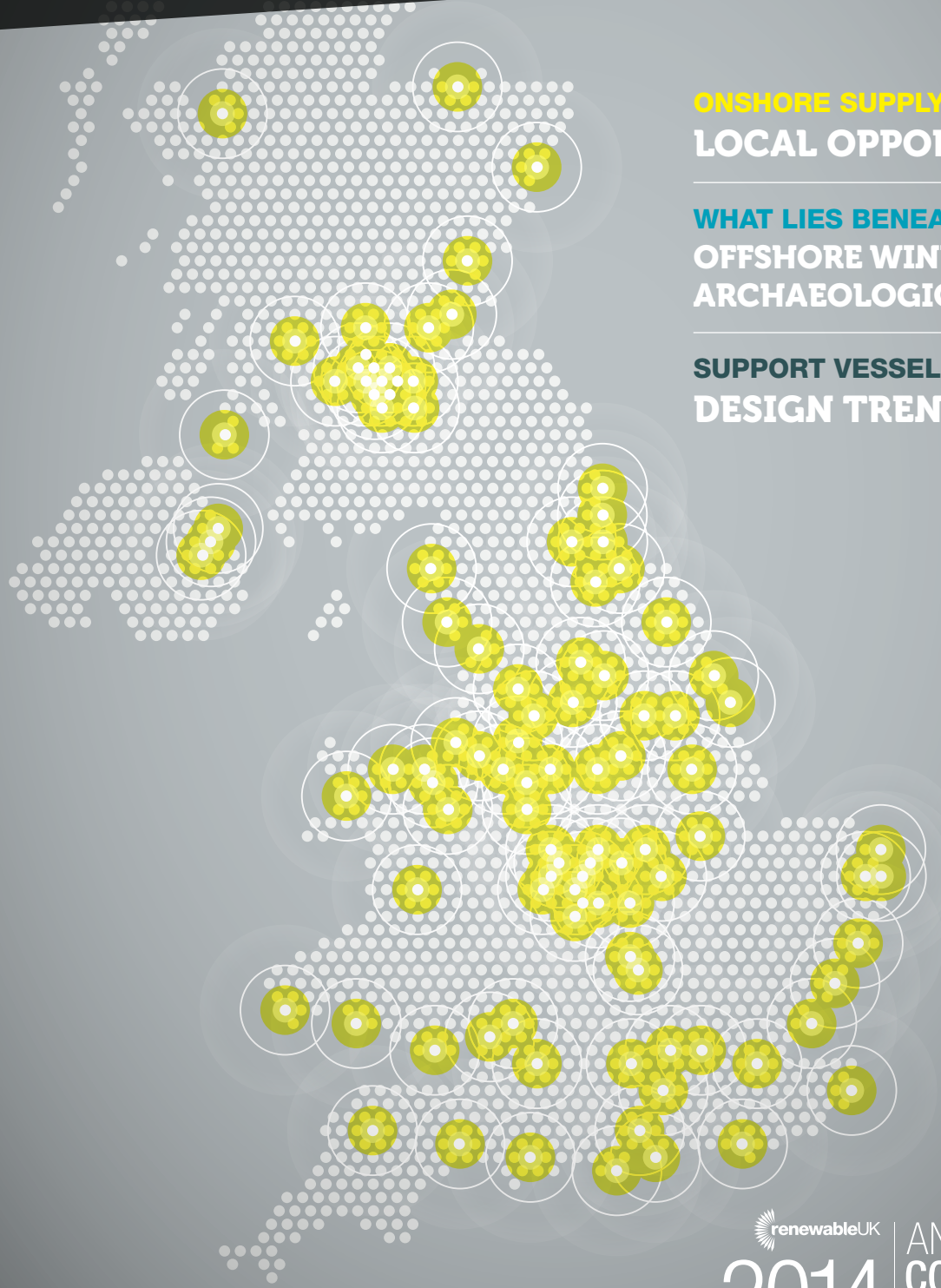
News from the wind and marine energy industries 



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# Collaborating and co-existing with the fishing industry

**The KIS-ORCA project charts the offshore renewable and cable industry activities and structures around the UK, primarily for the safety of fishermen, but also for the protection of assets and the development of an offshore co-existence mindset. Matthew Frow, Kingfisher Information Manager, explains the system.**

As the installation of offshore renewable energy structures increases around the shores of the UK, it is essential that users of the sea are informed of structure locations and development activities taking place. This is important for mariners navigating at sea and critical for the safety of fishermen, due to the equipment they tow and deploy on the seabed.

#### **UK fishing risks**

Fishing is the most dangerous peacetime occupation in the UK, with 200 UK vessels lost and 87 fishermen losing their lives at sea over the past decade<sup>1</sup>. Sadly, in the past, manmade structures have played a part in the loss of life. Following one particularly tragic incident in the late 1990s, four fishermen lost their lives following the loss of their vessel after

they became stuck on a pipeline span. This hazard was not charted on admiralty navigation charts.

