



# An Introduction to **KIS-ORCA**

*“The KIS-ORCA project is the gold standard of its type and so much more than just a website. By being part of KIS-ORCA you are demonstrating that you are doing all that is reasonably practicable to safeguard your assets and those that may encounter them.”*

**Peter Jamieson,**  
Virgin Media and ESCA Chairman

# KIS-ORCA: protecting lives and assets offshore

## Why support KIS-ORCA? Because it ...

- saves lives
- protects assets
- helps operators meet H&S and CSR obligations
- prevents incidents that can cost over £1 million apiece
- is cost-effective for operators
- is the only EU service giving this level of offshore info.

The KIS-ORCA project is the only EU service aiming to provide complete coverage of offshore subsea cables and renewable developments.

The presence of unseen cables and structures offshore can contribute to fishing vessels sinking and lives being lost. By giving fishermen practical information about their location, in formats they can easily use, KIS-ORCA can prevent snagging incidents and save lives.

By supporting KIS-ORCA, owners and operators can show their commitment to fishermen’s health and safety, and prevent damage to their own assets – damage that can run to £1 million or more from a single incident.

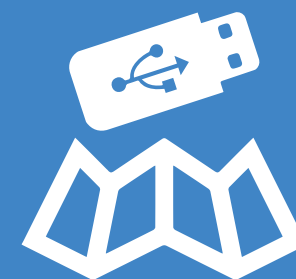
### How to support the service

Each year, we undertake a data call for KIS-ORCA, allowing owners and operators to provide the latest information about their cables and structures.

Supporting this data call is easy – you simply provide us with relevant data about your own subsea cables and renewable developments.

Details of how and when to do this are explained on the following pages.

### Positions



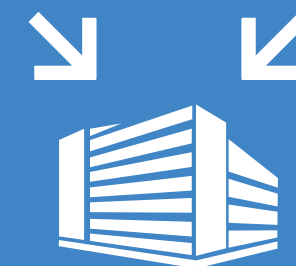
Your structure positions visible on vessel charting systems

### News



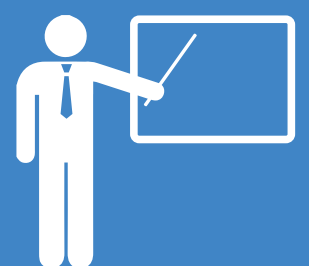
Your activity and hazard news broadcast to fishermen

### Exports



Your data and updates exported quarterly to UK authorities

### Training



Your industry aspects taught in fishermen’s training courses

**A community of all the major offshore assets owners/operators – over 100 leading companies**

Submit your information at: [kingfisherdata@seafish.co.uk](mailto:kingfisherdata@seafish.co.uk)





*“Health and safety plays a huge part in the offshore industry. The G+ group of operators believe the KIS-ORCA initiative plays an important part in improving the awareness of offshore structures and reducing risk to sea users”*

**Kate Harvey, G+ Global Offshore Wind Health and Safety Organisation General Manager**

# Why KIS-ORCA ?

The Kingfisher Information Service – Offshore Renewables & Cable Awareness is the industry standard for offshore awareness. It saves lives, protects offshore assets, and limits operators’ and owners’ risk and liability.

The project gathers data about offshore renewable and cable activities and structures in the waters around the UK and Northern Europe, and converts it into charts and formats that fishermen can easily use on-board.

## Reducing risk

By providing accurate information about the location of structures and cables, KIS-ORCA has addressed a major risk to fishermen and mariners.

Many structures are not included on admiralty charts used for navigation at sea. Even where they are charted, the detail may be inadequate, or charts not suitable for use at sea.

Previously, this put fishermen and mariners at risk of snagging incidents. For example, a tragic incident involving a fishing vessel snagging on an oil & gas pipeline caused four fatalities. Subsea cables have also contributed to the loss of vessels and lives.

KIS-ORCA (along with its sister project for the oil & gas industry, FishSAFE) fills this information gap.

