

From: [Marine Operations](#)
To: [navigation safety](#); [Marine Operations](#)
Cc: [Briony Silburn \(Cefas\)](#); [Freya Goodsir \(Cefas\)](#)
Subject: RE: Cefas Survey CEND112026 navigational safety - MCA Response
Date: 18 March 2026 09:53:18
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Dear Jo,

Thank you for the detailed response. I have shared these with our Master and can confirm that we accept the mitigations.

Best regards,

Michelle

From: navigation safety

Sent: 23 February 2026 14:07

To: Marine Operations

Cc: Briony Silburn (Cefas) ; Freya Goodsir (Cefas)

Subject: RE: Cefas Survey CEND112026 navigational safety - MCA Response

You don't often get email from navigationsafety@mca.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Michelle,

Thank you for the information regarding the proposed Cefas Surveys at 31 stated sites around the Welsh coast (Swansea Bay and Cardigan Bay), within Liverpool Bay and the Celtic Sea.

We note that the works comprise collection of 0.1m cube of sediment at up to 50 stations using a Day grab, fishing activities using a benthic trawl (Granton trawl) at associated locations to collect species of fish for fish disease, chemical body burden analysis and microplastics, and Newston trawling to sample surface waters for microplastics.

Due to the diverse nature of the all proposed sites, please find below MCA's comments by location grouping:

For the sites within Liverpool Bay:

On the understanding that the following takes place, the MCA would have no significant concerns to raise with regards to the safety of navigation and would be satisfied that the risk is relatively

low on this occasion:

1. All maritime safety legislation is complied with;
2. Local notification is issued to marine users, including fishermen's organisations, relevant authorities, including Port of Liverpool and the Port of Mostyn, and other local stakeholders including the local windfarm developers/operators, to ensure that they are made fully aware of the activity at least five days before commencement of the works;
3. Zone31@hmcg.gov.uk and Zone32@hmcg.gov.uk must be notified prior to commencement of activities.
4. A notification must be sent to The Source Data Receipt team, UK Hydrographic Office (email: sdr@ukho.gov.uk) of commencement of the licensed activities, at least 10 days before commencement of the works. The information supplied must include the start date and end date, a description of the works, positions of the work area (WGS84), and details of any marking arrangements.
5. All dropped objects which are a danger or hazard to navigation must be reported to NRW, UKHO and HMCg, as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 24 hours of the undertaker becoming aware of an incident. NRW may require relevant surveys to be carried out by the undertaker (such as side scan sonar) if reasonable to do so and NRW may require obstructions to be removed from the seabed at the undertaker's expense if reasonable to do so.
6. A risk assessment for operating in and around the TSS should be undertaken before the works commence, with a process in place for identifying high levels of traffic to avoid;
7. Carry out the surveys in parallel to and in the general direction of traffic flow in the lane.
8. Notify the UKHO (Navwarnings@ukho.gov.uk) for consideration of any required navigational warnings;
9. Consider the width of the lanes and whether there is sufficient available sea room for vessels to pass when your vessel is stationary to collect samples etc.
10. Survey vessel to inform any relevant VTS/MRS/MRCC if waiting for any reason.
11. Consider a minimum working limit of horizontal visibility within the traffic lane i.e not less than one (1) nautical mile.

For the sites in the Celtic Sea:

We note that 4 of the 7 stated sites are located within busy shipping routes approaching a TSS. On the understanding that the following takes place, the MCA would have no significant concerns to raise with regards to the safety of navigation and would be satisfied that the risk is relatively low on this occasion:

1. All maritime safety legislation is complied with;
2. Local notification is issued to marine users, including fishermen's organisations, relevant authorities, including Port of Milford Haven and other local stakeholders including local windfarm developers/operators, to ensure that they are made fully aware of the activity at least five days before commencement of the works;
3. Zone28@hmcg.gov.uk must be notified prior to commencement of activities.
4. A notification must be sent to The Source Data Receipt team, UK Hydrographic Office (email: sdr@ukho.gov.uk) of commencement of the licensed activities, at least 10 days before commencement of the works. The information supplied must include the start date and end date,

description of the works, positions of the work area (WGS84), and details of any marking arrangements.

