



# Hornsea Project Four

## Clarification Note on Peak Herring Spawning Period and Seasonal Piling Restriction

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## Revision Summary

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## Revision Change Log

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04	39-52	Appendix D	Added Appendix D detailing the Applicant's final position.

## Table of Contents

1	Background .....	7
2	Seasonal Restriction Timing.....	9
2.1	Introduction.....	9
2.2	IHLS Survey Timings.....	9
2.3	Larval length in survey sample data (catch length) .....	10
2.4	Larval length at hatching .....	12
2.5	Egg development duration.....	12
2.6	Yolk absorption duration .....	15
2.7	Growth rate.....	15
2.8	Back-calculation .....	16
2.9	Herring Migratory Patterns.....	17
3	Conclusion .....	18
4	References.....	19
	Appendix A .....	21
	Appendix B.....	22
	Appendix C .....	25
	Appendix D – Applicant’s Final Position on Peak Spawning Period and Associated Restrictions .....	38
4.1	Background .....	38
4.2	Outstanding Disagreement.....	39
4.3	Growth Rate & Start Date .....	39
4.4	Consideration of Migration.....	39
4.5	Peak Spawning Period .....	40
4.6	Export Cable Works Restriction .....	40
4.7	Summary – Peak Spawning Period .....	40
4.8	Summary – Export Cable Works Restriction.....	41
4.9	Final Position .....	41

## List of Tables

Table 1: Range of survey start dates. ....	10
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Table 2: Literature Sources of Daily Growth Rates .....	16
Table 3: Factors considered within the back-calculations. ....	17
Table 4: Mean larval catch sizes per year per station (IHLS survey data, 2007-2020). ....	22

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Herring spawning grounds within the North Sea (Beirman <i>et al.</i> , 2010). ....	7
Figure 2: Bony fish developmental stages (adapted from Ahlstrom and Ball (1954)). ....	8
Figure 3: Mean herring larval lengths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2007 - 2020)). ....	11
Figure 4: Mean temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (HLS survey data (2007 – 2020)) .....	14
Figure 5: IHLS Survey Data Stations. ....	21
Figure 6: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2007)). ....	25
Figure 7: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2008)). ....	26
Figure 8: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2009)). ....	27
Figure 9: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2010)). ....	28
Figure 10: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2011)). ....	29
Figure 11: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2012)). ....	30
Figure 12: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2013)). ....	31
Figure 13: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2014)). ....	32
Figure 14: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2015)). ....	33
Figure 15: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2016)). ....	34
Figure 16: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2019)). ....	35
Figure 17: Temperature at the maximum sampling depths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2020)). ....	36
Figure 18: Banks herring migration circuit .....	37

## Glossary

Term	Definition
Commitment	A term used interchangeably with mitigation and enhancement measures. The purpose of Commitments is to reduce and/or eliminate Likely Significant Effects (LSEs), in EIA terms. Primary (Design) or Tertiary (Inherent) are both embedded within the assessment at the relevant point in the EIA (e.g. at Scoping, Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) or ES). Secondary commitments are incorporated to reduce LSE to environmentally acceptable levels following initial assessment i.e. so that residual effects are acceptable.
Cumulative effects	The combined effect of Hornsea Four in combination with the effects from a number of different projects, on the same single receptor/resource. Cumulative impacts are those that result from changes caused by other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions together with Hornsea Four.
Demersal	Relating to the seabed and area close to it. Demersal spawning species are those which deposit eggs onto the seabed.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP).
Effect	Term used to express the consequence of an impact. The significance of an effect is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact with the importance, or sensitivity, of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the EIA Directive and EIA Regulations, including the publication of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.
EIA Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
Export cable corridor (ECC)	The specific corridor of seabed (seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)) and land (landward of MHWS) from the Hornsea Four array area to the Creyke Beck National Grid substation, within which the export cables will be located.
Fish larvae	The developmental stage of fish which have hatched from the egg and receive nutrients from the yolk sac until the yolk is completely absorbed.
High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC)	High voltage alternating current is the bulk transmission of electricity by alternating current (AC), whereby the flow of electric charge periodically reverses direction.
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm	The term covers all elements of the project (i.e. both the offshore and onshore). Hornsea Four infrastructure will include offshore generating stations (wind turbines), electrical export cables to landfall, and

Term	Definition
	connection to the electricity transmission network. Hereafter referred to as Hornsea Four.
Maximum Design Scenario (MDS)	The maximum design parameters of each Hornsea Four asset (both on and offshore) considered to be a worst case for any given assessment.
Mitigation	A term used interchangeably with Commitment(s) by Hornsea Four. Mitigation measures (Commitments) are embedded within the assessment at the relevant point in the EIA (e.g. at Scoping, PEIR, or ES).
Order Limits	The limits within which Hornsea Four (the 'authorised' project) may be carried out.
Orsted Hornsea Project Four Ltd.	The Applicant for the proposed Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm Development Consent Order (DCO).
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
Spawning	The release or deposition of eggs and sperm, usually into water, by aquatic animals.

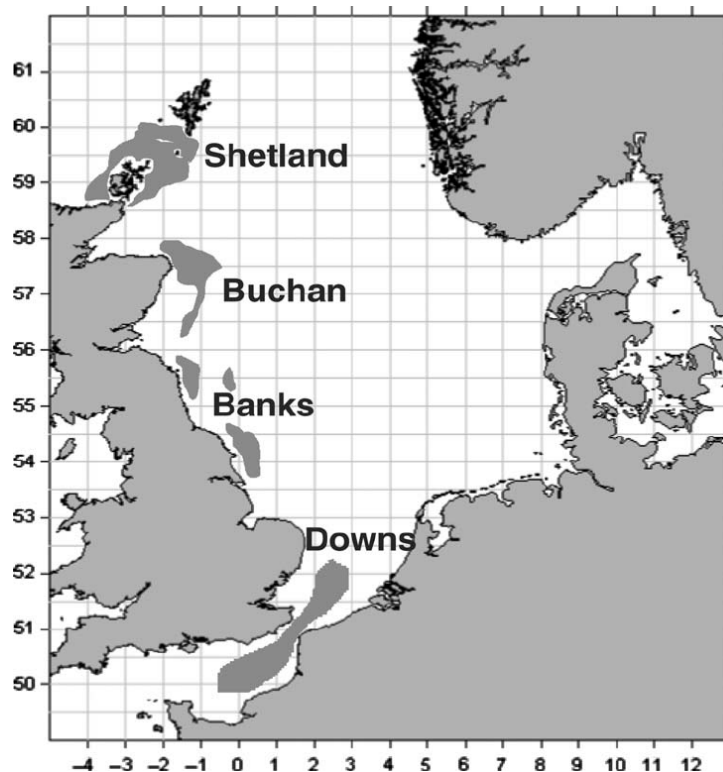
## Acronyms

Term	Definition
AfL	Agreement for Lease
DCO	Development Consent Order
dML	Deemed Marine Licence
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IHLS	International Herring Larvae Survey
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
PSA	Particle Size Analysis
SSC	Suspended Sediment Concentration

## 1 Background

1.1.1.1 Orsted Hornsea Project Four Limited (hereafter the Applicant) has submitted a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), supported by a range of plans and documents including an Environmental Statement (ES) which set out the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter Hornsea Four) and its associated infrastructure.

1.1.1.2 Within the fish and shellfish ecology assessment within the ES, herring (*Clupea harengus*) was identified as a key receptor, with this species being recognised to have important spawning grounds in the vicinity of Hornsea Four (**Volume A5, Annex 3.1: Fish and Shellfish Ecology Technical Report**). The nearest herring spawning ground to Hornsea Four is the Banks (Central North Sea) spawning ground (**Figure 1**).



**Figure 1: Herring spawning grounds within the North Sea (Beirman et al., 2010).**

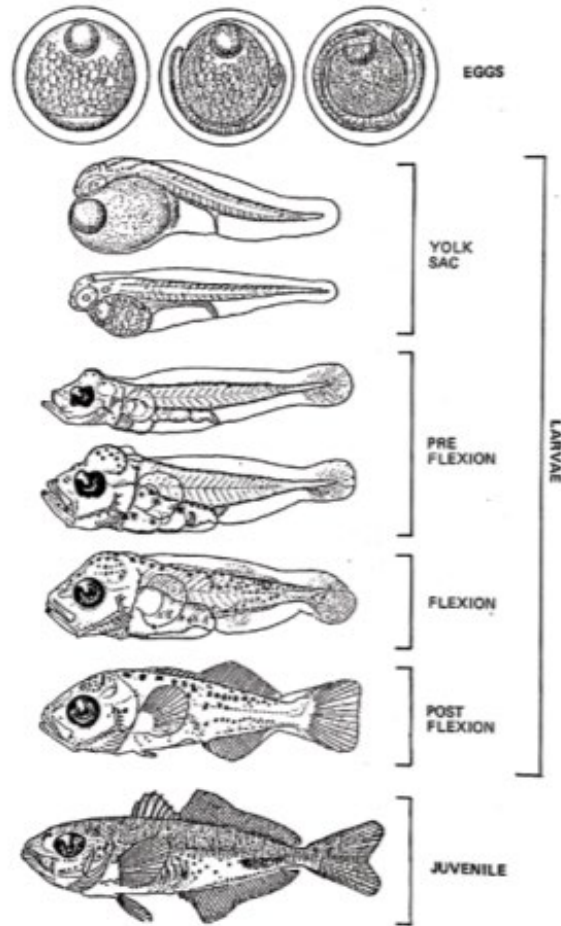
1.1.1.3 As defined in Section 4.5.1 of **Volume A5, Annex 3.1: Fish and Shellfish Ecology Technical Report**, herring are demersal spawners, exhibiting a preference for spawning habitats comprising coarser sediments such as sandy gravels to gravel, upon which eggs are deposited. Herring go through various developmental stages, which are key to the context of this note. Kendall et al. (1984) defined the early developmental stages of teleosts (bony fishes, including herring) into three key stages (**Figure 2**):

- Egg (from spawning to hatching);
- Larva (from hatching to juvenile); and
- Juvenile.

1.1.1.4 Kendall et al. (1984) further divided the larval stage into the following sub-stages (**Figure 2**):

- Yolk-sac larva (from hatching to the absorption of yolk reserves);

- Pre-flexion larva; and
- Flexion larva.



**Figure 2: Bony fish developmental stages (adapted from Ahlstrom and Ball (1954)).**

- 1.1.1.5 The key stages in relation to this note are the egg and yolk sac larval stages of herring development.
- 1.1.1.6 The primary source of information for the current status of herring spawning is the International Herring Larval Survey (IHLS) data, which is collected under the auspices of International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Previous analyses (Boyle & New, 2018) have demonstrated the suitability of the IHLS data to be used to aid in informing the location and extent of active herring spawning grounds as an update to the historical spawning grounds as defined by Coull *et al.* (1998). This method has been broadly accepted for use in EIAs, including for Hornsea Four.
- 1.1.1.7 To mitigate impacts from underwater noise to herring, specifically within the Banks spawning ground, the Applicant have made a commitment (Commitment 190 in [Volume A4, Annex 5.2: Commitments Register](#)) to avoid percussive piling at the High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) Booster Station within the Export Cable Corridor (ECC) during the “peak” spawning season for herring at the Banks spawning ground, specifically between 1st September to 16th October each year. This commitment is secured by DCO Schedule 12, Part 2 - Condition 23 ([C1.1 Draft DCO including Draft DML](#)).



1.1.1.8 Following pre-application consultation on this proposed seasonal restriction, further evidence to support the appropriateness of the “peak” spawning season (and therefore the associated piling restriction dates) has been requested by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Natural England within their respective Relevant Representations (RR-020 (paragraphs 3.7.25 - 3.7.36) and RR-029 (paragraph 5.65 and Appendix G), respectively). This note has been produced to provide further analysis and justification of the “peak” spawning period for herring in the vicinity of Hornsea Four in order to support the proposed timing of the seasonal restriction, using the methodology proposed by Cefas as part of the Hornsea Four Evidence Plan process. This note is being submitted to the MMO and Natural England with an aim to agreeing the timing of this “peak” spawning period and the associated piling restriction timing for Hornsea Four.

## 2 Seasonal Restriction Timing

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1.1 To determine the commencement of the “peak” spawning period for herring in the Banks grounds, the IHLS data has been interrogated and a back-calculation has been performed to identify the most likely date for when spawning commenced for the majority of the larvae captured within the IHLS data.

2.1.1.2 For the purposes of the spawning timing analysis, IHLS data for 2007 – 2020 for the Banks stock was interrogated to ensure the suggested peak spawning timing was applicable year to year.

2.1.1.3 The parameters required for the back-calculation for spawning timings are as follows, with each subsequently described in the following sections:

- IHLS survey timings;
- Larval length in survey sample data;
- Larval length at hatching;
- Egg development duration;
- Yolk absorption duration; and
- Growth rate.

2.1.1.4 Consideration of herring migratory patterns has also been provided.

### 2.2 IHLS Survey Timings

2.2.1.1 Whilst the survey start dates for the IHLS are broadly similar year to year, there are small interannual variations in the timings of the survey dates within each region. Based on the survey start dates for the main section of the Banks stock ([Table 1](#)) (excluding where small numbers (<5) of sampling locations had been sampled on the same day as the adjacent Buchan region), the average start date for the IHLS trawls between 2007 – 2020 has been calculated to be 24th September. As shown in [Table 1](#), the variation in survey start dates between years is generally small, and by using the average survey start date rather than an average survey date to inform the back calculation, a precautionary approach has been utilised.

2.2.1.2 It should be noted that there were no IHLS surveys undertaken in 2017. In 2018, the survey was undertaken for the Shetland stock only ([Figure 1](#)) and is therefore not applicable for use within the back-calculations for the Banks stock (the stock of relevance for Hornsea Four). These years have therefore been omitted from [Table 1](#).

Table 1: Range of survey start dates.

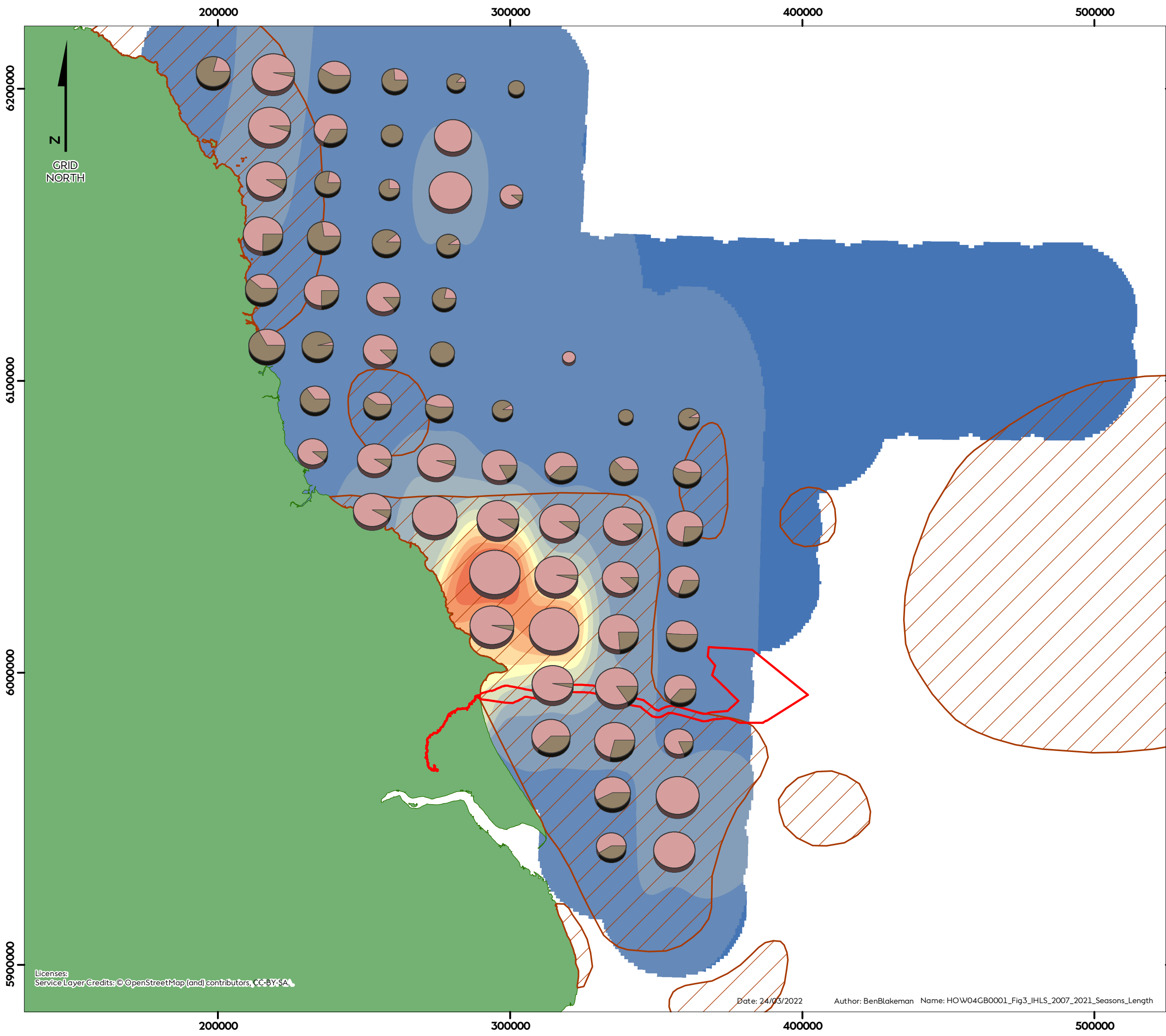
Survey Year	IHLS Survey Start Date Range
2007	24th - 25th Sept
2008	22nd - 23rd Sept
2009	28th - 30th Sept
2010	27th – 29th Sept
2011	26th – 28th Sept
2012	26th - 27th Sept
2013	24th - 25th Sept
2014	23rd - 24th Sept
2015	18th – 23rd Sept
2016	23rd – 28th Sept
2019	23rd – 26th Sept
2020	17th – 22nd Sept

*Average Survey Start Date: 24th September*

2.2.1.3 For the purposes of this assessment therefore, it has been assumed that the 24th September can be considered to represent the mean start of the peak occurrence of herring larvae for the Banks stock as recorded from the IHLS larval survey sampling and is therefore considered to be a reasonable mean date to use for the back-calculations of spawning.