## What the service provides

The KIS-ORCA project delivers information directly to fishermen’s wheelhouses via their fishing plotter systems – giving them instant access to the latest positions of offshore structures

and news about the waters they’re fishing.

Full updates are issued annually, and charts cover Northern Europe and individual developments.

**KIS-ORCA aims to include every operational telecoms cable, power interconnector, and wind farm & export cable in UK and Northern European waters. In addition, FishSAFE includes every oil & gas installation in UK waters.**

**By adding your structures to these services, you can help keep lives safe.**

## Outputs include:

- electronic charts to use with vessel charting systems (fishing plotter data)
- news and data on the [www.kisorca.eu](http://www.kisorca.eu) website, in practical formats including interactive Google maps and downloadable charts
- quarterly updates supplied to relevant UK authorities, eg the Crown Estate, Marine Scotland, and MMO
- inclusion of practical cables and renewables information in Seafish training courses for fishermen, plus other activity – such as exhibitions and port visits – to raise awareness of KIS-ORCA and how best to use it.

## Getting the right data to the right people

For each asset or structure, we provide skippers with essential information about precise location, type and status, and – crucially – an emergency contact number.

Over 2,500 fishing plotter updates are distributed annually to the fishing industry. Kingfisher also works on requests for specific charts or data from individual KIS-ORCA member companies.

**For more information about KIS-ORCA and how to support it, go to [www.kis-orca.eu](http://www.kis-orca.eu)**

**If you want to submit your own structures and data information to KIS-ORCA, find out how on page 8.**



# KIS-ORCA – why your support matters



Launched to protect the safety of fishermen and mariners, KIS-ORCA has also brought important corporate responsibility and financial benefits for the telecoms, power, renewable and oil & gas sectors.

It helps operators and owners:

- protect your assets against damage and major financial losses
- meet obligations around health & safety and corporate responsibility
- reduce risks to sea users
- demonstrate you've taken all practical steps to promote your cable and structure locations
- safeguard your reputation

**The effectiveness of KIS-ORCA relies on all operators/owners supplying good data – up-to-date, accurate, and comprehensive, and including ALL manmade structures deployed on the seabed, buried or otherwise.**

Over the past 10 years (2007-2016)\*...



\*Source: Marine Accident Investigation Branch

## Making the seas safer for fishermen

Fishing is the most dangerous peacetime occupation in the UK, with 76 fishermen losing their lives over the past decade, and 155 UK vessels lost. A major risk to fishermen is subsea structures.

The importance of raising awareness of these structures was highlighted in a Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) fatal accident inquiry into an incident in which four fishermen died. Their vessel, the Westhaven, had become stuck on an oil pipeline span.

The MAIB called upon the offshore industries to improve fishermen's awareness of these hazards, and to provide practical information about them. Since the Kingfisher division of Seafish was already providing mapping

information to the fishing industry, it was a natural delivery partner.

Kingfisher's ensuing awareness projects include KIS-ORCA. This was launched in 2012, extending a successful decade-long project that charted subsea cables only.

Through associations such as the European Subsea Cables Association (ESCA), RenewableUK and Oil & Gas UK, some 100 global organisations now support KIS-ORCA and FishSAFE.

As a result, fishermen and other sea users benefit from:

- raised awareness of offshore hazards
- easier access to information about hazards
- reduced risk of lives or vessels lost through snagging incidents.

*“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.”*

**Dave Fenner, Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)**



# How to supply your data to KIS-ORCA

The information on KIS-ORCA covers ALL manmade cables and structures deployed on surface or the seabed. This includes structures that are covered, buried or trenched in the seabed.

We require operators/owners to supply data in a set format – this keeps down the conversion costs (and therefore the running costs) of the project, and helps ensure that data is current and comprehensive.