Following a Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) inquiry into the tragedy<sup>2</sup>, the lack of practical information and awareness of many offshore hazards was highlighted. The MAIB called on the offshore industries to ensure more was done to make fishermen aware of hazards and





cited the work of the Kingfisher division of Seafish in fulfilling such a role. Seafish is a non-departmental public body, whose Kingfisher division has worked with the fishing industry since the 1960s, providing mapping and information to fishermen.

#### Hazard awareness

The reaction to the MAIB directive has been impressive, with the offshore oil and gas, and subsea cable industries, now wholeheartedly supporting fishing awareness projects. Subsea Cables UK, Oil & Gas UK and their members, representing more than 75 global organisations, have supported these projects for more than 15 years. Mick Borwell, Environmental Issues Director for Oil & Gas UK, confirmed, “The oil and gas and fishing industries have a well-established history of working side by side on the UK Continental

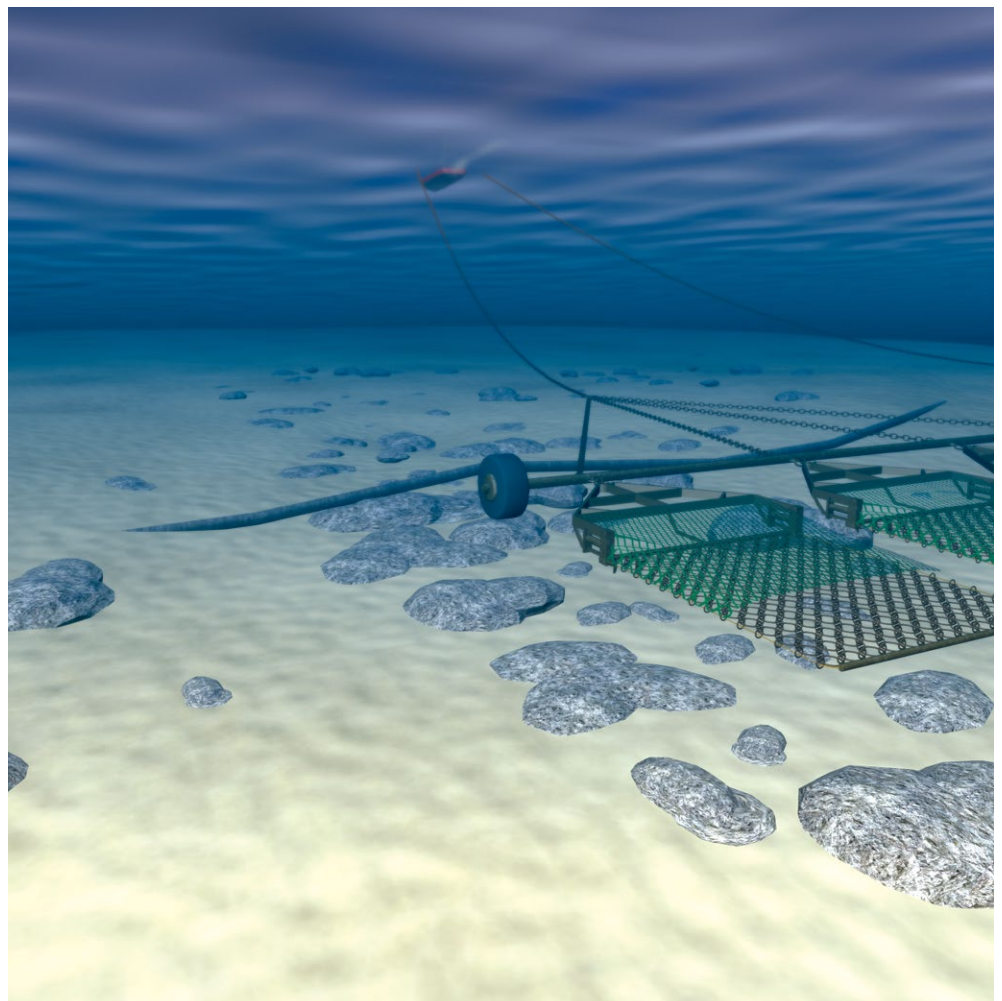
## “Fishing is the most dangerous peacetime occupation in the UK.”

**Left**  
Information supplied through KIS-ORCA ensures fishermen have access to accurate, up-to-date and practical information on the location of offshore structures

**Below**  
To work safely, fishermen need access to accurate, up-to-date and practical information on the location of offshore structures

Shelf. Many systems and processes have been put in place to promote the awareness of oil and gas structures and support safe working practices.”

These additional awareness projects are critical to the promotion of offshore structure and cable locations. As highlighted by the MAIB inquiry, many offshore industry structures and hazards are not included on admiralty charts used for navigating at sea. Those that are mapped are often not identified in sufficient detail, or available in a format that makes them practical to use when operating at sea. >>



“KIS-ORCA information is the most accurate, detailed and up-to-date available.”