## 2.3 Larval length in survey sample data (catch length)

2.3.1.1 The IHLS data provides records of the number of larvae of each length recorded within each survey sample. Overall, 97% of all larvae recorded within the IHLS surveys from 2007 – 2020 were equal to or less than 10 mm in length; ranging from >68% in the 2020 survey to 99.9% in the 2008 and 2013 surveys. It is notable that the frequency of larger larvae is more common in the lower density areas of the spawning ground, with the larvae at the sampling locations which overlap with the primary hotspots (stations 78 and 80, [Figure 5](#)) all being 10 mm or less over all the survey years ([Figure 3](#)). As such, the use of a 10 mm larval length in the back-calculation represents, over the considered survey period, the majority of all larvae recorded in all years, and all larvae in the key hotspots. On the basis that the majority of all larvae are consequently smaller than this selected size, 10 mm is considered an appropriate larval length upon which to base the calculation of a conservative estimate of the start of peak spawning as most of the larvae within the survey will have been spawned later than the calculated start date. Furthermore, ICES classify newly hatched larvae as those <10 mm in length, and therefore the use of a catch length of 10 mm ensures that all newly hatched larvae would be captured within this value.

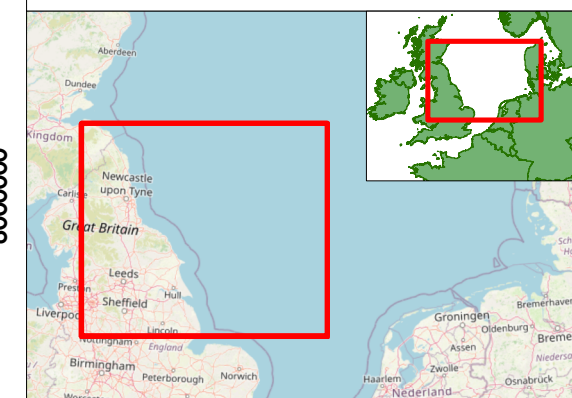


# Hornsea Four

## Figure 3

Mean herring larval lengths per sampling station (IHLS survey data (2007-2020))


- Order Limits
  - Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull et al., 1998)
- IHLS 2007/2008-2020/2021 Banks Data - Total Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**
- 0
  - 0.1 - 1,500
  - 1,500.1 - 6,000
  - 6,000.1 - 12,750
  - 12,750.1 - 20,500
  - 20,500.1 - 28,500
  - 28,500.1 - 36,500
  - 36,500.1 - 45,500
  - 45,500.1 - 55,000
  - 55,000.1 - 66,000
  - 66,000.1 - 77,250
  - 77,250.1 - 100,000
  - 100,000.1 - 120,000
- Pie chart size determined by total count (normalised by LOG)
- Length of Larvae ≤10mm
  - Length of Larvae >10mm



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N  
 Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000  
 0 25 50 Kilometres  
 0 10 20 Nautical Miles

REV	REMARK	DATE
---	First issue post DCO Application	24/03/2022

Herring Spawning Plan IHLS Lengths  
 Document no: HOW04GB0001  
 Created by: BPHB  
 Checked by: AL  
 Approved by: LK



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## 2.4 Larval length at hatching

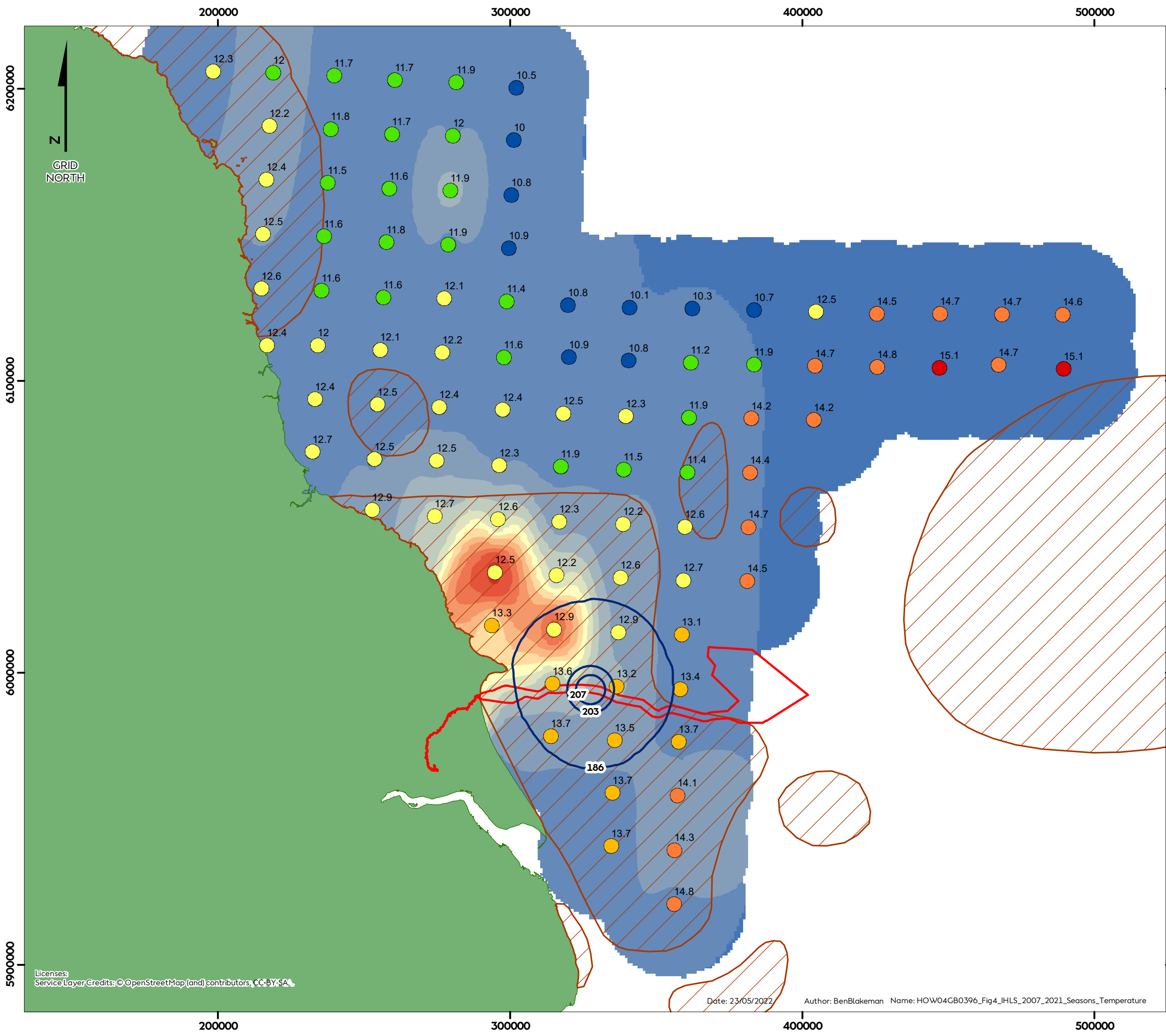
- 2.4.1.1 There is relatively large variation in the published average larval lengths at hatching within the scientific literature for the Banks stock, with estimates of average hatch length given as 8 mm (Blaxter and Hempel, 1963) or 6.5 mm (Heath, 1993).
- 2.4.1.2 Larval sizes within the IHLS data are occasionally recorded as being as low as 5 mm, however this is rare (there were nine records of larvae at 5 mm from 2007 to 2020, which equates to 0.5% of the recorded larvae), with most years recording the smallest larval size as being 6 mm, and even then, only in relatively low numbers (65 records of larvae at 6 mm, equates to 3.7% of all recorded larvae from 2007 to 2020). Due to the limitations of the IHLS sampling and the expectation that newly hatched larvae would not be routinely collected (Cefas, pers. comms.), it is considered that the larval sizes (at hatching) in the available literature are the most reliable source, rather than attempting to undertake an estimation of larval sizes (at hatching) from the IHLS data.
- 2.4.1.3 For the purposes of this back-calculation, both 6.5 mm (Heath, 1993) and 8 mm (Blaxter and Hempel, 1963) larval sizes (at hatching) have been used as the basis for the back-calculation analysis.
- 2.4.1.4 While the values identified above are those presented within the literature, the IHLS data recorded larvae captured at lengths of 5 mm and 6 mm, therefore, to implement further conservatism into the assessment, hatch sizes of 5 mm (most conservative length) and 6 mm (minimum length identified in meaningful numbers within the IHLS data) have also been included as a scenario for the back-calculation. In addition to this, as noted above larvae within the Banks stock are known to hatch up to 10 mm in length, therefore, to provide back-calculation dates for a full range of potential hatch sizes, 10 mm has also been included as a scenario for the back-calculation.
- 2.4.1.5 The application of a various larval hatching lengths as the basis of the back-calculations provides a range of peak spawning timings based on varying hatch size assumptions, within which the true start date will likely fit.

## 2.5 Egg development duration

- 2.5.1.1 A temperature dependent egg development duration has been used for this calculation, based on the durations from Russell (1976). Data for the temperature at the maximum sampling depth for each trawl is recorded as part of the IHLS data. This data has been used to determine the average temperature at the maximum sampling depth to represent the average seafloor temperature for egg development duration.
- 2.5.1.2 For the 2007 – 2020 dataset, the temperature during sampling (at maximum sampling depth), has ranged from 8.0°C – 15.8°C. Pre-2016, all survey data show strong agreement with a more limited temperature range (approximately 11°C – 15°C) (see [Figure 6](#) to [Figure 14](#)). Increased variation in the spread of temperature values (higher and lower values) is recorded in the 2016 ([Figure 15](#)), 2019 ([Figure 16](#)) and 2020 ([Figure 17](#)) survey data; however, note that all temperatures <12°C in the 2016 – 2020 surveys were found to the north of Hornsea Four and the lowest temperatures (<10°C) were all recorded to the north of the primary larval hotspot within each years data (and outwith the Coull *et al.* (1998) historical spawning grounds). See [Figure 4](#) below for average temperatures recorded at maximum sampling depths across the site within IHLS survey data. The average temperature from the full dataset does not reach below 12.2°C for any of the sampling locations within the Coull *et al.* (1998) spawning ground, with the average temperature at the key hotspots, being slightly higher than the average. This suggests that the average

temperature used herein in is conservative for the purposes of considering the environmental conditions experienced by the majority of the larvae within the Banks stock.

- 2.5.1.3 Based on all sample locations for the full dataset considered, the mean temperature at the maximum sampling depth is calculated as 12.23°C. The mode and median values were 12.6°C and 12.6°C respectively.
- 2.5.1.4 Therefore, for the purposes of the temperature dependent values within the back-calculation, the water temperature has been considered to be 12.2°C.
- 2.5.1.5 Based on the expected development period for eggs from Russell (1976), the egg development time within the calculations herein has been assumed as a precautionary nine days (based on the upper duration for the range of seven to nine days for an average temperature of 12°C – 13°C).

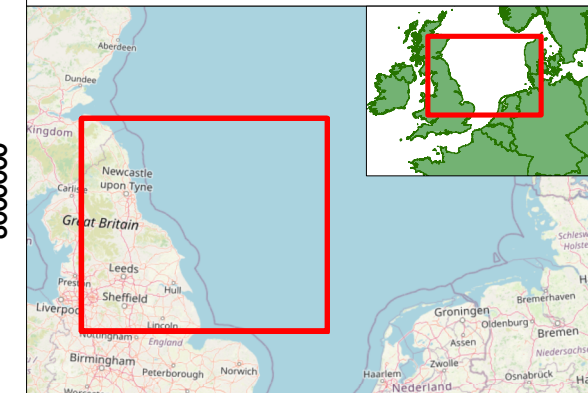


# Hornsea Four

## Figure 4

Mean temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLs survey data (2007-2020))

- Order Limits
  - HVAC Monopile Contours (dB SELcum) - Stationary Receptors
  - Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull et al., 1998)
- IHLS 2007/2008-2020/2021 Banks Data - Total Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**
- 0
  - 0.1 - 1,500
  - 1,500.1 - 6,000
  - 6,000.1 - 12,750
  - 12,750.1 - 20,500
  - 20,500.1 - 28,500
  - 28,500.1 - 36,500
  - 36,500.1 - 45,500
  - 45,500.1 - 55,000
  - 55,000.1 - 66,000
  - 66,000.1 - 77,250
  - 77,250.1 - 100,000
  - 100,000.1 - 120,000
- Average Temperature (Degrees)**
- 10 - 11
  - 11 - 12
  - 12 - 13
  - 13 - 14
  - 14 - 15
  - 15 - 16



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N  
 Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000

0 25 50 Kilometres

0 10 20 Nautical Miles

REV	REMARK	DATE
---	First issue post DCO Application	23/05/2022

Herring Spawning Plan IHLS Temperature  
 Document no: HOW04GB0396  
 Created by: BPHB  
 Checked by: AL  
 Approved by: LK



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## 2.6 Yolk absorption duration

- 2.6.1.1 Yolk absorption periods are also temperature dependent (Russell, 1976), with higher ambient temperatures equating to faster yolk absorption. During the yolk absorption stage, larvae are negatively buoyant and tend to remain close to the seabed, and as such are much less likely to be captured within the IHLS trawls, which target sampling higher in the water column.
- 2.6.1.2 During this yolk absorption period, larvae are non-feeding, with limited energy involved in swimming activity. As the larvae start to reach the start of active feeding, swimming activity increases, with larvae consequently rising within the water column (Kiorboe *et al.*, 1985).
- 2.6.1.3 Russell (1976) identified that the yolk sac absorption phase lasted for 5 and 14 days at 12.0°C or 3 and 9 days at 12.8°C. Kiorboe *et al.* (1985) identified that autumn spawning herring larvae, reared at 8°C started actively feeding after 4.5 days at high prey densities and after 6.5 days at low prey densities (based on a 50% increase in feeding incidence for the days after hatching; feeding was noted from 3 days at high prey densities). No yolk was present at the start of feeding for the autumn larvae in Kiorboe *et al.* (1985). Geffen (2002) also noted that the yolk absorption phase for larvae raised at 7°C was 9 – 11 days.
- 2.6.1.4 These studies (Kiorboe *et al.*, 1985; Geffen, 2002) suggest, based on active feeding being noted after 3 – 6.5 days and 9 – 11 days at much lower temperatures (8°C and 7°C respectively) than recorded for the Banks stock (12.2°C), that the most appropriate yolk absorption period from Russell (1976) to use for this study is 5 days. For the purposes of this calculation, it is assumed that this represents the point at which the larvae commence feeding, consequently rising up higher into the water column and therefore become available to the survey equipment used for the IHLS.

