

## **Local Notice to Mariners – Acoustic Receiver Canisters and SoundTrap broadband recorders**

Mariners are advised that work is planned to deploy six sub-surface acoustic moorings in the coastal waters within the North-east Lewis Marine Protected Area (MPA) on behalf of NatureScot. The moorings will be left in the water for approximately 6 months (until ~November 2025).

The vessel ALBA NA MARA will conduct the work between the dates of Monday 12th-Monday 20th May. A listening watch will be maintained on VHF Ch 12.



These pieces of equipment collect acoustic information on the temporal presence and distribution patterns of vocalising cetaceans (including Risso's dolphins) within the MPA.

The ARCs are low profile (35cm height and <0.75m<sup>2</sup>) and consist of 3 x 11 inch floats fixed to a delrin plate that holds the acoustic receiver floating ~3m above anchor (~75kg chain links). The ARCs will be recovered and potentially re-deployed in the autumn 2025. There are no permanent mooring lines or surface markers associated with the ARC devices. The equipment are intermittently retrieved for servicing by triggering the release of a recovery line from ARC unit.

All ARCs are labelled with contact details and 'NatureScot' on the anchor chain links, the ARC units, and/or surface buoy.

### **Point of contact:**

If an ARC or recorder / mooring equipment is recovered, please retain and contact NatureScot using the contact email/phone below.

NatureScot [mpa@nature.scot](mailto:mpa@nature.scot)

Rona Sinclair (07469190662) – email: [rona.sinclair@nature.scot](mailto:rona.sinclair@nature.scot)

**Positions and an image of an ARC device:**

The positions will be updated to reflect any changes following the deployments and retrievals. Any additional work/movements/retrieval of these devices will result in an updated notice.

Planned locations:

Mooring name	Code	Latitude (DD)	Longitude (DD)	Approx. depth (m)
Butt of Lewis	NS06	58.57828	-6.20696	90
Offshore North MPA	NS05	58.517661	-6.042712	90
Tiumpnan Head	NS04	58.2572	-6.1181	82
Sapphire wreck	NS01	58.16249	-6.10393	125
Chicken Head	NS03	58.17161	-6.25241	35
Loch Erishort	NS02	58.10726	-6.35172	90