5. All dropped objects which are a danger or hazard to navigation must be reported to NRW, UKHO and HMCG, as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 24 hours of the undertaker becoming aware of an incident. NRW may require relevant surveys to be carried out by the undertaker (such as side scan sonar) if reasonable to do so and NRW may require obstructions to be removed from the seabed at the undertaker's expense if reasonable to do so.
6. A risk assessment for operating in and around the TSS should be undertaken before the works commence, with a process in place for identifying high levels of traffic to avoid;
7. Carry out the surveys in parallel to and in the general direction of traffic flow in the lane.
8. Notify the UKHO (Navwarnings@ukho.gov.uk) for consideration of any required navigational warnings;
9. Consider the width of the lanes and whether there is sufficient available sea room for vessels to pass when your vessel is stationary to collect samples etc.
10. Survey vessel to inform any relevant VTS/MRS/MRCC if waiting for any reason.
11. Consider a minimum working limit of horizontal visibility within the traffic lane i.e not less than one (1) nautical mile.

For sites within Swansea Bay:

We note that the works fall within the jurisdiction of Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA), being Port Talbot and Swansea Harbour and therefore they are responsible for the safety of navigation within their waters.

Therefore, on the understanding that the following takes place, the MCA would have no significant concerns to raise with regards to the safety of navigation and would be satisfied that the risk is relatively low on this occasion:

1. All maritime safety legislation is complied with;
2. The site is within port limits and the applicant should gain the approval/agreement of the responsible local navigation authority or the Harbour Authority/Commissioners/Council. They may wish to issue local warnings to alert those navigating in the vicinity to the presence of the works, as deemed necessary.

For sites in Cardigan Bay:

On the understanding that the following takes place, the MCA would have no significant concerns to raise with regards to the safety of navigation and would be satisfied that the risk is relatively low on this occasion:

1. All maritime safety legislation is complied with;
2. Local notification is issued to marine users, including fishermen's organisations, relevant authorities and other local stakeholders, to ensure that they are made fully aware of the activity at least five days before commencement of the works;
3. Zone28@hmcg.gov.uk, Zone29@hmcg.gov.uk and Zone30@hmcg.gov.uk must be notified prior to commencement of activities.

Please can you confirm that you accept all of the above risk mitigations?

Kind regards,

Jo Cooke

Marine Licensing and Consenting

Advisor

**UK Technical Maritime Services
Navigation**

NavigationSafety@mcga.gov.uk



Mobile: 07815 703225

Maritime & Coastguard Agency

Spring Place, 105 Commercial Road,
Southampton, SO15 1EG



Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas

www.gov.uk/mca

From: Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>

Sent: 16 February 2026 15:18

To: navigation.seamarks@trintyhouse.co.uk; navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>

Cc: Briony Silburn (Cefas) <briony.silburn@cefas.gov.uk>; Freya Goodsir (Cefas)

<freya.goodsir@cefas.gov.uk>; Marine Operations <marineoperations@cefas.co.uk>

Subject: Cefas Survey CEND112026 navigational safety

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Hello,

We have a survey in July which we call CEND112026 – CSEMP. The scheduled sailing dates are 2nd July to 12th July. This is part of UK government's Clean Seas Environmental Monitoring Programme. Attached is a method statement as well as a map and co-ordinates of the Welsh stations.

During this time the vessel will display shapes indicating restricted maneuverability during fishing operations. AIS will be monitored as standard, and we will maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 16 and may be contacted directly. Regular communications will be maintained throughout. A kingfisher bulletin and notice to mariners will also be issued closer to the time.

As part of our application to Natural Resources Wales please could you confirm that you are happy that this survey will have a minimal if any impact for navigational safety. Approval for this activity has already been applied for from the following authorities (Welsh Gov, The Crown Estate, Marine Management Organisation, Southern IFCA, Cornwall IFCA, NW IFCA and Devon and Seven IFCA).

Best regards,

Michelle

Michelle Kay

Assistant Marine & Fleet Operations Manager

Pakefield Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0HT, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1502 524332 | Email: michelle.kay@cefas.gov.uk

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