## 2.7 Growth rate

- 2.7.1.1 Various studies have identified a wide range of growth rates for herring larvae; however, all studies have used temperatures below the average recorded for the Banks stock during the IHLS dataset examined for Hornsea Four (12.2°C), with only one study undertaken at 12°C (Folkvord *et al.*, 2004) and other studies using lower temperatures (1°C – 11.5°C) (e.g. Das, 1972; Fox *et al.*, 2003; Geffen, 1986 and Heath, 1993).
- 2.7.1.2 Importantly, the primary determinant of larval growth rates has been identified as temperature, with prey density a further factor (Folkvord *et al.*, 2004; Heath, 1993; Houde, 1997; Oeberst *et al.*, 2009). Specifically, temperature has been identified as potentially explaining more than 50% of the variability in growth rate between studies (Houde, 1997; Oeberst *et al.*, 2009).
- 2.7.1.3 Oeberst *et al.* (2009) have developed an equation to calculate temperature dependent growth rates, using data from extensive survey campaigns within the Baltic, and based on changes in growth rates of 5 – 20 mm larvae during the growing season, where natural water temperatures vary from 5°C to 20°C over the season. Using the equation from Oeberst *et al.* (2009), for the average temperature recorded in the IHLS data (12.2°C), a growth rate of 0.47 mm d<sup>-1</sup> is calculated. In the literature, growth rates of 0.4 mm d<sup>-1</sup> have been recorded for larvae reared at temperatures ranging from 8°C (Gamble *et al.*, 1985) to 10.5°C (Fox *et al.*, 2003) to 12°C (Folkvord *et al.*, 2004). Oeberst *et al.* (2009) also identified that the equation had strong agreement with values in the literature at the lower temperatures, although the regression lines for the equation based on survey data and literature values diverge at higher values (where values in the literature are unavailable),

suggesting that extrapolating from values in the literature would tend to give an artificially low estimate of growth rates.

2.7.1.4 As noted above, the temperatures experienced by the majority of the larvae within the Banks stock will be above this average temperature, with the key hotspots based on the IHLS data suggesting that the average temperature over all years at these locations is higher than the average used herein and in the growth rate calculation (and thus would equate to a slightly higher growth rate).

2.7.1.5 Consequently, the growth rate used within the back-calculation to determine the start of the peak spawning period is 0.47 mm d<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table 2: Literature Sources of Daily Growth Rates**

Data Source	Growth Rate	Reared. Field Observation, Mesocosm	Temperature	Stock Origin	Spawner Type	Prey Density
Folkvord et al., 2004	0.15, 0.4 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	Reared	12 °C	Norwegian Sea	Spring	N/A
Das, 1972;	0.14–0.29 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	Field Observation	1 –11.2 °C	Bay of Fundy	–	N/A
Fox et al., 2003;	0.4 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	Reared	10.1 – 10.5 °C	North Sea (Buchan)	Autumn	High (1025± 290 prey items <sup>-1</sup> )
Fox et al., 2003;	0.3 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	Reared	10.1 – 10.5 °C	North Sea (Buchan)	Autumn	Low (64 ± 14 prey items <sup>-1</sup> ).
Geffen, 1986;	0.33 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	Field Observation	8 - 10 °C	Clyde	Spring	N/A
Heath, 1993;	0.2–0.3 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	Field	N/A	North Sea	Spring/ Autumn	N/A
Oeberst et al., 2009	0.2–0.65 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	Field observation	5-20 °C	Rügen,	Spring	N/A
Gamble et al., 1985	0.35–0.40 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	Mesocosm	7 - 8 °C	Clyde	Spring/ Autumn	N/A

## 2.8 Back-calculation

2.8.1.1 The factors for consideration within the back-calculation based on the above evaluation are summarised in [Table 3](#) below, with the five scenarios for the five different hatch lengths presented.



**Table 3: Factors considered within the back-calculations.**

Factor	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C	Scenario D	Scenario E
Mean survey start date	24th September	24th September	24th September	24th September	24th September
Larval length at catch	10 mm	10 mm	10 mm	10 mm	10 mm
Indicative hatch length	6.5 mm	8 mm	5 mm	6 mm	10 mm
Period of egg development	9 days	9 days	9 days	9 days	9 days
Yolk absorption period	5 days	5 days	5 days	5 days	5 days
Assumed growth rate	0.47 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	0.47 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	0.47 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	0.47 mm d <sup>-1</sup>	0.47 mm d <sup>-1</sup>

2.8.1.2 For scenario A, based on a growth rate of 0.47 mm d<sup>-1</sup>, it would take a 6.5 mm larvae 7.5 days to grow to the 10 mm catch size. For scenario B, it would take an 8 mm larvae 4.3 days to grow to the 10 mm hatch size. For Scenario C, it would take a 5 mm larvae 10.6 days to grow to the 10 mm hatch size. For Scenario D, it would take a 5 mm larvae 8.5 days to grow to the 10 mm hatch size. For Scenario E, it would take a 10 mm larvae 0 days to grow to the 10 mm hatch size.

2.8.1.3 It should be noted that the inclusion of the yolk absorption period separately to the duration required for larvae to grow to size on catching is likely to result in a degree of double counting and is therefore considered precautionary – i.e. larvae commence growth during the yolk absorption period and e.g. where a 5 day period is required for growth to catch size, this is likely to run at least partially simultaneously with the yolk absorption period rather than sequentially as assumed in the calculations, adding further conservatism to the calculation.

2.8.1.4 For the purposes of the back-calculations, the following calculation has been used to determine the start of the peak spawning period:

Start of peak spawning period = Survey start date – numbers of days from hatch size to catch size – yolk absorption duration – egg development duration

2.8.1.5 For Scenario A, the start of the peak spawning season is calculated as:

24th September – (7.5 days+5 days+ 9 days) = **2nd September**

2.8.1.6 For Scenario B, the start of the peak spawning season is calculated as:

24th September – (4.3 days+5 days+9 days) = **5th September**

2.8.1.7 For Scenario C, the start of the peak spawning season is calculated as:

24th September – (10.6 days+5 days+9 days) = **30th August**

2.8.1.8 For Scenario D, the start of the peak spawning season is calculated as:

24th September – (8.5 days+5 days+9 days) = **1st September**

2.8.1.9 For Scenario E, the start of the peak spawning season is calculated as:

24th September – (0 days+5 days+9 days) = **10th September**

## 2.9 Herring Migratory Patterns

2.9.1.1 The Banks herring stock migrate in a clockwise circuit in the North Sea, migrating from the northeast to the Banks spawning ground, and then continuing in a northerly direction (Cushing, 2001). The migration circuit has been mapped alongside the herring larval hotspots, and noise contours from piling at the HVAC booster station (the closest piling

activities to the herring larval hotspot) in [Figure 18](#). Hornsea Four lies to the south of the migration pathway, and the noise contours fall outside of the migration pathway. Therefore, there will be no barrier impacts on herring migration from piling activities at Hornsea Four. This has therefore not been considered any further in the determination of the peak spawning period and seasonal piling restriction.

### 3 Conclusion

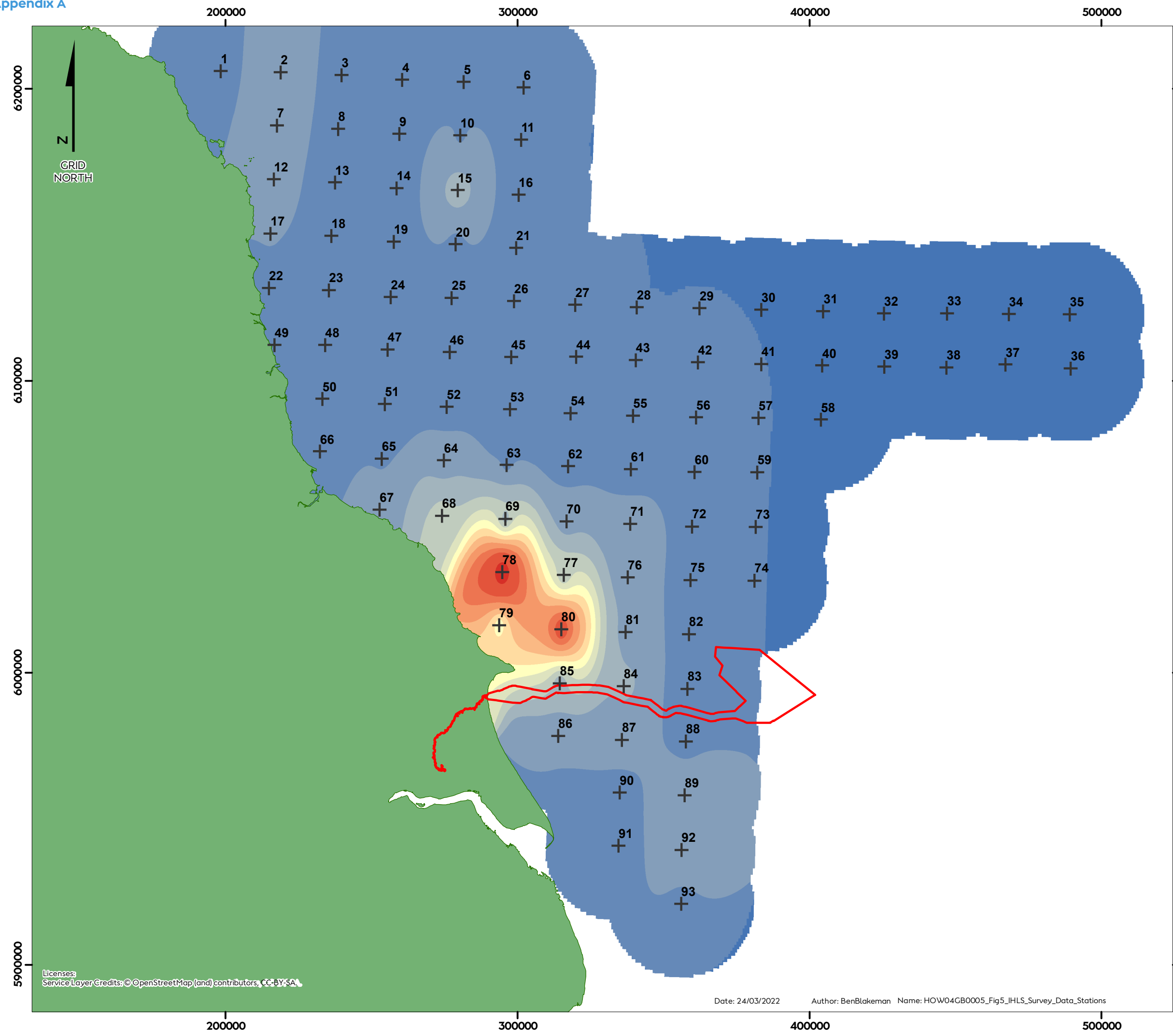
- 3.1.1.1 The Applicant committed to the implementation of a seasonal restriction on piling at the HVAC Booster Station location, to cover the “peak” period for the herring spawning within the Banks spawning grounds to the north of the ECC. It is therefore proposed that this seasonal restriction runs from 1st September – 16th October.
- 3.1.1.2 Following an interrogation of the IHLS data and the available literature to identify the key timings and durations for herring larval development, a back-calculation based on the IHLS survey dates and larval lengths at survey has been undertaken to estimate the start of the “peak” spawning season.
- 3.1.1.3 Based on the variable information in the literature and the IHLS survey data regarding larval hatch sizes, the back-calculation (as presented in [Section 2](#)) indicates, with suitably precautionary assumptions, that the start of the “peak” spawning season is between approximately the 30th August and the 10th of September, with this considered to be a conservative estimate.
- 3.1.1.4 It should be noted that significant conservatism have been applied to the back-calculations. These include the consideration of a 5 mm hatch size (the most conservative hatch size) despite the low abundances of larvae caught at 5 mm within the IHLS survey data. Further conservatism was applied to the back-calculation through the inclusion of the yolk absorption period separately to the duration required for larvae to grow to size on catching which will likely result in double-counting (larvae commence growth during the yolk absorption period). As such, it is considered that the multiple conservatisms built into the calculation, result in dates which are likely to be much earlier in time than the true start of the peak spawning period. Therefore, the Applicant considered that that a peak spawning period of 1st September – 16th October remains appropriate to avoid population impacts on herring.
- 3.1.1.5 It is therefore concluded that the proposed seasonal restriction for Hornsea Four acts to effectively cover the “peak” of the spawning season for herring, with additional conservatism incorporated into the proposed dates beyond that required based on the back-calculations as informed by available literature, and as a result provides a robust mitigation of the potential effects of piling of the HVAC booster station on herring spawning.

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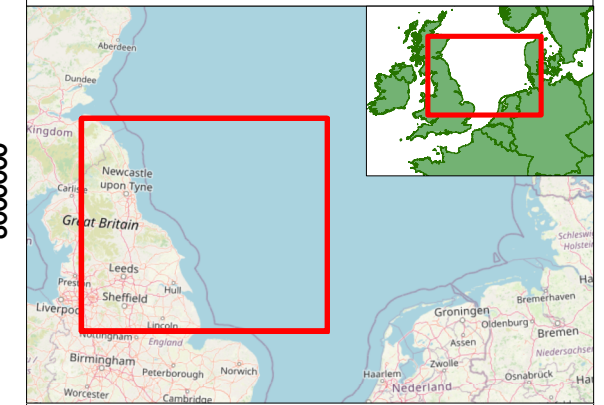


# Hornsea Four

## Figure 5

### IHLS Survey Data Stations

- Order Limits
- + IHLS Grid
- IHLS 2007/2008-2020/2021 Banks Data - Total Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**
- 0
- 0.1 - 1,500
- 1,500.1 - 6,000
- 6,000.1 - 12,750
- 12,750.1 - 20,500
- 20,500.1 - 28,500
- 28,500.1 - 36,500
- 36,500.1 - 45,500
- 45,500.1 - 55,000
- 55,000.1 - 66,000
- 66,000.1 - 77,250
- 77,250.1 - 100,000
- 100,000.1 - 120,000



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N  
 Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000

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IHLS Survey Data Stations  
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## Appendix B

Table 4: Mean larval catch sizes per year per station (IHLS survey data, 2007-2020).

