

Sanday to North Ronaldsay Route Survey

XOCEAN Notice to Mariners

Date of Issue:

- Original issue: 8 December 2025
- Rev 01: 14 January 2026 Updated Survey Dates
- Rev02: 28 January 2026 Updated Survey Dates
- Rev03: 29 January 2026 Updated Survey Dates
- Rev04: 15 February 2026 Updated Survey Dates
- Rev05: 12 March 2026 Updated Survey Dates
- Rev06: 01 April 2026 Updated Survey Dates
- Rev07: 05 April 2026 Updated Operational Port
- Rev08: 08 May 2026 Updated Survey Dates
- Rev09: 20 May 2026 Updated Text
- Rev10: 05 June 2026 Updated Working Area and Survey Dates

Survey Activities: XOCEAN is planning the collection of geophysical data using remotely piloted Uncrewed Surface Vessels (USVs) along a proposed cable route corridor in Orkney, from the islands of Sanday to North Ronaldsay. The USVs are expected to operate out of Eday for the full survey duration. A mix of USVs with both hull mounted survey sensors (Multibeam Echosounders & Sub-Bottom Profilers) and also towed sensors (SideScan Sonar & Magnetometer) through the water in proximity of the seabed will be used. A crewed Support Vessel will be chartered throughout the survey to support the USVs with departures and arrivals from Eday and assist in towing them back in if a technical issue occurs.

Dates/Duration: Operations commenced on 13 April 2026. It is expected that the survey activities shall be completed by 15th June 2026 (subject to weather).

Survey Area: Figure 1 below indicates the operational area in red. This is outlined in Table 1 below also.

Legal Notice

Please be advised that this Notice to Mariners should be treated as official notice of the nature, duration and location of the works which are scheduled to take place. During the period of this notice, we request that you plan your activities around our short-term, temporary activities. Mariners who believe their operations may be affected by the activities described in this notice are requested to contact the Fishing Liaison Officer or Fishing Industry Representative as detailed at the end of this notice.

Any failure to remove equipment where this has been requested, or entry into the identified location in a manner that would constitute a hazard may be a breach of your duties of safe seamanship as described in the Convention on International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 and/or the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, and may result in removal of the relevant equipment. Failure to remove equipment, where this has been requested, or entry into the identified location in a manner that would constitute a hazard may constitute a breach of duty of care at common law, and a failure to protect submarine cables for successful seabed user co-existence under Scotland's National Marine Plan.

SHEPD shall found on this notice in the event of any damage, loss or disruption arising from failure to heed the information herein.

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Figure 1: Overall Survey Area



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Table 1: Operational area coordinates (WGS84)

| Lat_DM | Lon_DM |
|---------------|--------------|
| 59°21.39213'N | 2°26.41622'W |
| 59°21.41052'N | 2°26.35265'W |
| 59°19.59995'N | 2°28.74239'W |
| 59°21.47011'N | 2°26.18857'W |
| 59°19.69162'N | 2°28.53276'W |
| 59°21.43137'N | 2°25.86302'W |
| 59°19.96630'N | 2°27.43115'W |
| 59°21.26376'N | 2°25.61840'W |
| 59°20.81726'N | 2°26.70135'W |
| 59°20.92736'N | 2°25.51724'W |
| 59°21.29932'N | 2°26.87184'W |
| 59°20.88089'N | 2°25.39995'W |
| 59°20.84417'N | 2°25.03664'W |
| 59°20.76401'N | 2°24.80688'W |
| 59°20.12364'N | 2°24.58152'W |
| 59°19.93336'N | 2°24.65399'W |
| 59°19.51121'N | 2°25.17212'W |
| 59°18.43406'N | 2°26.98794'W |
| 59°18.39543'N | 2°26.98497'W |
| 59°17.88936'N | 2°26.84289'W |
| 59°17.52292'N | 2°26.96571'W |
| 59°17.38773'N | 2°27.10041'W |
| 59°17.34259'N | 2°27.30749'W |
| 59°17.27905'N | 2°27.96212'W |
| 59°17.35099'N | 2°28.42826'W |
| 59°17.42232'N | 2°28.57105'W |
| 59°17.46296'N | 2°28.73173'W |
| 59°17.53930'N | 2°28.86362'W |
| 59°17.64738'N | 2°29.01715'W |
| 59°18.58116'N | 2°29.65512'W |
| 59°18.78484'N | 2°29.63438'W |
| 59°19.40047'N | 2°29.06692'W |
| 59°19.46580'N | 2°28.98198'W |
| 59°21.30401'N | 2°26.62574'W |

