



Marine Notice No. 25 of 2024

Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers, Yachtsmen and Seafarers

Malin Head to Islay, in Scotland Horizon Europe Project – The Straits Deployment of Acoustic Listening Devices

1. Notice of Activity

The Department of Transport has been notified by Loughs Agency of a unique EU INTERREG research project that will be delivering Europe's largest telemetric marine array to track the movements of a variety of marine fauna. This project aims to use acoustic telemetry technology to detect the presence of acoustically tagged animals in the proximity of bespoke acoustic listening stations. The proposed tracking program will be conducted over three years in **2024**, **2025** and **2026**, from May to the end of February of the following year.

2. Location of Activity

It is planned to deploy a total of 77 Acoustic Listening Stations (ALS) at different locations from Malin Head to Islay in Scotland to detect the presence of acoustically tagged fish and marine mammals. The precise locations for the ALS are detailed in the coordinates table below. Details on the acoustic listening devices that will be used during operations can be found in Appendix 1 to this Marine Notice. Maps of the operations area are available in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 to this Marine Notice, also.

Table: Coordinates of the Malin-Islay array

Station	Latitude	Longitude	Region
77	55°40.013'N	6°31.558'W	UK
76	55°39.898'N	6°32.193'W	UK
75	55°39.763'N	6°32.814'W	UK
74	55°39.501'N	6°33.283'W	UK
73	55°39.339'N	6°33.848'W	UK
72	55°39.257'N	6°34.499'W	UK

71	55°39.110'N	6°35.097'W	UK
70	55°38.934'N	6°35.681'W	UK
69	55°38.806'N	6°36.303'W	UK
68	55°38.583'N	6°36.832'W	UK
67	55°38.471'N	6°37.468'W	UK
66	55°38.305'N	6°38.067'W	UK
65	55°38.248'N	6°38.720'W	UK
64	55°38.106'N	6°39.325'W	UK
63	55°37.917'N	6°39.901'W	UK
62	55°37.715'N	6°40.464'W	UK
61	55°37.512'N	6°41.027'W	UK
60	55°37.304'N	6°41.584'W	UK
59	55°37.216'N	6°42.226'W	UK
58	55°37.158'N	6°42.885'W	UK
57	55°37.067'N	6°43.521'W	UK
56	55°37.037'N	6°44.176'W	UK
55	55°37.104'N	6°44.597'W	UK
54	55°37.331'N	6°44.984'W	UK
53	55°37.196'N	6°45.782'W	UK
52	55°37.176'N	6°46.448'W	UK
51	55°37.095'N	6°47.092'W	UK
50	55°37.071'N	6°47.758'W	UK
49	55°37.048'N	6°48.423'W	UK
48	55°36.948'N	6°49.061'W	UK
47	55°36.812'N	6°49.683'W	UK
46	55°36.655'N	6°50.287'W	UK
45	55°36.458'N	6°50.855'W	UK
44	55°36.262'N	6°51.425'W	UK
43	55°36.075'N	6°52.004'W	UK
42	55°35.880'N	6°52.571'W	UK
41	55°35.600'N	6°53.018'W	UK
40	55°35.462'N	6°53.585'W	UK
39	55°35.441'N	6°54.250'W	UK
38	55°35.265'N	6°54.822'W	UK
37	55°35.029'N	6°55.342'W	UK
36	55°34.781'N	6°55.841'W	IRL
35	55°34.520'N	6°56.257'W	IRL
34	55°34.474'N	6°56.918'W	IRL
33	55°34.429'N	6°57.580'W	IRL
32	55°34.215'N	6°58.077'W	IRL
31	55°33.933'N	6°58.519'W	IRL
30	55°33.676'N	6°59.005'W	IRL
29	55°33.458'N	6°59.548'W	IRL
28	55°33.252'N	7°0.105'W	IRL
27	55°33.081'N	7°0.699'W	IRL

26	55°32.870'N	7°1.247'W	IRL
25	55°32.604'N	7°1.719'W	IRL
24	55°32.338'N	7°2.190'W	IRL
23	55°32.041'N	7°2.600'W	IRL
22	55°31.743'N	7°3.010'W	IRL
21	55°31.446'N	7°3.420'W	IRL
20	55°31.149'N	7°3.829'W	IRL
19	55°30.851'N	7°4.238'W	IRL
18	55°30.554'N	7°4.648'W	IRL
17	55°30.256'N	7°5.057'W	IRL
16	55°29.959'N	7°5.466'W	IRL
15	55°29.662'N	7°5.875'W	IRL
14	55°29.364'N	7°6.284'W	IRL
13	55°29.073'N	7°6.707'W	IRL
12	55°28.789'N	7°7.144'W	IRL
11	55°28.505'N	7°7.582'W	IRL
10	55°28.221'N	7°8.019'W	IRL
9	55°27.937'N	7°8.457'W	IRL
8	55°27.708'N	7°8.973'W	IRL
7	55°27.519'N	7°9.548'W	IRL
6	55°27.333'N	7°10.126'W	IRL
5	55°27.151'N	7°10.707'W	IRL
4	55°26.969'N	7°11.289'W	IRL
3	55°26.776'N	7°11.859'W	IRL
2	55°26.582'N	7°12.429'W	IRL
1	55°26.297'N	7°12.848'W	IRL

3. Details of the Survey Vessels

The works will be conducted by the vessel “**Strathfoyle**” (Call Sign: **MAIQ3**). No surface buoys will be needed, and no flashing lights are being used. All the equipment will be fitted with acoustic releases and will not require lines to surface. The receivers’ units are all clearly labelled with contact information if found or hauled up accidentally. In the event of a gear entanglement or accidental recovery the units also have instructions **NOT** to be thrown back into the water. The units should be kept safe, and the Loughs Agency contacted so that they can arrange collection.

4. Contact Details

Enquiries regarding the contents of this Marine Notice, or any other relevant matters, should be directed to Loughs Agency:

- Ross McGill, Principal Project Officer
Tel: 44 (0) 28 71 342100
Email: ross.mcgill@loughs-agency.org

All mariners are reminded of their responsibilities under the International Collision Regulations and of [Marine Notice No. 17 of 2007](#), which gives general advice in relation to the activities of vessels engaged in survey work for hydrographic, seismic, fishing research and underwater operations.

The International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) are implemented in Irish law by the *Merchant Shipping (Collision Regulations) (Ships and Water Craft on the Water) Order 2012* [S.I. No. 507 of 2012] and the *Signals of Distress (Ships) Rules 2012* [S.I. No.170 of 2012]. [See Marine Notice No. 06 of 2013](#). These Statutory Instruments may be purchased by mail order from Government Publications, Office of Public Works, Mountshannon Road, Dublin, D08 XA06 Tel: (046) 9423100. They are also available online at: www.irishstatutebook.ie.

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

03/05/2024

Encl: Appendix 1: Details of Acoustic Listening Devices
Appendix 2: Map of Operations Area
Appendix 3: Map of Malin Head Area

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie.
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie.
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport.

Appendix 1: Acoustic listening devices details

1- Acoustic receiver. Deployed on the sea bed at 10-20 m depth. All parts of the mooring and floatation system



2- The floatation system in operation after acoustic release mechanism is activated. Sea bed anchor (30-35 kg).



3- The floatation system at surface awaiting recovery by grappling hook or gaff between the two buoys to insure the VR2AR unit is not damaged by the hook



Appendix 2: Map of Operations Area



Appendix 3: Map of Malin Head Area