Station	Year											
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2019	2020
1		12.5 mm	13.7 mm		10.0 mm				10.5 mm	13.1 mm		
2		12.0 mm	10.0 mm						11.5 mm	13.0 mm		
3			12.7 mm						12.2 mm	12.4 mm		
4			14.0 mm						11.0 mm			
5								12.0 mm			7.0 mm	
6									14.0 mm	14.0 mm		
7			9.0 mm	10.5 mm	10.0 mm				11.0 mm	11.5 mm		
8			13.8 mm						12.0 mm	14.0 mm		
9			16.0 mm	12.0 mm			12.0 mm					
10										7.5 mm	7.8 mm	
12		8.0 mm	10.1 mm	9.7 mm	11.0 mm				9.0 mm	11.9 mm		
13			14.9 mm	10.0 mm	10.0 mm				11.0 mm	14.5 mm		
14			15.0 mm		10.5 mm					15.0 mm		
15	8.0 mm				10.0 mm				12.0 mm	7.0 mm		
16										9.3 mm		
17		8.0 mm	10.0 mm	9.0 mm	6.5 mm				8.0 mm	14.0 mm		
18			17.3 mm	11.5 mm					11.0 mm	15.0 mm		
19		9.5 mm							13.0 mm	13.5 mm		
20									11.0 mm	15.0 mm		
22		9.5 mm			6.5 mm				9.5 mm	15.0 mm		
23		9.5 mm	14.4 mm			8.0 mm			10.5 mm	13.5 mm		
24		8.5 mm	21.0 mm						12.0 mm	14.5 mm		
25									11.5 mm			
27											8.0 mm	
30												8.0 mm
44											8.0 mm	

# Hornsea 4



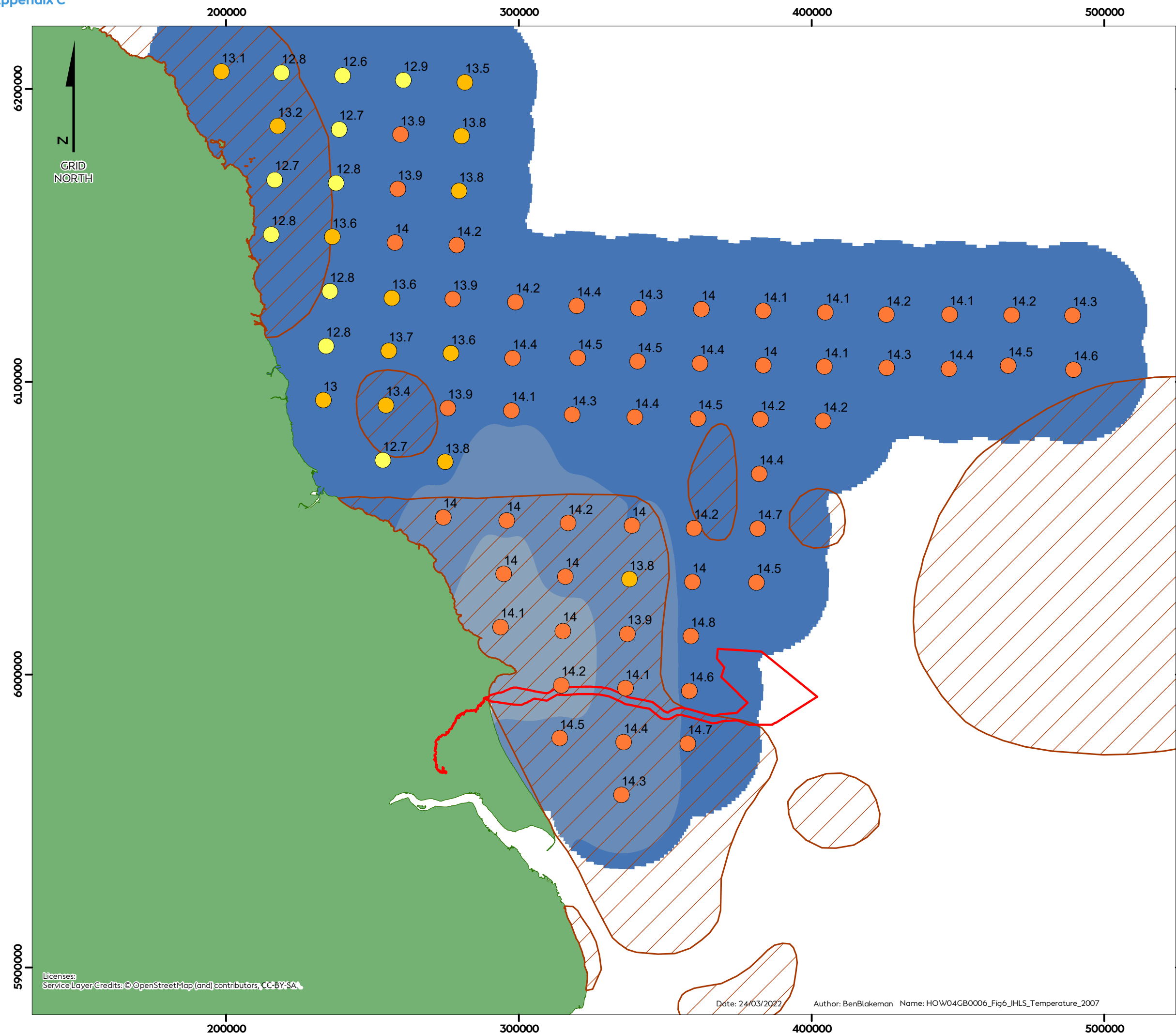
Station	Year											
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2019	2020
46				16.0 mm				11.0 mm	12.0 mm	14.0 mm		
47		9.5 mm	13.4 mm						12.5 mm	13.0 mm		
48		10.8 mm	9.0 mm						11.5 mm	14.0 mm		
49		10.0 mm	9.5 mm							15.0 mm		
50			16.0 mm	13.5 mm		11.5 mm			8.5 mm	15.0 mm		
51		10.6 mm	15.0 mm					9.0 mm		14.0 mm		10.5 mm
52								11.0 mm		15.7 mm	8.3 mm	11.3 mm
53				9.0 mm						16.5 mm		11.5 mm
54					16.0 mm							
55						20.0 mm	12.0 mm			11.0 mm		
56										12.3 mm	8.0 mm	13.5 mm
60										12.0 mm	10.0 mm	10.5 mm
61						11.0 mm				13.1 mm		
62			11.0 mm	11.5 mm	9.0 mm		7.5 mm	10.5 mm		11.5 mm	7.0 mm	12.3 mm
63					8.0 mm			8.0 mm	10.5 mm	13.0 mm	9.0 mm	9.5 mm
64					9.0 mm		8.0 mm	10.0 mm	9.0 mm	10.5 mm	8.8 mm	11.5 mm
65		13.0 mm	12.0 mm		9.5 mm	9.8 mm	9.0 mm	9.0 mm	9.0 mm	16.5 mm	9.0 mm	10.0 mm
66			11.5 mm			9.5 mm			8.5 mm	13.5 mm	12.0 mm	
67					8.5 mm		7.5 mm	9.5 mm	8.5 mm			8.9 mm
68	9.5 mm	10.0 mm	9.5 mm	8.5 mm	8.3 mm		7.5 mm	8.0 mm		10.3 mm	8.5 mm	9.5 mm
69	9.2 mm		8.8 mm	9.5 mm	9.0 mm		8.0 mm	9.0 mm	10.0 mm	12.5 mm	8.0 mm	9.0 mm
70			9.5 mm	9.5 mm	9.0 mm			9.2 mm	10.0 mm	10.1 mm	9.0 mm	9.0 mm
71				9.5 mm	8.0 mm			9.0 mm		10.3 mm	8.5 mm	11.2 mm
72				10.5 mm				9.0 mm		10.7 mm	10.5 mm	8.5 mm
75				11.5 mm				10.5 mm		9.5 mm	9.5 mm	
76	12.0 mm		10.0 mm	10.5 mm	10.5 mm			8.0 mm	13.0 mm	8.5 mm	8.0 mm	9.8 mm
77	11.0 mm	7.0 mm	9.0 mm	9.0 mm	9.0 mm		7.5 mm	8.0 mm	9.0 mm	10.0 mm	8.5 mm	9.4 mm
78	9.6 mm	7.0 mm	8.5 mm	10.0 mm	8.5 mm		7.0 mm	8.5 mm	8.9 mm	10.2 mm	7.3 mm	9.4 mm
79	9.5 mm	8.0 mm	10.0 mm	9.5 mm	8.5 mm	6.8 mm	8.0 mm	8.5 mm	9.3 mm	10.0 mm	8.5 mm	8.9 mm

# Hornsea 4



Station	Year											
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2019	2020
80	10.0 mm	7.0 mm	8.5 mm	8.0 mm	7.1 mm	7.5 mm	7.0 mm	9.0 mm	9.0 mm	8.5 mm	9.0 mm	9.5 mm
81	11.0 mm		9.5 mm	10.0 mm	9.5 mm	10.0 mm		8.0 mm	11.0 mm	10.5 mm	8.0 mm	9.7 mm
82				12.0 mm		9.0 mm		11.0 mm		9.0 mm		
83				10.5 mm		8.4 mm		10.0 mm	12.0 mm	10.5 mm		
84	10.0 mm	9.5 mm	9.0 mm	8.9 mm	9.0 mm	9.7 mm		10.0 mm	10.0 mm	11.0 mm	7.5 mm	11.7 mm
85	9.5 mm	7.0 mm	9.5 mm	7.5 mm	9.5 mm	11.0 mm	8.8 mm	9.0 mm	9.5 mm	10.0 mm	9.0 mm	10.0 mm
86	11.0 mm	6.0 mm	9.5 mm	8.5 mm	11.0 mm	11.0 mm	7.5 mm	9.5 mm	8.5 mm	11.5 mm		9.5 mm
87	11.5 mm		9.5 mm	8.0 mm	10.6 mm	10.0 mm		10.0 mm	12.5 mm	11.5 mm	8.5 mm	13.5 mm
88				10.0 mm			16.0 mm	12.0 mm		10.0 mm	6.0 mm	
89				12.0 mm	7.0 mm					10.2 mm	7.5 mm	
90			9.7 mm	8.0 mm	12.0 mm			9.0 mm		12.0 mm	9.0 mm	13.0 mm
91				9.5 mm						13.3 mm	7.5 mm	8.0 mm
92					7.4 mm					9.5 mm	7.8 mm	



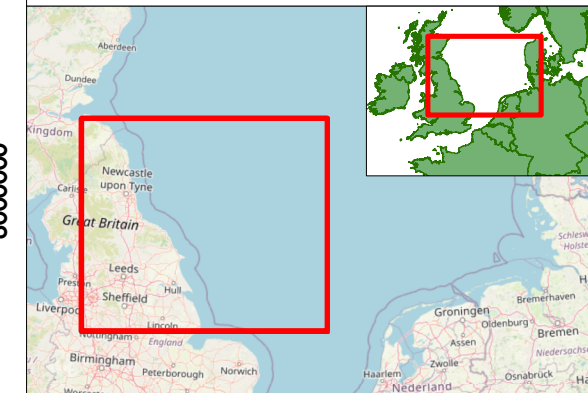


# Hornsea Four

Figure 6

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2007)

- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)
- IHLS Banks Data 2007 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**
- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325
- Average Temperature (Degrees)**
- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



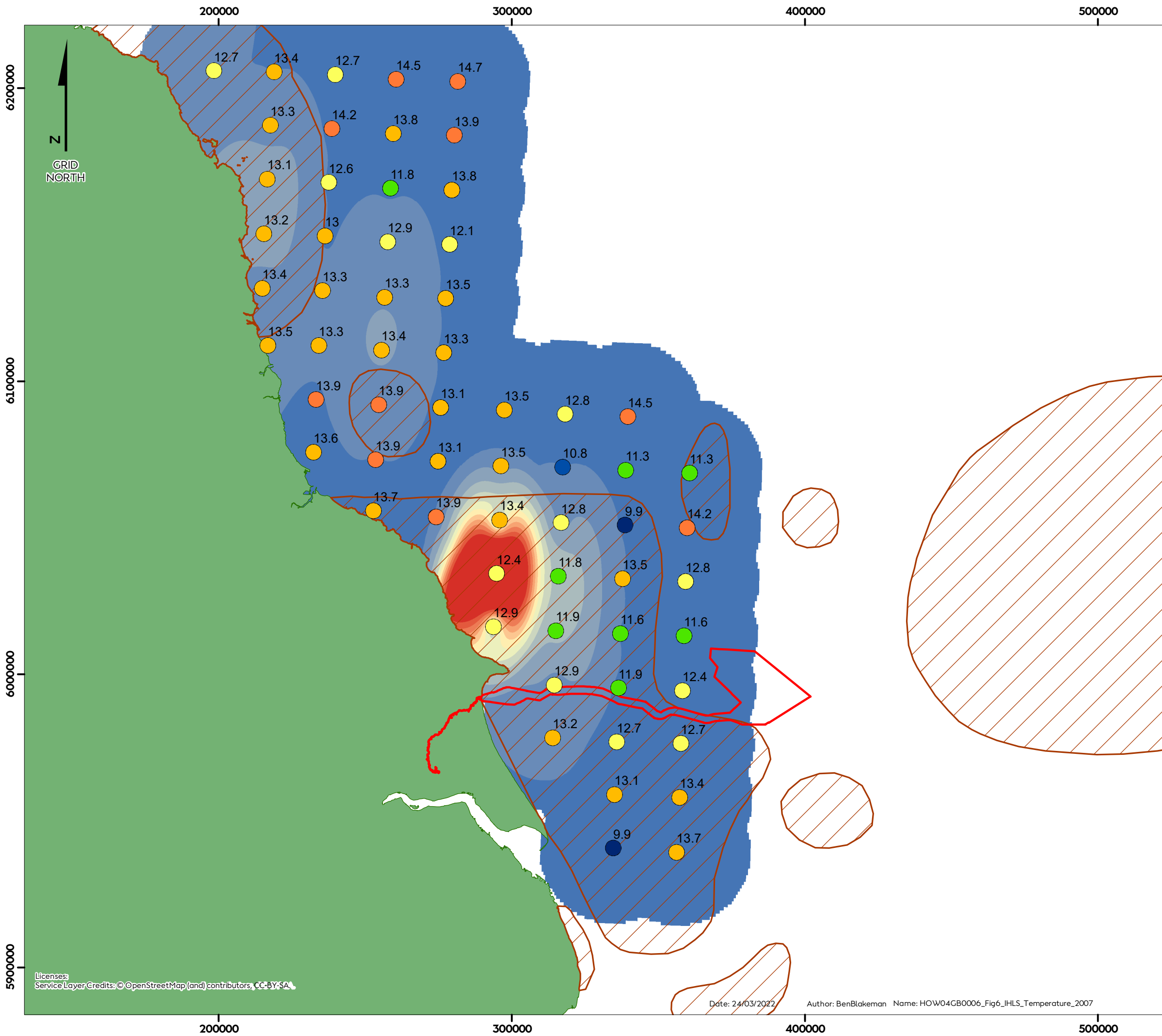
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IHLS Temperature  
 Per Year 2007  
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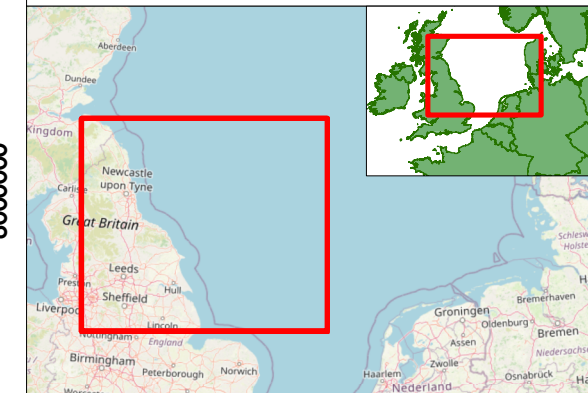


# Hornsea Four

Figure 7

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2008)

- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)
- IHLS Banks Data 2008 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**
- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325
- Average Temperature (Degrees)**
- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N