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59°21.33083'N

2°26.51845'W

The details of the Uncrewed Surface Vessels (USVs) that will operate on the survey are shown below. It is expected that no more than 2 USVs will be operational at any one time.

Table 2: USVs with Hull Mounted Sensors

| AIS Name: | X 23 UNCREWED | X 26 UNCREWED |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| MMSI: | 232044015 | 232052508 |
| Callsign: | MMIM8 | MOQM9 |
| Length: | 4.5m | 4.5m |
| Beam: | 2.2m | 2.2m |
| Speed: | 3.5kts | 3.5kts |
| Draught: | 1.5m | 1.5m |
| Tonnage: | 1.1Tn | 1.1Tn |

Table 3: USVs with Towed Sensors

| AIS Name: | X 09 UNCREWED | X 11 UNCREWED | X 28 UNCREWED | X 29 UNCREWED | X05 UNCREWED |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| MMSI: | 232027632 | 232033343 | 232053988 | 232053990 | 232059837 |
| Callsign: | MHIJ8 | MIRG4 | MOXJ2 | MOXJ4 | MRSM9 |
| Length: | 4.5m | 4.5m | 4.5m | 4.5m | 4.5m |
| Beam: | 2.2m | 2.2m | 2.2m | 2.2m | 2.2m |
| Speed: | 2.5kts | 2.5kts | 2.5kts | 2.5kts | 2.5kts |
| Draught: | 1.5m | 1.5m | 1.5m | 1.5m | 1.5m |
| Tonnage: | 1.1tn | 1.1Tn | 1.1Tn | 1.1Tn | 1.1Tn |

Situational Awareness: Although the USVs are uncrewed, they are remotely piloted throughout the 24-hour operation. The USV sends real time images and situational awareness data over satellite to allow this monitoring. The situational awareness aids available are listed below.



Figure 2: USV with hull mounted sensors



Figure 3: USV with towed sensors

Safety Precautions: The USV is equipped with the following to make it conspicuous to other marine traffic:

- AIS
- VHF
- Navigation Lights & Sound Signals
- Active Radar Reflector

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Exclusion Area / Closest Point of Approach: Seafarers are kindly asked to provide a clearance of >500m from the USVs at all times when they are in operation.

Support Vessel: The USVs operations will be supported by a crewed Support Vessel. XOCEAN plan to charter in the *Northerly Explorer*, owned and operated by Northerly Marine Services Ltd and be based between Eday and Kirkwall.

| | <i>Northerly Venture</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| MMSI: | 235098073 |
| Callsign: | 2GKA8 |
| Length: | 16.3m |
| Beam: | 7m |
| Draught: | 1.4m |



XOCEAN Marine & Operations Contact Details:

| Name & Role | Mobile Number | Email Address |
|--|----------------------|--|
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Fishing Liaison Officers:

Fishing liaison for the operations will be co-ordinated by Brown and May Marine. For any commercial fishery queries please contact the Company Fishing Liaison Officers (CFLOs):

| Name | Contact Number | Email |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| Meg Kalafat | 07702 710176 | Meg.kalafat@brownmay.com |

The local Fishing Industries Representative (FIR) will also be in place to liaise with the vessels and fishing operations in the survey area.

| Name | Contact Number | Email |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| Chris Davidson | 07810 305100 | cad17@hotmail.co.uk |