

# Kingfisher Bulletin

## Talking Points

December 2015

### Fishing Close To Subsea Cables

Subsea cables are hugely important to our nation's communications and power needs. There are over 25,000 miles of offshore cabling surrounding the UK, connecting us with the rest of the world for electricity, phone calls and internet needs. This is more than enough cable to go from the UK to Australia and back.

For fishermen, it is important to know that not all cables are fully buried and some may pose a snagging hazard. The size and weight in the water of many cables will cause a safety risk to fishing vessels. The breaking strain of some telecoms cables is in excess of 70 tonnes, with wind farm export power cables approximately 20cm in diameter and weighing up to 100kg per metre.

A key issue that the fishing industry needs to be aware of is that fishermen may be held liable for damaging subsea cables. This is an issue that seems to be coming to a head and the burden of this cost is substantial; telecoms cable repair costs may start at £200,000 and the consequential cost of lost business may outstrip this.

To know the location of subsea cables in your fishing area, ensure you have the latest Kingfisher Cable and Wind Farm data installed on your fishing plotters.

[www.kis-orca.eu](http://www.kis-orca.eu)

*(New data available in January 2016)*



### The Kingfisher Bulletin and Offshore News

The offshore environment around the UK is becoming hugely congested with numerous and very diverse industries competing for space. Naturally, this creates difficulties and it is often challenging for competing industries to coexist in harmony.

The Kingfisher Bulletin works across all offshore industries to keep the fishing industry up to date with information relating to the latest hazards, planned developments, new structures being installed and zones created. Bulletins are produced fortnightly, with the very latest information obtained directly from offshore operators. Within each Bulletin, there are links to Kingfisher Charts, to help show quickly and easily, where something is occurring and the impact on fishing.

Sign up to receive an email alert when a new Kingfisher Bulletin is available to download.

[www.kingfisherbulletin.org](http://www.kingfisherbulletin.org) *(Updated fortnightly – ask to sign up)*

# Fishing and Wind Farms

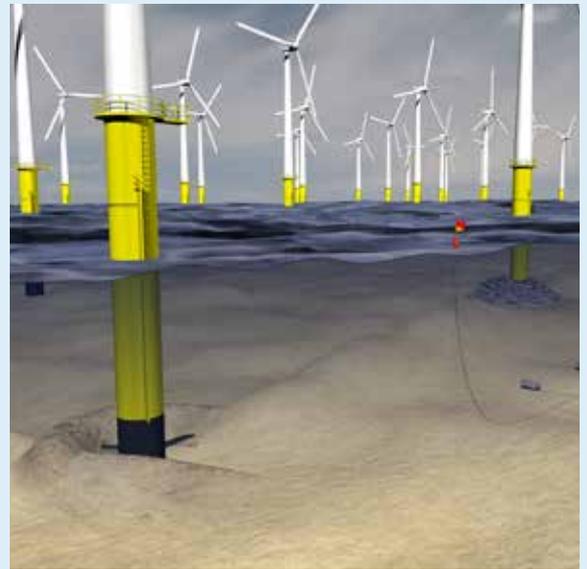
The true impact of wind farms on fishing activities is still not fully known; with a great deal depending on the location around the UK, size of the development, consultation with the fishing industry and the long-term effect of the wind farm on fish stocks.

With over 25 operational wind farms now surrounding the UK, there is no better time to ensure you are equipped with accurate positions of these structures, cables and additional objects, such as concrete mattresses.

With no wholesale statutory legislation restricting fishing in UK wind farms, it is likely that a greater number of fishermen may now see if they can successfully and safely fish in and around wind farms and their associated cabling. This will

be a daunting environment, with the majority of turbines dwarfing Big Ben, a large number of inter-array cables and with the largest wind farms now taking up the space of 1,600 Wembley stadiums.

Kingfisher is unable to influence the development of wind farms around our shores, but what we can do, is help fishermen to understand where they are planned, what activities are ongoing and supply accurate locations of all hazards, structures and cables installed.

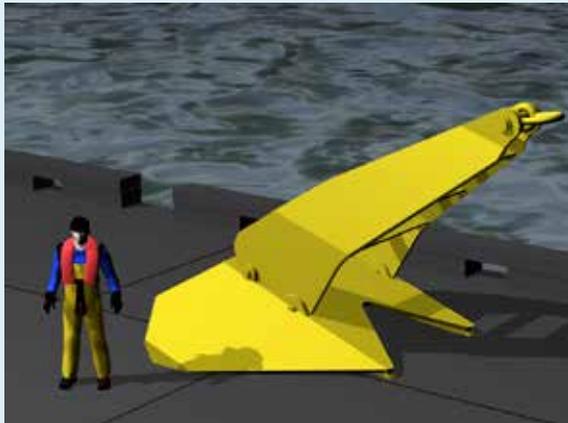


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[www.kis-orca.eu/map](http://www.kis-orca.eu/map)

*(New data available in January 2016)*



## Fishermen and Oil & Gas Safety Zones

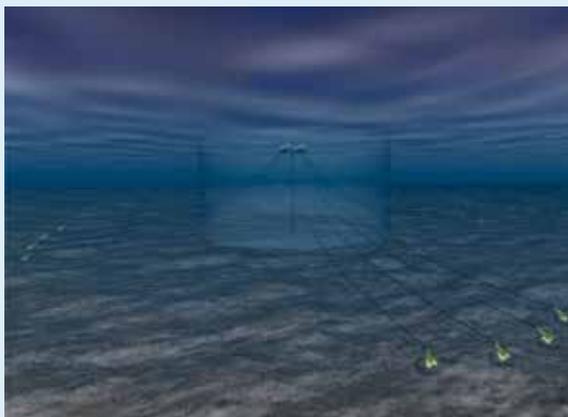
Safety Zones are used within the oil & gas industry for three main reasons: to protect fishermen and mariners from collision; to protect the people on a structure (e.g. platform personnel); and to protect the structure itself from damage. Safety Zones are 500 metres in radius and apply to all oil & gas structures that extend above the water line (e.g. platforms) and specific subsea structures, where an operator has made an application.

It is important for fishermen to note that safety zones are enforced by law and it is an offence to enter a safety zone, except under special circumstances (e.g. to save or attempt to save life, when in distress, etc.). The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) enforce safety zones and there are fines and penalties in place for infringement.

Kingfisher and the FishSAFE project aim to ensure all skippers know the location of safety zones, through

fishing plotter and FishSAFE Unit updates. Currently there are 350 safety zones for surface structures and 400 for subsea structures on the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS).

Please note that it is not uncommon for some structures to be positioned towards the outer edge of a safety zone, whilst some anchors & anchor lines of mobile drilling rigs & FPSOs, may extend beyond the 500 metre safety zone.



[www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg189.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg189.pdf)

[www.fishsafe.eu](http://www.fishsafe.eu)

*(New data available in January 2016)*