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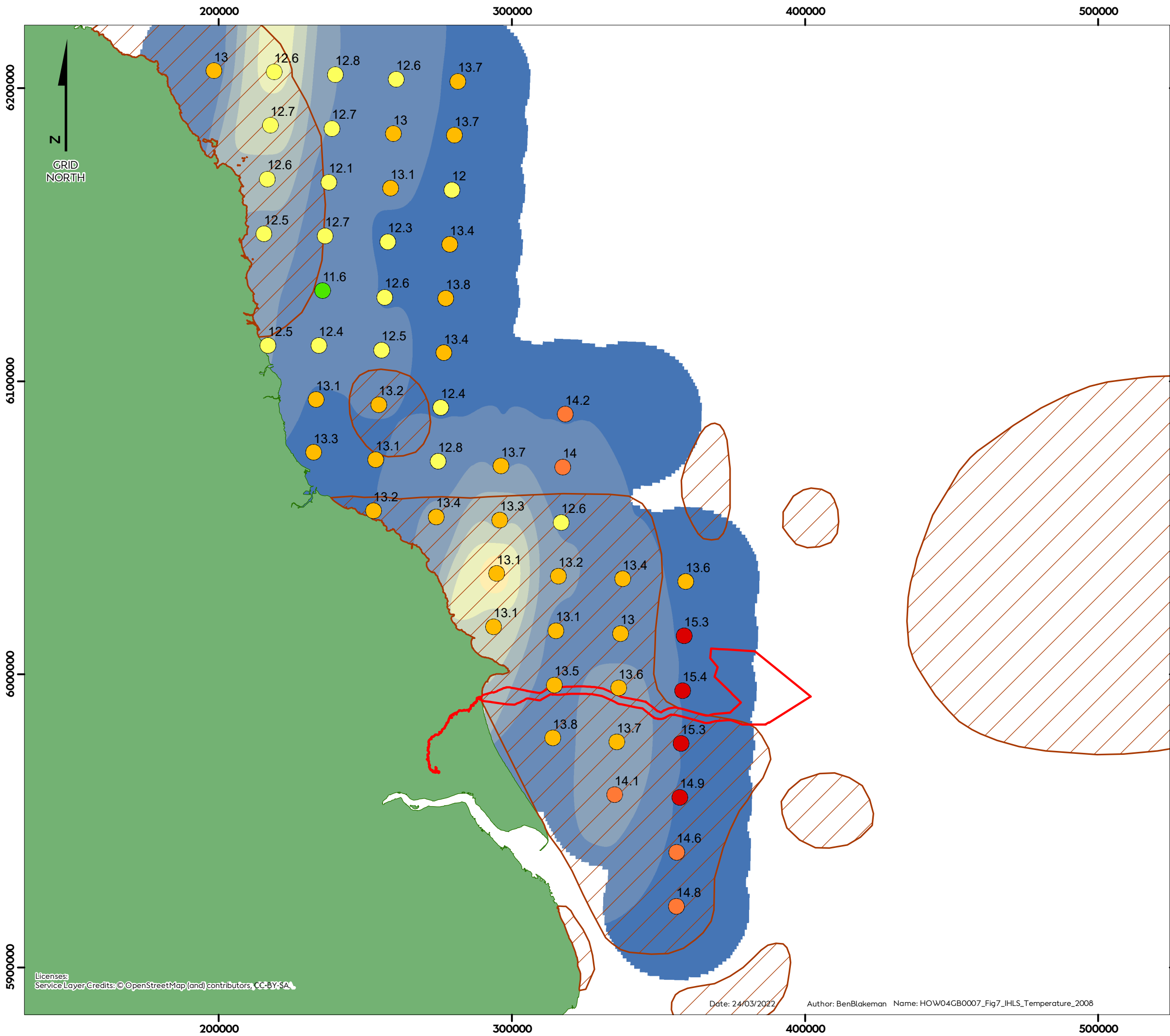
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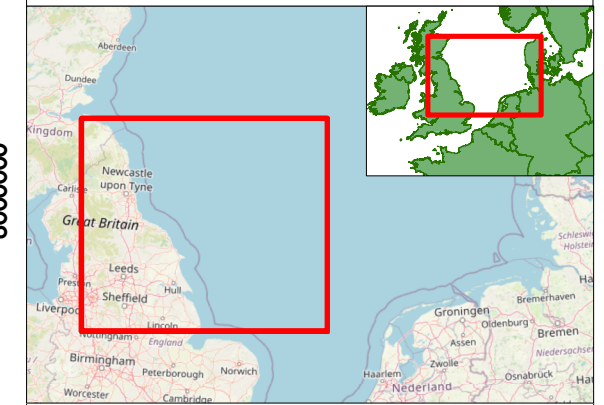


# Hornsea Four

Figure 8

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2009)

- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)
- IHLS Banks Data 2009 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**
- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325
- Average Temperature (Degrees)**
- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



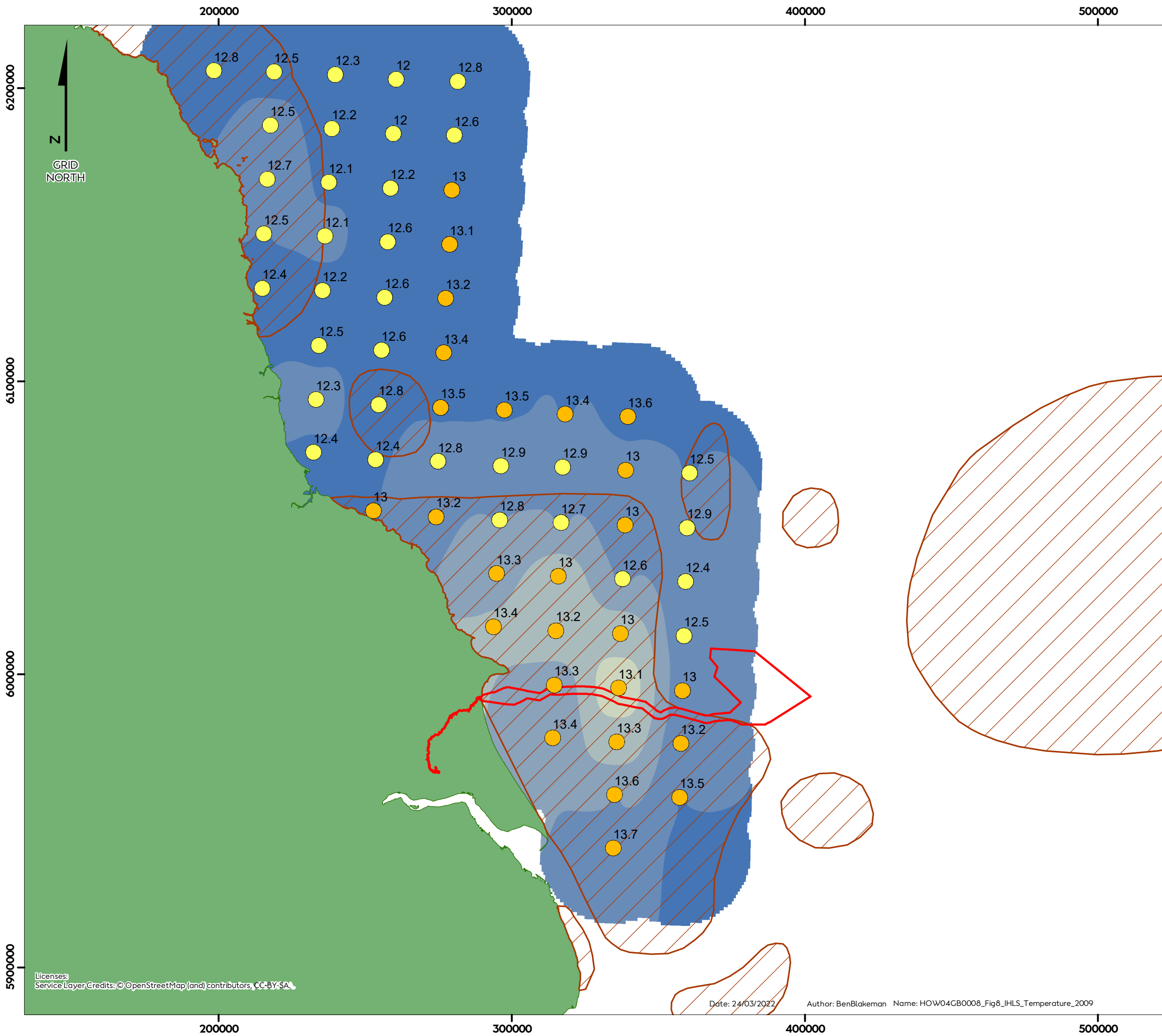
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IHLS Temperature  
 Per Year 2009  
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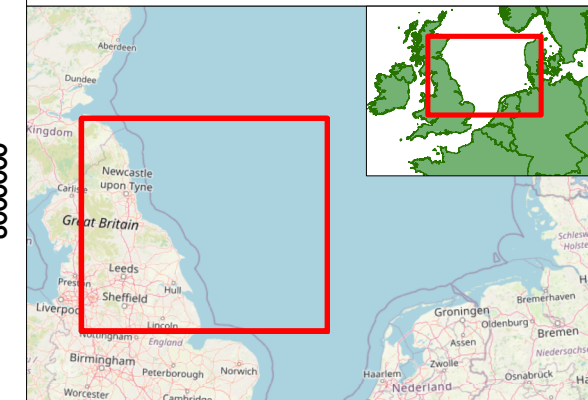


# Hornsea Four

Figure 9

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2010)

- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)
- IHLS Banks Data 2010 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**
- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325
- Average Temperature (Degrees)**
- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N

Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000

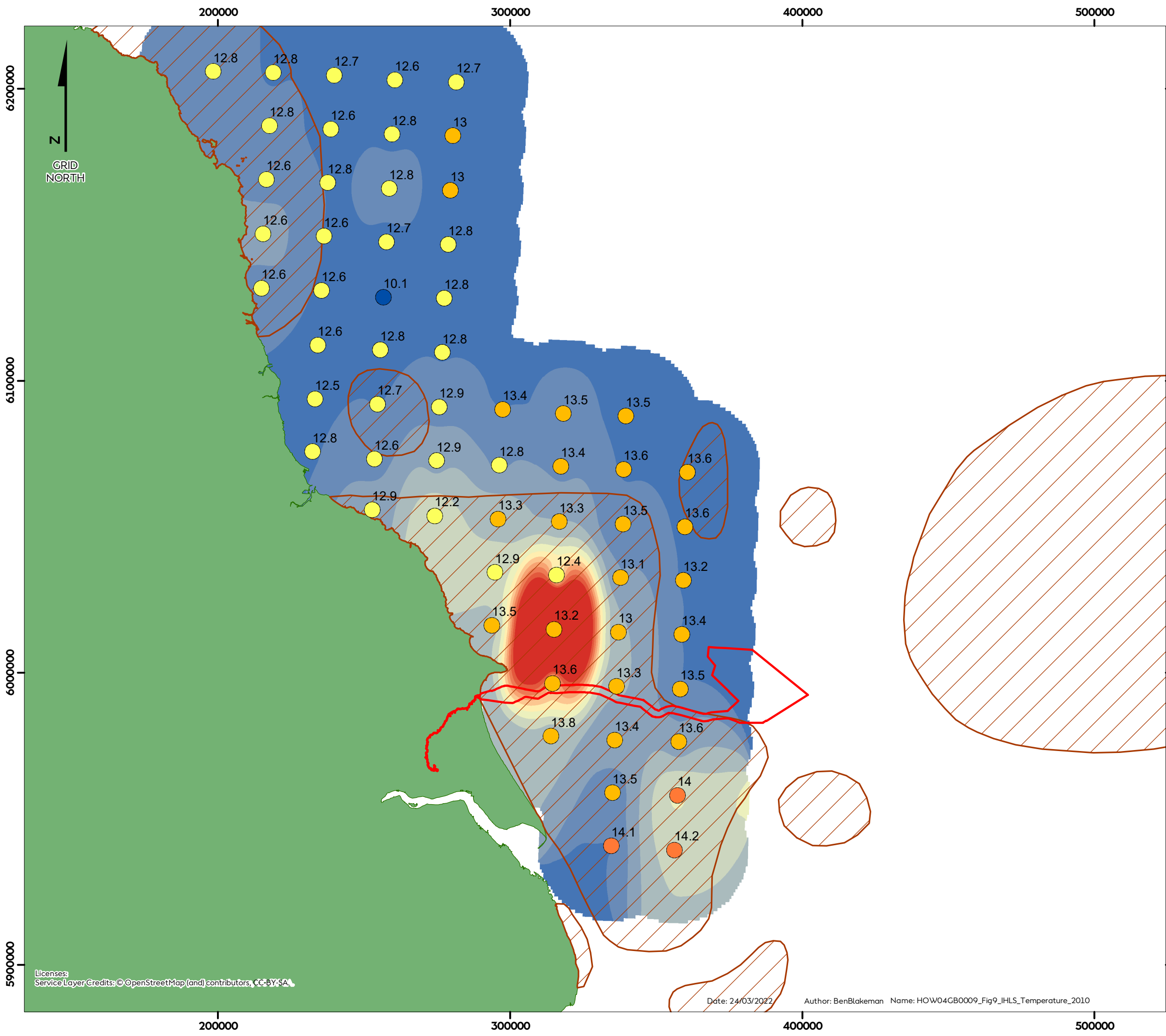
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0 10 20 Nautical Miles

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IHLS Temperature  
Per Year 2010  
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# Hornsea Four

Figure 10

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2011)

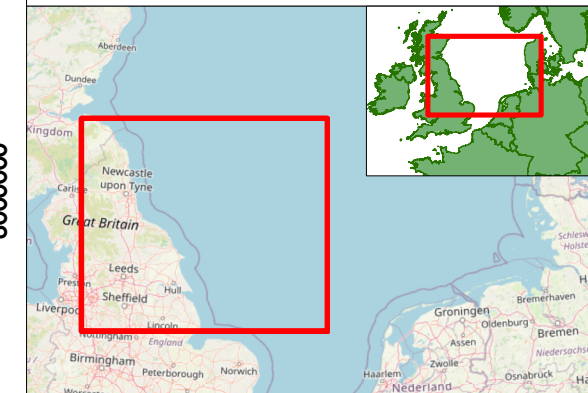
- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)

**IHLS Banks Data 2011 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**

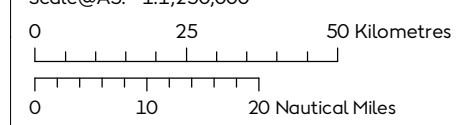
- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325

**Average Temperature (Degrees)**

- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N  
Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000

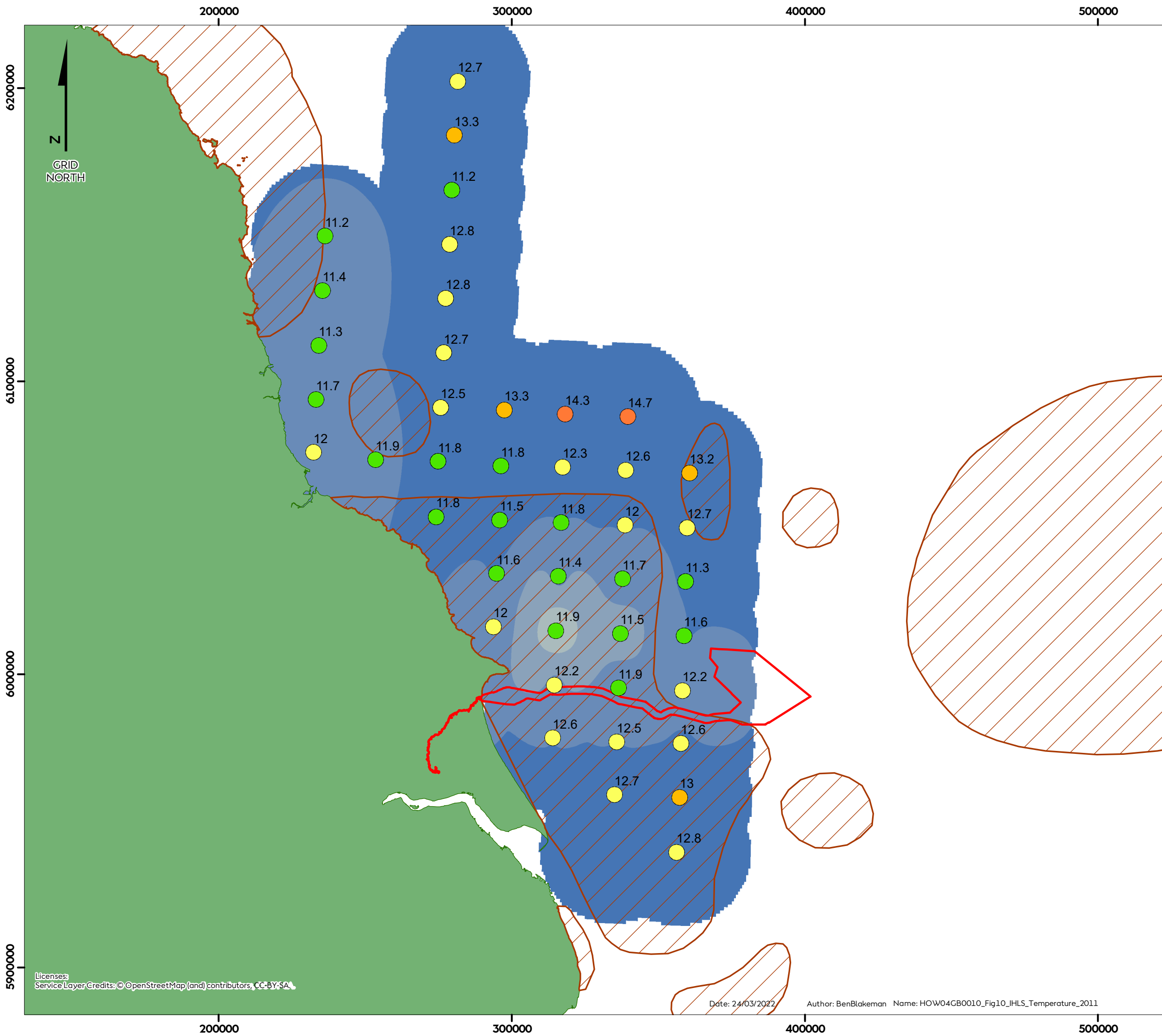


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IHLS Temperature  
Per Year 2011  
Document no: HOW04GB0010  
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Checked by: AL  
Approved by: LK



