

HOTSPOTS:

The hotspot maps indicate areas crucial for basking sharks, identified from The Wildlife Trusts' surveys 2002 - 2006.

- the clear hatched area - shark awareness zone where a careful look out should be kept for sharks at all times.
- the pink hatched areas - caution zones, where there is a high likelihood of encountering a shark at the surface, and where large shoal sizes and courtship-like behaviour have been consistently recorded.

During May to October, within the pink areas a maximum speed of 6 knots or less should be maintained along with extra care and a vigilant look out for sharks at, or just below, the surface.

OTHER IMPORTANT BASKING SHARK SITES:

Hotspots are not the only places where sharks can regularly be seen. Sharks are often sighted around the other Small Isles (Rum, Eigg and Muck), and also around the Treshnish Isles, Caliach Point and Ardmore Point on Mull, for example. A careful look out should be kept for sharks when navigating through these areas in season. Further work to investigate more remote areas of Scotland is necessary.

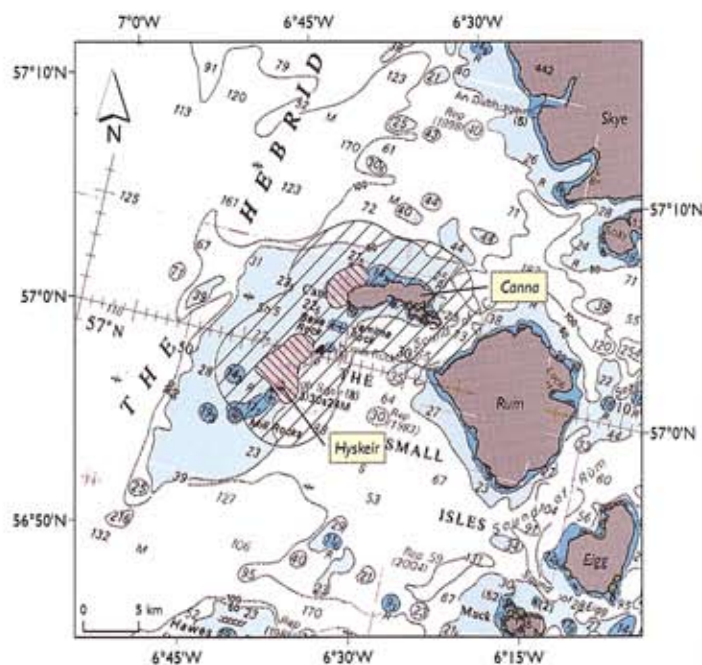
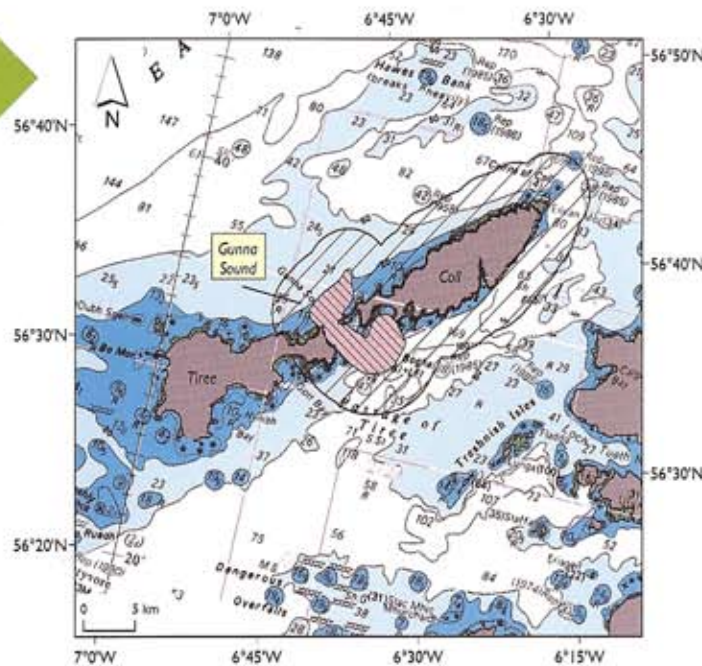
WHERE TO REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS:

The national basking shark reporting scheme allows on-line reporting and is operated by the Marine Conservation Society:

http://www.mcsuk.org/marineworld/sightings_report
Tel: 01989 566017

The Wildlife Trusts also allows on-line reporting of basking shark sightings, as well as those of whales, dolphins and porpoises:

<http://baskingsharks.wildlifetrusts.org/helpus.php>



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BASKING SHARK HOTSPOTS IN WEST SCOTLAND



Scottish Natural Heritage
All of nature for all of Scotland