## What data to supply

- Cable routes – the most recent ‘as laid’ positions
- Cable repairs/alterations – final splices
- Wind turbines
- Wind farm boundaries
- Wave and tidal structures
- Met masts/substations/buoys
- Mattresses or other protection structures
- Dropped objects (eg debris, anchors)
- Statutory Safety Zones
- Any other subsea features relating to your developments

## Information required for each object

- Name/number of the structure
- Name of structure’s owner
- Name of structure’s operator
- Type of structure (eg substation, wind turbine, telecoms cable)
- Emergency 24/7 contact phone number
- Positions - Latitude and Longitude in WGS84 (degrees, minutes, decimals)
- Status (eg proposed, active, out of service)
- Any additional information that you would like to include about the object/structure

## How to submit data

Data should be:

- submitted in Excel format
- provided in WGS84, using degrees and decimal minutes (DDD° MM.MMM’)
- sent to [kingfisherdata@seafish.co.uk](mailto:kingfisherdata@seafish.co.uk)

## When to send data

To ensure that information provided to fishermen is as current as possible, the production schedule for each update of KIS-ORCA is kept tight.

The timetable is shown in the table below.

## Can we help?

Providing the right data, at the right time, and in the right format helps make KIS-ORCA as effective and cost-effective as possible. If you have questions about what data to submit it, or how to submit it, please contact us on +44 (0)1472 252307, and we can put you on the right track.

## 6 month data call process

Data call to all assets owners/operators	Heads up calls and emails	DATA SUBMISSION ‘MONTH’				
Quality check of final data			Data QC and comparison			
Conversion of data for on-board electronic chart systems (fishing plotters) and chart production			Begin chart production	Conversion to electronic charting formats		
Printing and duplication of charts and USB cards					Printing and duplication	
Supply of data to fishermen by Seafish and the national fishing federations						Supply to fishermen
	August	September	October	November	December	January



# Funding and charges

The KIS-ORCA project is non-profit-making. As an industry-wide project, it is highly cost-effective for members – much more so than providing this information on an individual company basis. Charges are also considerably cheaper than the costs associated with snagging incidents.

Our charges for owners/operators cover running costs only, and are calculated pro rata according to the number of structures and length of cable installed.

For more information about charges, please contact [secretary@escaeu.org](mailto:secretary@escaeu.org)

*“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 to safe fishing and in reducing the likelihood of a vessel impacting a structure.”*

Colin Warwick, National Fisheries Liaison Officer,  
The Crown Estate

**Annual membership cost  
of KIS-ORCA = £1200**

+

**RENEWABLE OPERATOR  
(cost per turbine)**

Up to 100 = £25 / turbine

Between 101 & 150  
= £20 / turbine

Over 150 = £15 / turbine

**CABLE OPERATORS  
(cost per cable length)**

0.80p per km of cable



*“Having the definitive and exact locations of turbines and cables all in a single data source is very useful for fishermen. And having it in a format that is free to use and can go straight onto someone’s plotter massively reduces the chances of error, which is obviously important.”*

Mike Cohen, Chairman,  
National Federation of  
Fishermen’s Organisations

## An industry-wide project

Some 100 organisations and companies support KIS-ORCA and sister project FishSAFE, and the inputs and benefits are truly collective.

**This ensures:**

- **comprehensive and complete data**
- **wide audience reach – helping more and more fishermen and sea users hear about KIS-ORCA and use it to avoid offshore structures and cables**
- **cost efficiencies – the service is delivered at a much cheaper cost than individual operators could achieve alone.**

### Management

KIS-ORCA is managed by Kingfisher (part of Seafish, a UK Non-Departmental Public Body) in cooperation with the European Subsea Cables Association (ESCA) and RenewableUK.

### Distribution and promotion

Updates are distributed annually throughout the fishing industry by the Scottish Fishermen’s Federations (SFF) and the National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations (NFFO), and also by Kingfisher.

This ensures that the information on KIS-ORCA is made available to the widest possible audience of fishermen, mariners and subsea users.

### Support from industry

Essential to KIS-ORCA is the continuing support of operators and asset operators.

KIS-ORCA aims to include every operational telecoms cable, power interconnection, and wind farm & export cable in Northern Europe. The industry supports it by:

- providing data that is relevant, accurate, timely and in the right formats
- funding
- promoting the project to other operators.

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