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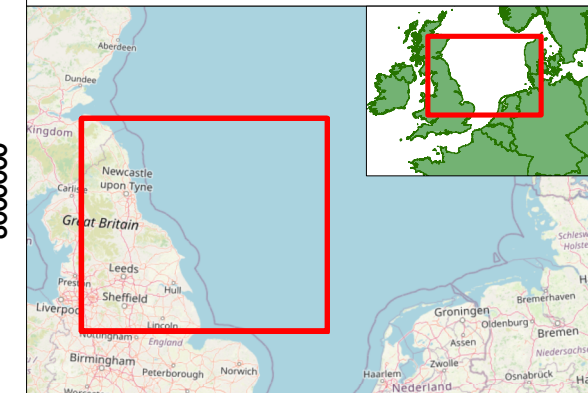


# Hornsea Four

Figure 11

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2012)

- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)
- IHLS Banks Data 2012 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**
- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325
- Average Temperature (Degrees)**
- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N

Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000

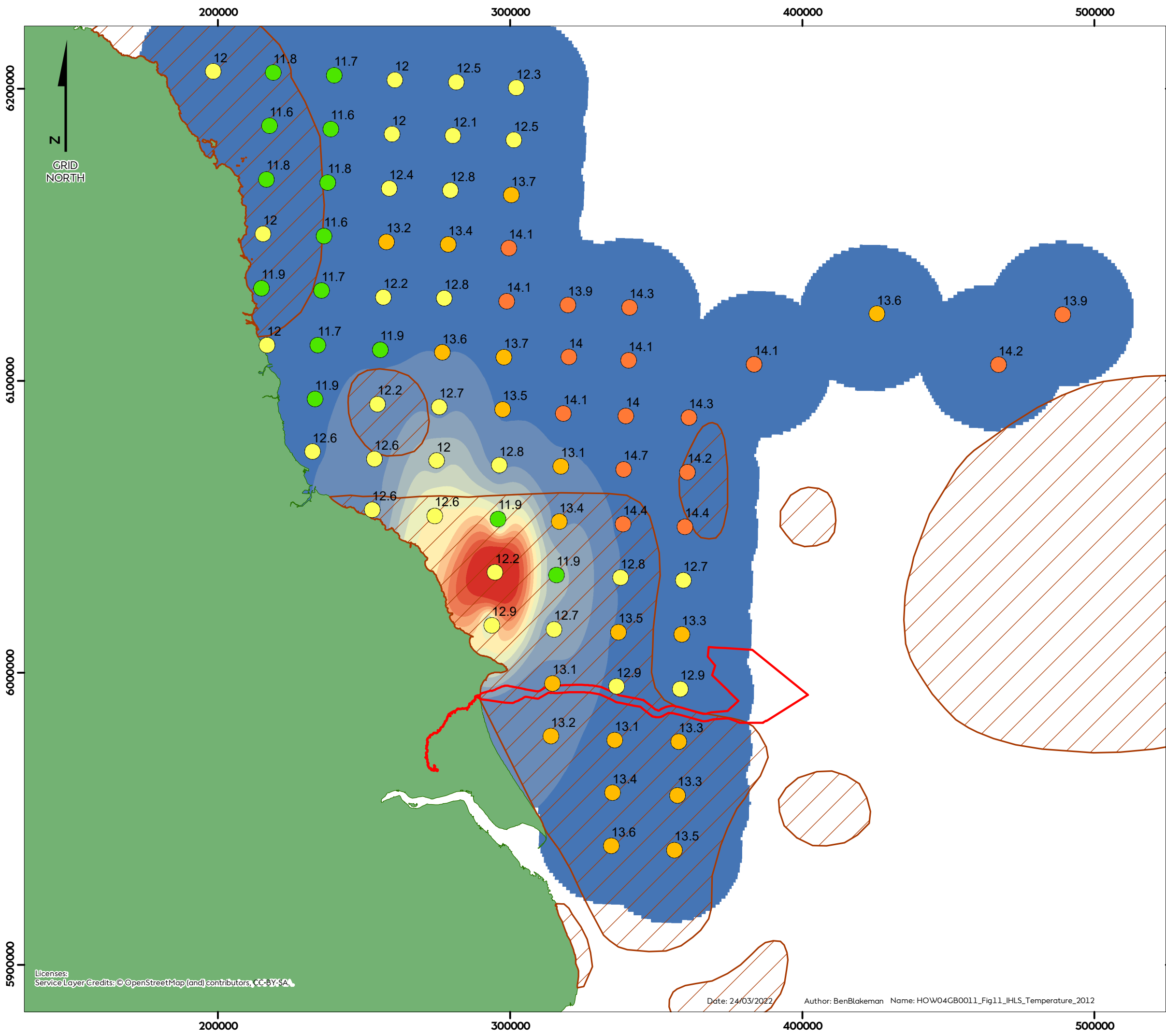
0 25 50 Kilometres

0 10 20 Nautical Miles

REV	REMARK	DATE
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IHLS Temperature  
Per Year 2012  
Document no: HOW04GB0011  
Created by: BPHB  
Checked by: AL  
Approved by: LK





# Hornsea Four

Figure 12

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2013)

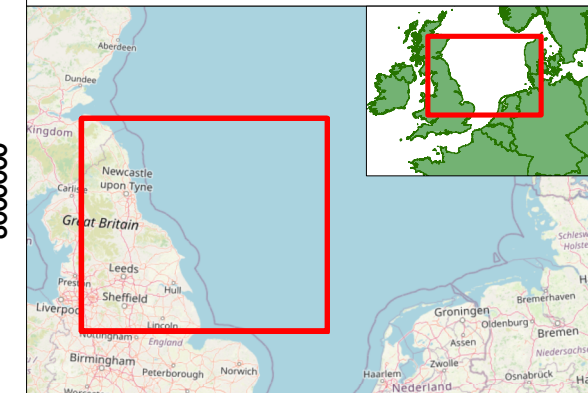
- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)

**IHLS Banks Data 2013 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**

- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325

**Average Temperature (Degrees)**

- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N

Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000

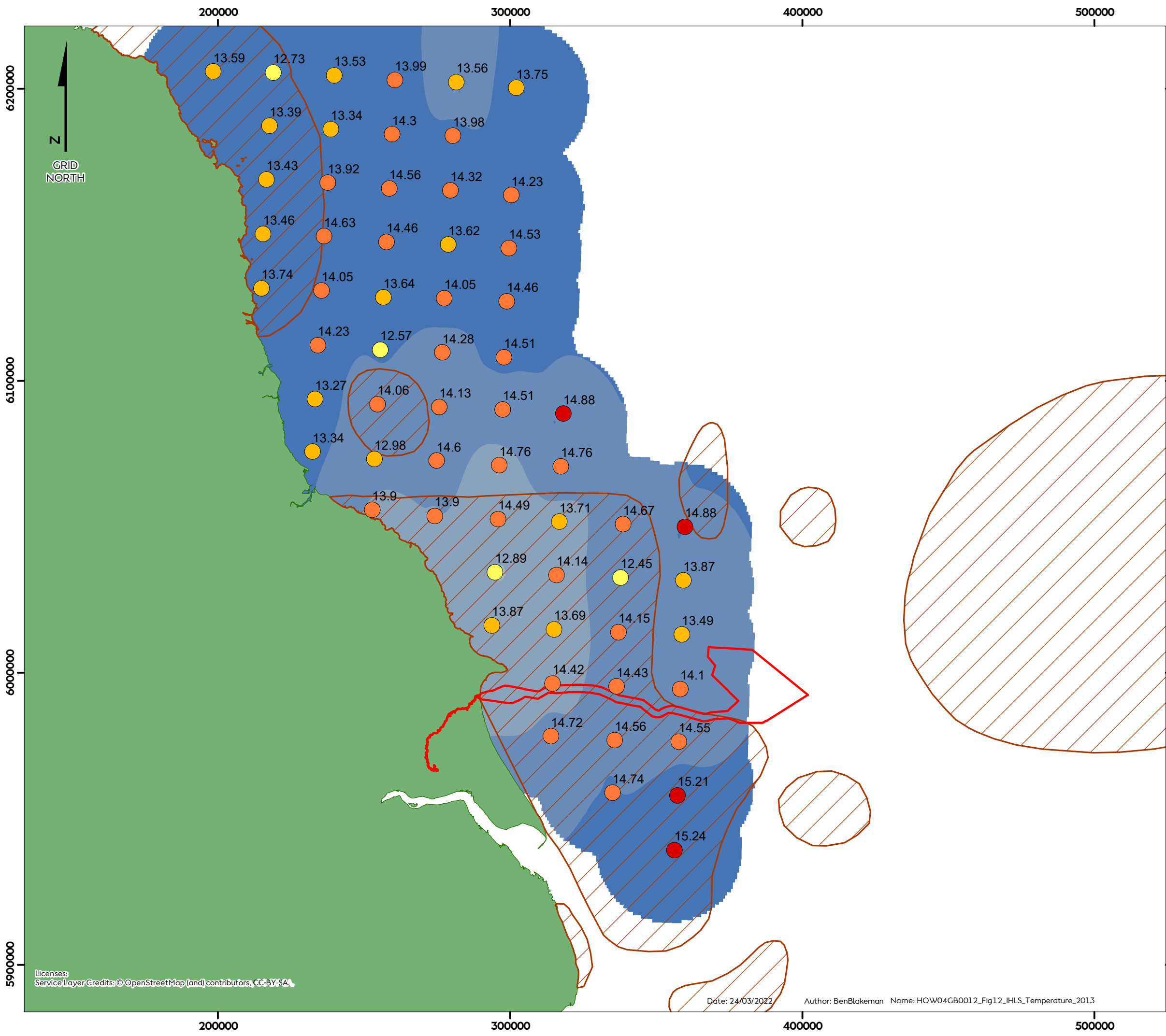


REV	REMARK	DATE
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IHLS Temperature  
Per Year 2013  
Document no: HOW04GB0012  
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# Hornsea Four

Figure 13

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2014)

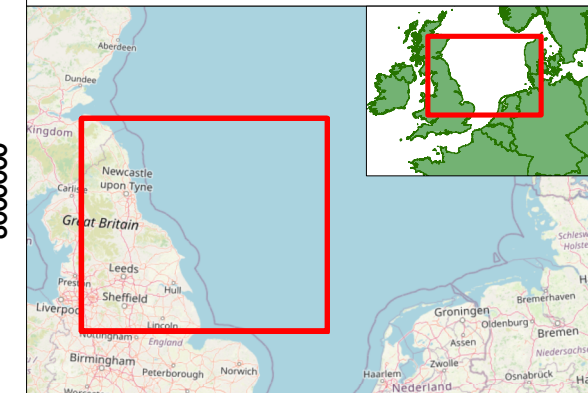
- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)

**IHLS Banks Data 2014 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**

- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325

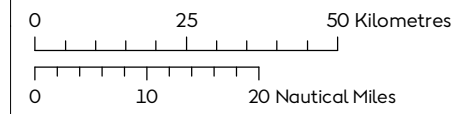
**Average Temperature (Degrees)**

- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N

Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000



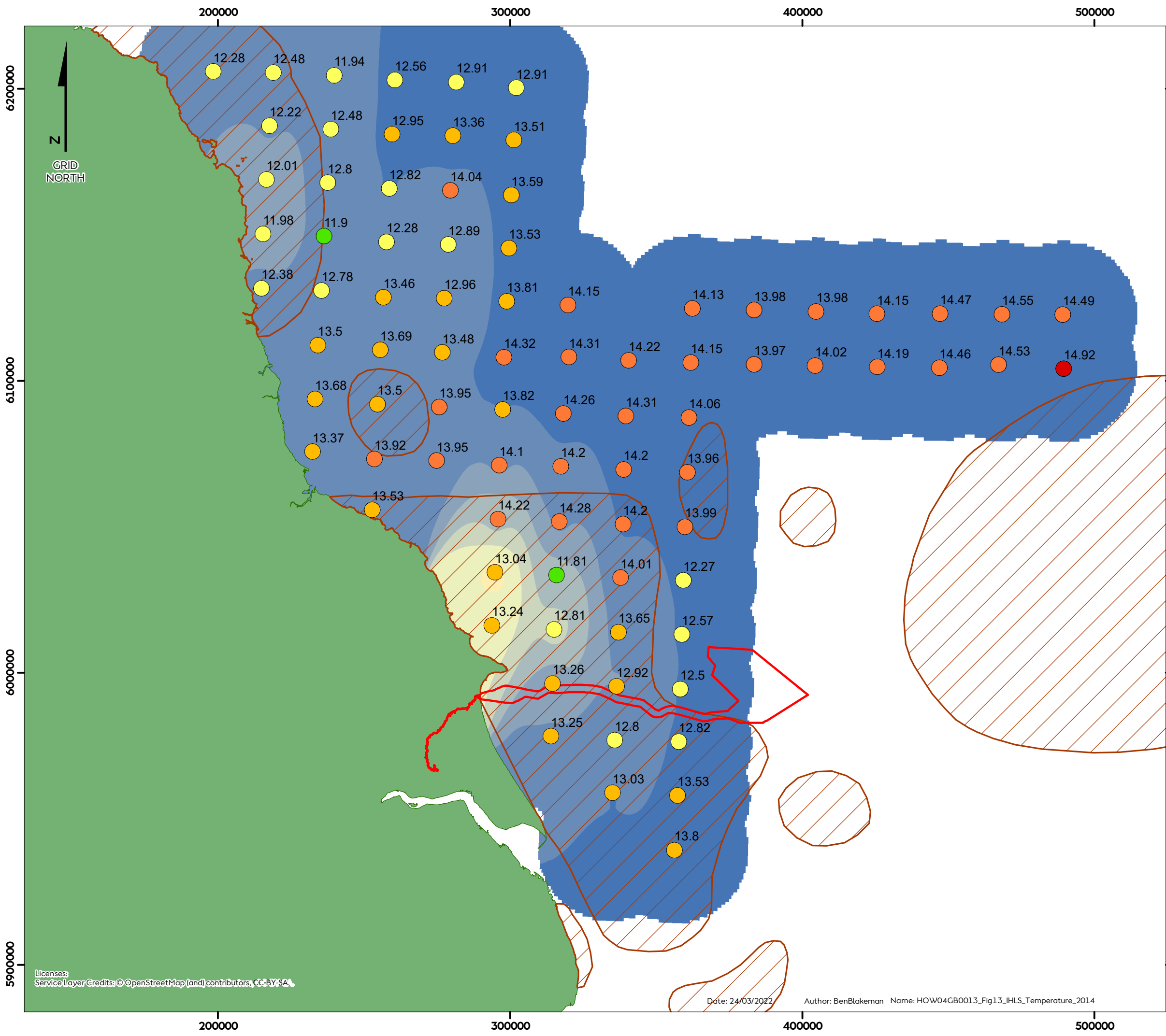
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IHLS Temperature  
Per Year 2014  
Document no: HOW04GB0013  
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# Hornsea Four

Figure 14

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2015)

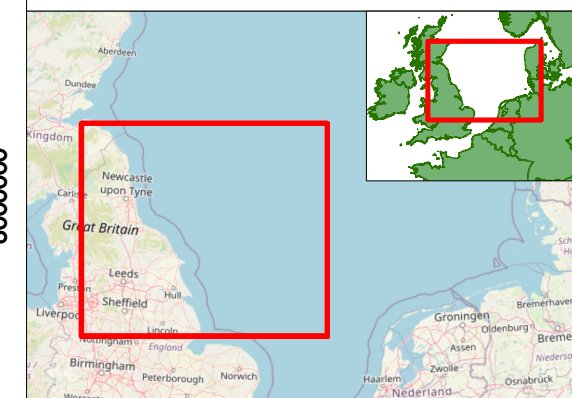
- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)