**KIS-ORCA**

Today, information supplied through the KIS-ORCA (Kingfisher Information Service – Offshore Renewable and Cable Awareness) project ensures fishermen have access to accurate, up-to-date and practical information on the location of offshore structures. Fishermen are now able to see the location of renewable energy structures, subsea cables and associated hazards in detail, giving them a clear picture of the subsea environment they are working in. The KIS-ORCA project, managed by Kingfisher in co-operation with Subsea Cables UK and RenewableUK, aims to ensure that renewable energy and subsea cable industry structures are mapped and supplied to fishermen and seabed users in a range of practical formats.

Dave Fenner, acting Fishing Safety Manager for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, commented, “Supplying fishermen with accurate locations of offshore structures allows skippers to make informed decisions when fishing in the vicinity of these potentially hazardous structures to ensure that they are operating as safely as possible.”

**Accessing the data**

KIS-ORCA information is the most accurate, detailed and up-to-date available. The information is publicly

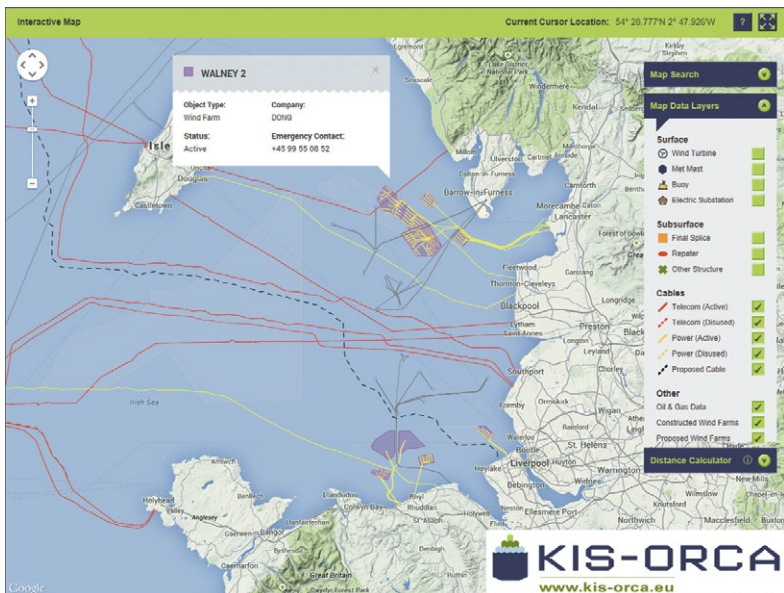
available via [www.kis-orca.eu](http://www.kis-orca.eu), where an interactive Google map, offshore activity news and downloadable charts may be accessed. The most important element of KIS-ORCA to fishermen is seen as the supply of information for their fishing plotter systems. These electronic systems contain a vast array of information and are the tool fishermen use in their wheelhouse on a daily basis. Kingfisher converts KIS-ORCA information into formats used by these systems, allowing them to be easily installed and viewed by the skipper.

Colin Warwick, National Fisheries Liaison Officer for The Crown Estate, stated, “The majority of fishermen use a fishing plotter system on their vessel. Having access to a layer of information containing accurate locations of offshore structures and hazards means skippers can see exactly where their vessel is in relation to an offshore structure, cable or hazard. This is vital for safe fishing and in reducing the likelihood of a vessel impacting a structure.”

KIS-ORCA information includes all subsea cable systems in Northern Europe and UK wind farms, with the project team working to include all types of renewable energy structures in the near future. More than 2,500 fishing plotter CDs are distributed annually throughout the fishing industry by the Scottish Fishermen’s

The KIS-ORCA project is non-profit making, with running costs associated with the maintenance of data, chart and CD production and promotion to fishermen covered by contributions from asset-owning companies. These costs are kept to a minimum and calculated pro-rata, depending on the number of structures and length of cable installed. For more information on KIS-ORCA, please visit [www.kis-orca.eu](http://www.kis-orca.eu) or contact the Kingfisher division of Seafish on +44 (0)1472 252300.

**“RenewableUK supports the important work of the KIS-ORCA project.”**



Left KIS-ORCA screen grab

Federations (SFF), the National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations (NFFO) and Kingfisher. While this ensures great coverage throughout the industry, Kingfisher is also pleased to respond to CD or chart requests from fisheries liaison officers of KIS-ORCA member companies.

Chris Streatfeild, Director of Health and Safety at RenewableUK, commented, “RenewableUK supports the important work of the KIS-ORCA project. We see this as a vital tool to promote safe fishing activities, while helping to protect operator assets and the integrity of the UK renewable energy industry. The collective benefits of KIS-ORCA are great.”

1. Cumulated MAIB Annual Report figures.
2. MAIB Accident Report 4/98 – Report of the Inspector’s Inquiry into the loss of the Fishing Vessel WESTHAVEN AH 190.