**IHLS Banks Data 2015 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**

- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325

**Average Temperature (Degrees)**

- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N

Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000

0 25 50 Kilometres

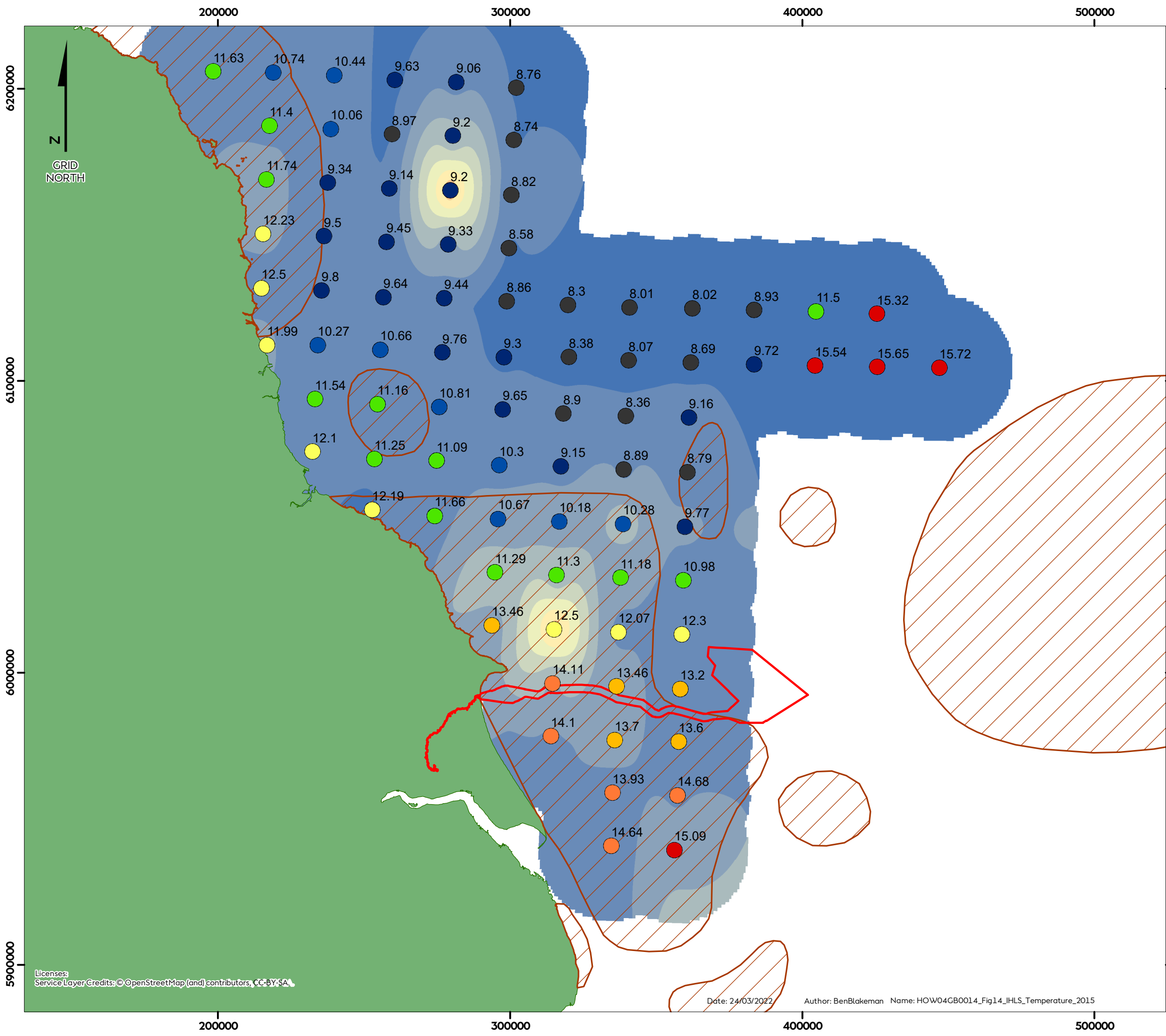
0 10 20 Nautical Miles

REV	REMARK	DATE
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IHLS Temperature  
Per Year 2015  
Document no: HOW04GB0014  
Created by: BPHB  
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Approved by: LK



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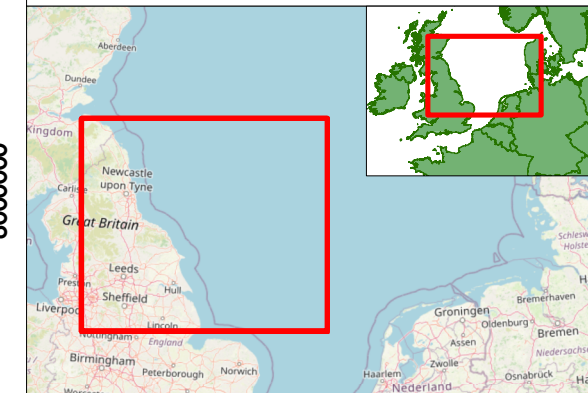


# Hornsea Four

Figure 15

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2016)

- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)
- IHLS Banks Data 2016 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**
- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325
- Average Temperature (Degrees)**
- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



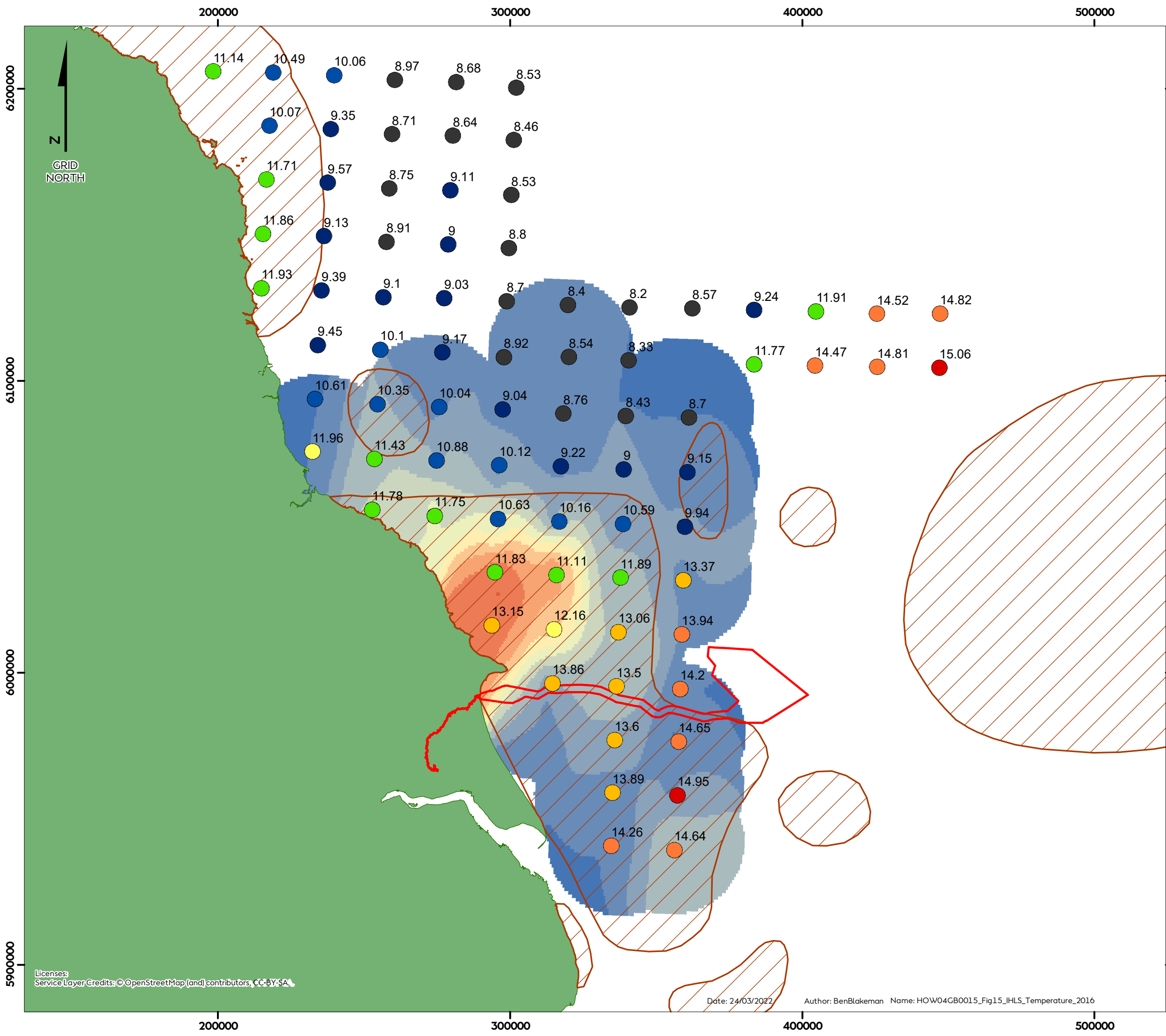
Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N  
 Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000  
 0 25 50 Kilometres  
 0 10 20 Nautical Miles

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IHLS Temperature Per Year 2016  
 Document no: HOW04GB0015  
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# Hornsea Four

## Figure 16

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2019)

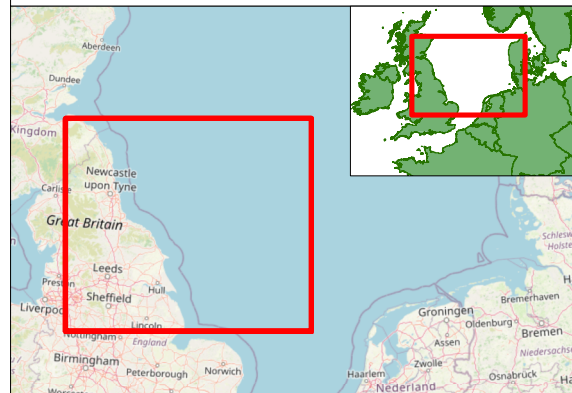
- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)

### IHLS Banks Data 2019 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>

- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325

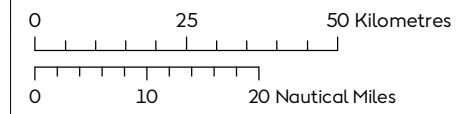
### Average Temperature (Degrees)

- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N

Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000

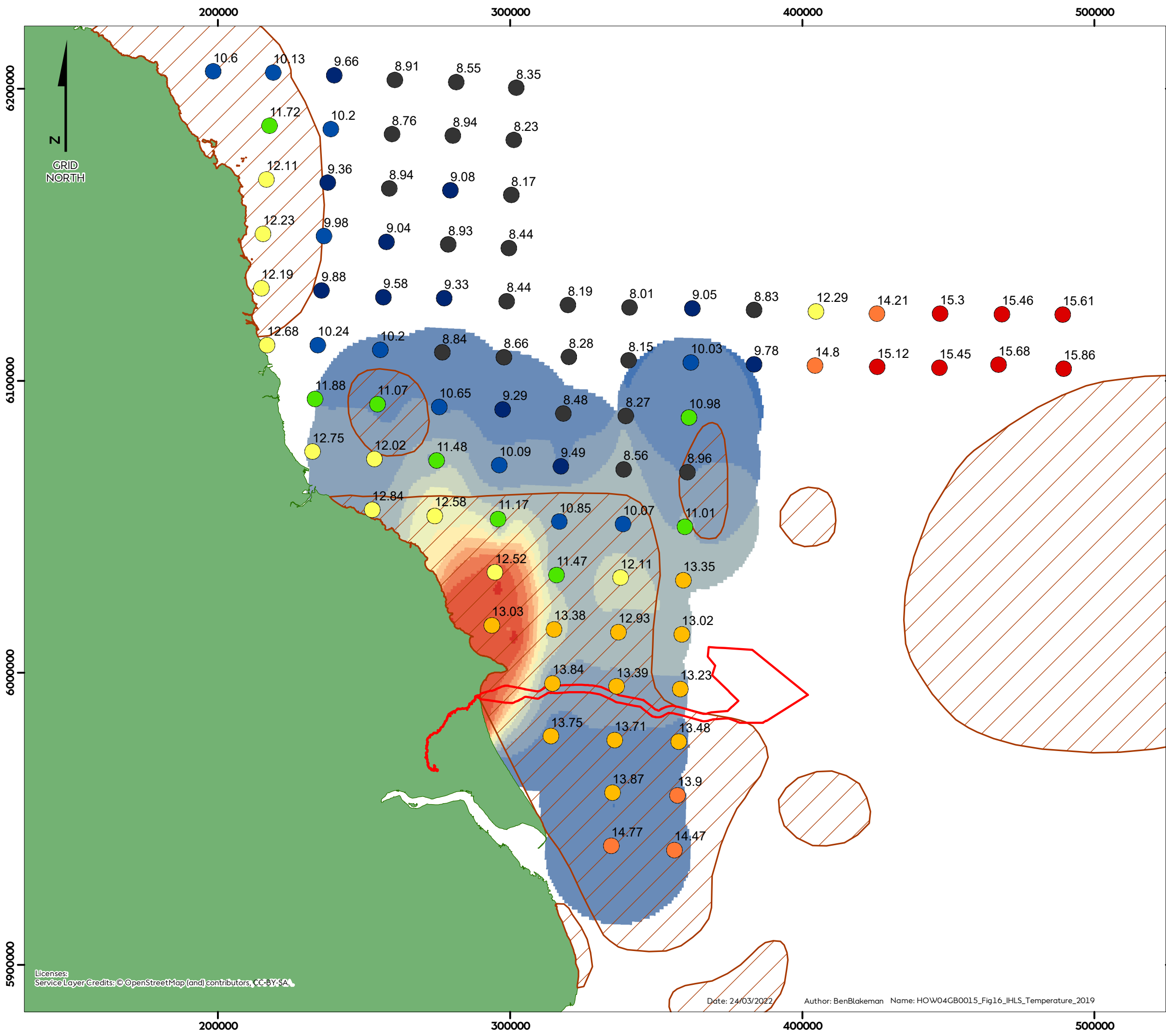


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IHLS Temperature  
Per Year 2019  
Document no: HOW04GB0016  
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# Hornsea Four

Figure 17

Temperature at the maximum sampling depth per sampling station (IHLS survey data 2020)

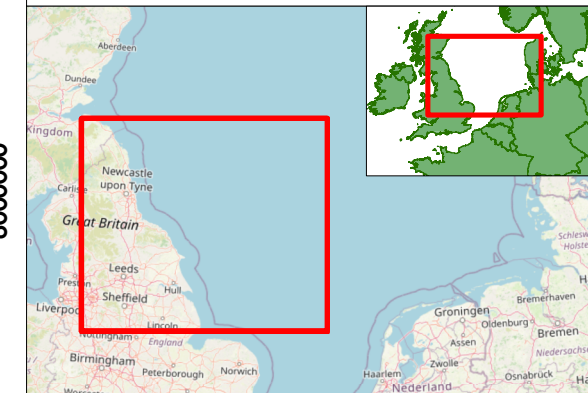
- Order Limits
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull *et al.*, 1998)

**IHLS Banks Data 2020 - Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**

- 0
- 0.1 - 150
- 150.1 - 600
- 600.1 - 1,275
- 1,275.1 - 2,050
- 2,050.1 - 2,850
- 2,850.1 - 3,650
- 3,650.1 - 4,450
- 4,450.1 - 5,300
- 5,300.1 - 6,300
- 6,300.1 - 7,425
- 7,425.1 - 9,325

**Average Temperature (Degrees)**

- 8 - 9
- 9 - 10
- 10 - 11
- 11 - 12
- 12 - 13
- 13 - 14
- 14 - 15
- 15 - 16



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N

Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000

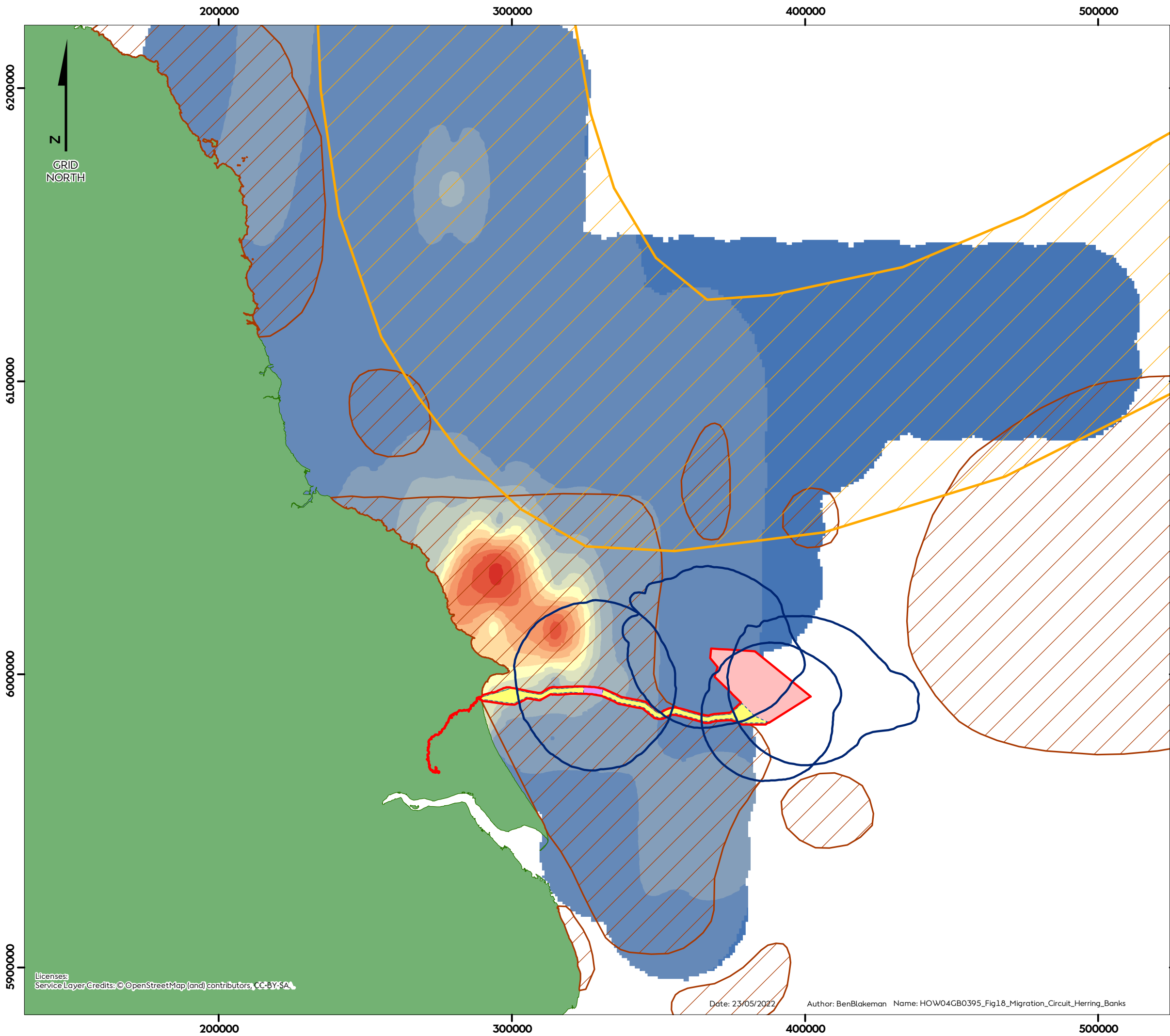


REV	REMARK	DATE
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IHLS Temperature Per Year 2020  
 Document no: HOW04GB0017  
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# Hornsea Four

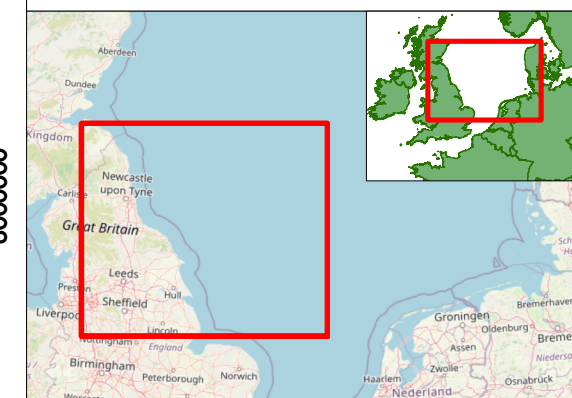
Figure 18

Migration circuit of the Banks herring stock in the North Sea

- Order Limits
- Array Area
- HVAC Booster Station Works Area
- Offshore Export Cable Corridor
- Offshore Temporary Works Area
- Monopile Contours (dB SELcum) - Stationary Receptors
- Herring Spawning Grounds (Coull et al, 1998)
- Banks Herring Migration Circuit

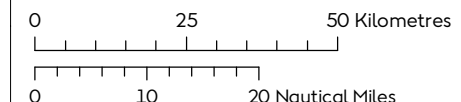
**IHLS 2007/2008-2020/2021 Banks Data - Total Larval Abundance Per m<sup>2</sup>**

- 0
- 0.1 - 1,500
- 1,500.1 - 6,000
- 6,000.1 - 12,750
- 12,750.1 - 20,500
- 20,500.1 - 28,500
- 28,500.1 - 36,500
- 36,500.1 - 45,500
- 45,500.1 - 55,000
- 55,000.1 - 66,000
- 66,000.1 - 77,250
- 77,250.1 - 100,000
- 100,000.1 - 120,000



Coordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 31N

Scale@A3: 1:1,250,000



REV	REMARK	DATE
---	First issue post DCO Application	23/05/2022

Banks Herring Migration Circuit  
 Document no: HOW04GB0395  
 Created by: BPHB  
 Checked by: AL  
 Approved by: LK



## Appendix D – Applicant’s Final Position on Peak Spawning Period and Associated Restrictions

### 4.1 Background

- 4.1.1.1 In response to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), the Applicant made a commitment (Co190) to avoid piling along the export cable corridor (ECC) at the HVAC booster station location during the “peak” spawning season for herring at the Banks spawning ground, between 1<sup>st</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October each year. This commitment is secured by DCO Schedule 12, Part 2 - Condition 23.
- 4.1.1.2 Further evidence to support the appropriateness of this “peak” spawning season (and therefore the associated piling restriction dates) was requested by the MMO and Natural England within Relevant Representations (**RR-020** (paragraphs 3.7.25 - 3.7.36) and **RR-029** (paragraph 5.65 and Appendix G), respectively).
- 4.1.1.3 **G1.10 Clarification Note on Peak Herring Spawning Period and Seasonal Piling Restriction** was produced by the Applicant to provide further analysis and justification of the “peak” spawning period for herring in the vicinity of Hornsea Four in order to support the proposed timing of the seasonal restriction, using the methodology proposed by Cefas as part of the Hornsea Four Evidence Plan process.
- 4.1.1.4 Prior to Deadline 1, the Applicant submitted Revision 1 of **G1.10 Clarification Note on Peak Herring Spawning Period and Seasonal Piling Restriction** to the MMO (later submitted at Deadline 1 (**REP1-039**)). Comments on this note were received from the MMO at Deadline 1 (**REP1-076**). The Clarification Note was subsequently updated at Deadline 2 (Revision 2 - **REP2-033**) taking into account feedback, and Applicant responses to the MMO’s feedback provided in **REP2-042**. Comments on Revision 2 of the Clarification Note were received from the MMO at Deadline 4 (**REP4-052**). The Clarification Note was again updated at Deadline 5 (Revision 3 - **REP5-048**) taking into account feedback, and Applicant responses to the MMO feedback provided in **REP5-081**. Comments on Revision 3 of the Clarification Note were received from the MMO at Deadline 6 (**REP6-050**).
- 4.1.1.5 Despite three revisions to the Clarification Note and three sets of comments from MMO on those notes, no consensus has been reached between the Applicant and the MMO on the peak spawning period. The Applicant does not agree with the Deadline 6 MMO position (as set out in **REP6-050**) on several parameters that influence the peak spawning period calculation and considers these technical points will remain areas of residual disagreement at the end of Examination.
- 4.1.1.6 The Applicant requested MMO and Cefas availability for a meeting to discuss the peak spawning period with a view to reaching agreement prior to the end of Examination on the timeframe associated with this restriction. This meeting was requested on 16/06/22 and to date, no availability has been provided by the MMO and Cefas despite several attempts by the Applicant to get this meeting secured. In the absence of this discussion, the Applicant has proposed a compromise position to the MMO (prior to Deadline 7) as set out in this Appendix, and the Applicant awaits a response from the MMO on this matter.
- 4.1.1.7 For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant maintains that the originally proposed restriction period of 1<sup>st</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October per year utilises a sufficiently precautionary approach and as a result, provides a robust mitigation of the potential effects of piling of the HVAC booster station on herring spawning. However, the Applicant wishes to demonstrate some compromises in relation to the restrictions proposed to bring further comfort to the MMO that impacts on spawning herring will be sufficiently mitigated. The following sections set out the Applicant’s revised proposals and the reasoning behind the proposals.

## 4.2 Outstanding Disagreement

4.2.1.1 Based on the MMO’s Deadline 6 response ([REP6-050](#)), there are three outstanding areas of disagreement:

- Temperatures used in the calculation (which in turn also influence egg development rates and yolk absorption periods);
- The presentation of the 135dB behavioral contour; and
- The growth rate applied.

4.2.1.2 The Applicant considers that the temperature and behavioural contour technical points will remain areas of residual disagreement at the end of Examination, as stated in [REP5-081](#) at Deadline 5. The Applicant maintains the Deadline 5 position in relation to growth rate but is willing to compromise and use the MMO’s preferred growth rate in the calculation.

## 4.3 Growth Rate & Start Date

4.3.1.1 The Applicant is confident the equation presented by Oeberst et al. (2008) to calculate growth rates is appropriate to estimate the growth rate for the Banks herring stock. The MMO maintain that using a larval growth rate based on Heath (1993) is more appropriate for the purpose of a conservative calculation. Regardless of this residual disagreement, the Applicant has used the Heath (1993) growth rate of 0.25mm d-1 (with all other parameters remaining as presented in the Scenario C calculations at Deadline 5 ([REP5-048](#))), which results in the following spawning start dates for the various scenarios presented:

	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C	Scenario D	Scenario E
Hatch length	6.5 mm	8 mm	5 mm	6 mm	10 mm
Peak period start date	27th August	2nd September	21st August	25th August	10th September

4.3.1.2 It is important to note that in previous revisions of the Clarification Note, the Applicant had already modified the parameters to accept the MMO’s suggested conservative values for larval length in survey sample (10mm) and larval length hatch size (5mm). As such, the Applicant proposes a start date for the peak spawning period of 21<sup>st</sup> August – 10 days earlier than originally proposed in DCO Schedule 12, Part 2 - Condition 23. The Applicant considers that this additional conservatism should provide MMO with further comfort that impacts on spawning herring will be further mitigated.

## 4.4 Consideration of Migration

4.4.1.1 The MMO have highlighted that consideration needs to be given to a period of time for herring to migrate to/from the spawning grounds. The Applicant notes that the Banks herring stock migrate in a clockwise circuit in the North Sea, migrating from the Northeast to the Banks spawning ground, and then continuing in a northerly direction (Cushing, 2001). The Applicant maintains that noise effects from the Hornsea Four construction works will not cause a barrier effect to that herring migration given the position of the circuit and the location of the noise contours in relation to that circuit (mapped in [REP5-048](#)). As such, the Applicant considers that there is no need to allow additional time for a migration period within the peak spawning period timing. That said, the Applicant is willing to propose an end date for the peak spawning period of 23<sup>rd</sup> October – 7 days later than originally proposed in DCO Schedule 12, Part 2 - Condition 23.

4.4.1.2 With respect to migration to/from spawning grounds, the Applicant considers that this additional 7 days, coupled with the additional 10 days at the start of the peak spawning period,

allow for additional conservatism which should provide MMO with further comfort that impacts on spawning herring will be further mitigated.

## 4.5 Peak Spawning Period

4.5.1.1 To summarise, the Applicant strongly maintains its position that that the originally proposed restriction period of 1<sup>st</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October each year utilises a sufficiently precautionary approach and as a result, provides a robust mitigation of the potential effects of piling of the HVAC booster station on herring spawning.

4.5.1.2 The Applicant has proposed a compromise restriction period of 21<sup>st</sup> August – 23<sup>rd</sup> October, taking into account the MMO's preferred growth rate and consideration of time for herring to migrate to/from spawning grounds. It is important to note that as agreed with the MMO, the purpose of the calculation is to identify the 'peak' spawning period. As such, the Applicant has identified the 'peak' of the spawning period, rather than the entire spawning period, as mitigating this 'peak' would be sufficient to mitigate population level impacts (the purpose of the EIA). As such, the Applicant considers that these allowances for additional conservatism should provide MMO with further comfort that impacts on spawning herring during the 'peak' spawning period will be further mitigated.

## 4.6 Export Cable Works Restriction

4.6.1.1 The Applicant strongly maintains that a seasonal restriction for the cable installation activities during the herring spawning season is excessive and unwarranted due to the following reasons:

- the expected minor impacts on the herring spawning grounds from cable works;
- the short-term impacts at any one point which would arise from the cable works; and
- the clear evidence of no overlap with the core Banks herring spawning grounds with Hornsea Four.

4.6.1.2 The Applicant considers that the assessment undertaken is robust and that no significant effects were identified. It is therefore not considered appropriate to introduce cable installation seasonal restrictions. Despite this, the Applicant is keen to offer a compromise position to the MMO to allow agreements to be reached with the MMO on herring spawning restrictions ahead of the close of Examination.

4.6.1.3 To provide the MMO with further comfort about impacts from increased suspended sediment concentrations and smothering on spawning herring, the Applicant is proposing to commit to a restriction on seabed preparation activities using either dredgers or flow tools (Control Flow Excavation (CFE)) during the proposed temporal restriction period.

4.6.1.4 The Applicant proposes this restriction relates to the area seaward of MHWS out to the westernmost extent of the HVAC Booster Station Works Area only as this is the area in closest proximity to the core herring spawning grounds north of Flamborough Head. These activities identified in the restriction will result in the greatest sediment plumes and associated deposition and represent the MDS assessed in [A2.3 Fish & Shellfish Ecology \(APP-015\)](#).

## 4.7 Summary – Peak Spawning Period

4.7.1.1 The Applicant strongly maintains its position that that the originally proposed restriction period of 1<sup>st</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> October each year utilises a sufficiently precautionary approach and as a result, provides a robust mitigation of the potential effects of piling of the HVAC booster station on herring spawning. Despite this, the Applicant has made the following concessions in order to demonstrate more conservatism into the restriction period proposed:



- Larval length in survey sample increased to 10mm in line with MMO's recommendation (REP1-039);
- Larval length hatch size of 5mm used in calculation (indicated by MMO as most conservative length) (REP4-052); and
- Growth rates from Heath (1993) used following MMO's recommendation (REP6-050).

4.7.1.2 **The Applicant has proposed a compromise restriction period of 21<sup>st</sup> August to 23<sup>rd</sup> October**, taking into account the above concessions in relation to the start date and consideration of time for herring to migrate to/from spawning grounds. This represents a restriction start date 10 days earlier, and an end date 7 days later than previously proposed.

4.7.1.3 As such, the Applicant considers that these allowances for additional conservatism should provide MMO with further comfort that impacts on spawning herring during the 'peak' spawning period will be further mitigated.

#### 4.8 Summary – Export Cable Works Restriction

4.8.1.1 The Applicant strongly maintains that a seasonal restriction for the cable installation activities during the herring spawning season is excessive and unwarranted. However, to provide the MMO with further comfort about impacts from increased suspended sediment concentrations and smothering on spawning herring, **the Applicant is proposing to commit to a restriction on seabed preparation activities using either dredgers or flow tools (CFE) during the proposed temporal restriction period.** The Applicant proposes this restriction relates to the area seaward of MHWS out to the westernmost extent of the HVAC Booster Station Works Area only.

The Applicant believes that the proposals put forward in this presentation are appropriate and proportionate and provide the MMO with the conservatism that has been requested. The restrictions are proposed by the Applicant in the spirit of closing out remaining issues as far as possible before close of Examination.

#### 4.9 Final Position

4.9.1.1 The Applicant believes that the proposals put forward in this appendix are appropriate and proportionate, and provide the MMO with the conservatism that has been requested. The restrictions are proposed by the Applicant in the spirit of closing out remaining issues as far as possible before close of Examination.

4.9.1.2 The updated piling restriction period is updated in the draft DCO at Deadline 7. The updated restriction on seabed preparation activities has been incorporated into **F2.15 Outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan** updated and submitted at Deadline 7.