

The background of the slide features a deep blue underwater scene with two whales. A large, semi-transparent watermark consisting of the Roman numerals 'IX' is positioned on the left side of the image. The text 'Science & Education Report' is centered horizontally across the middle of the image.

Science & Education Report

MS Spitsbergen

02.04. – 08.04.2025

The Scottish Isles
Highlights of the Hebrides





Science & Education Program

Our Science and Education Team accompanied you during your expedition to the remote communities and impressive nature of the islands of Scotland's Hebrides.

We had the opportunity to explore our destination's natural beauty, exceptional wildlife, and rich history. We organized lectures and interactive activities onboard and explored our destinations during excursions, nature walks, and from the water.

History & Culture

We had the unique chance to see some remains of the many different influences affecting this Isles. Celtic, Pict, Christian and Norse culture merge in the language, architecture and way of life on the Hebrides and enrich the history of settlement, conquests, clan fights, independence uprisings and highland clearance.

We learnt more about the saga of conquest, survival, adaptation, and resilience that the Hebrides represent



Arts & Crafts

The 8.000 years of history and the remoteness of the Hebrides have trigger an amazing pallet of art witch are unique to the Hebrides.

The Harris Tweed, the myth and tales, the architecture of castles and villages will always represent the Isles

And how to forget the amazing single malt Whisky and the ice cream





Measurements

Data Counts



Sign In

2025-04-04



Leòdhas agus na Hearadh

Skye

Inverness

Aberdeen

Perth

Dundee

Legends

Measurement Values

Cloud Coverage (%)



No Clouds
0



Clear
>0-10



Isolated
10-25



Scattered
25-50



Broken
50-90



Overcast
90-100



Obscured
-

All Cloud Types



Cirrus



Cirro cumulus



Cirro stratus



Alto cumulus



Alto stratus



Cumulus



Stratus



Strato cumulus



Cumulo nimbus



Nimbo stratus

NASA Globe Cloud Observer

Together with our Environmental Scientist Jean, you observed the clouds and submitted your observations to NASA GLOBE Observer on one occasion.

Although time was too short to receive the report from NASA, this cloud observation can help improve our understanding of Earth's atmosphere and climate by providing valuable data for scientific research and climate modelling.

iNaturalist

Throughout our expedition, we documented the flora and fauna of the Scottish Isles and uploaded all our findings to the iNaturalist biodiversity platform.

During our voyage, we submitted **119** observations of **68** different species. This effort contributes to the creation of a comprehensive understanding of the geographical distribution of species and can aid researchers in their ongoing studies and conservation efforts to protect them.

View our data submitted on our [iNaturalist project](#)





Science Boat

12 eager participants joined our 2 Science Boats in Vatersay and Tobermory to study plankton and the hydrography of our destination.

They helped monitor ocean clarity through participation in the Secchi Disk citizen science study, contributing to important research on the distribution of phytoplankton blooms.

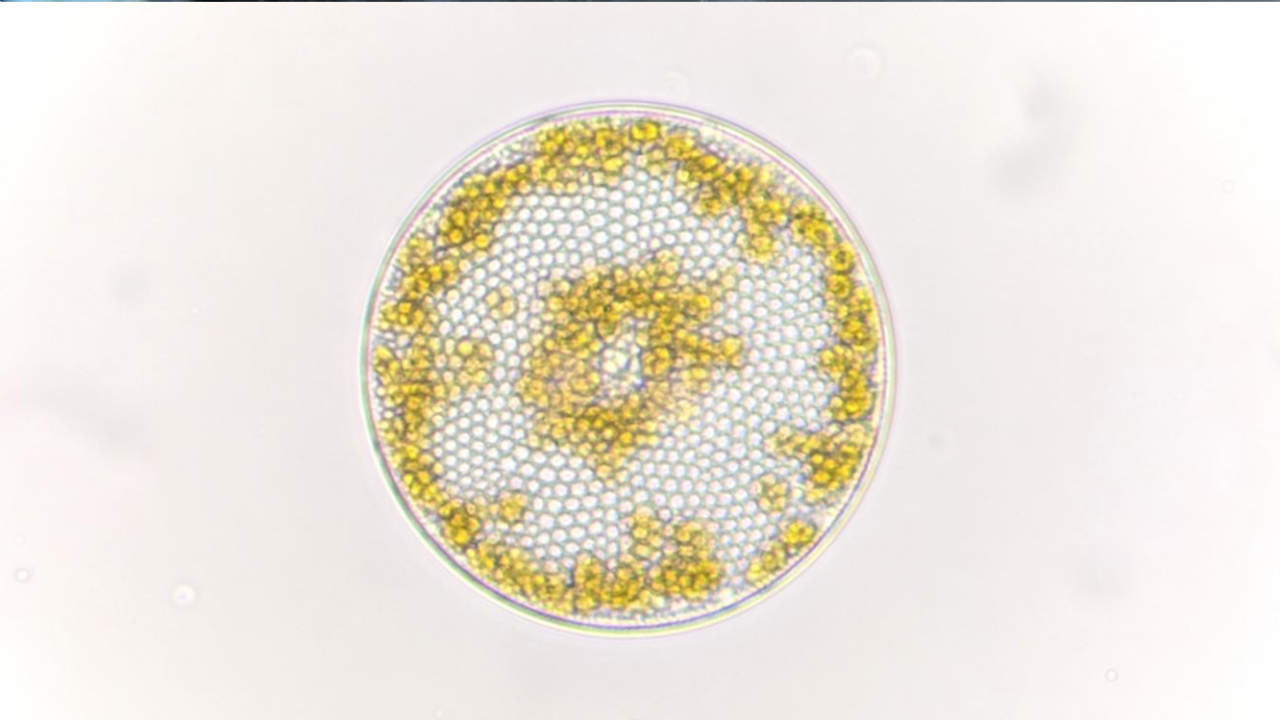
[View our data](#) submitted to the Secchi Disk Project



Plankton Samples

We explored the fascinating world of plankton—tiny drifting organisms vital to ocean ecosystems.

Our sample from Vatersay revealed a variety of zooplankton, including copepods and other small crustaceans. In contrast, Tobermory's sample was rich in phytoplankton, especially diatoms—microscopic algae with intricate silicate shells. During our open microscope sessions, we observed many of these under the microscope, including a bristle worm captured in the photo.

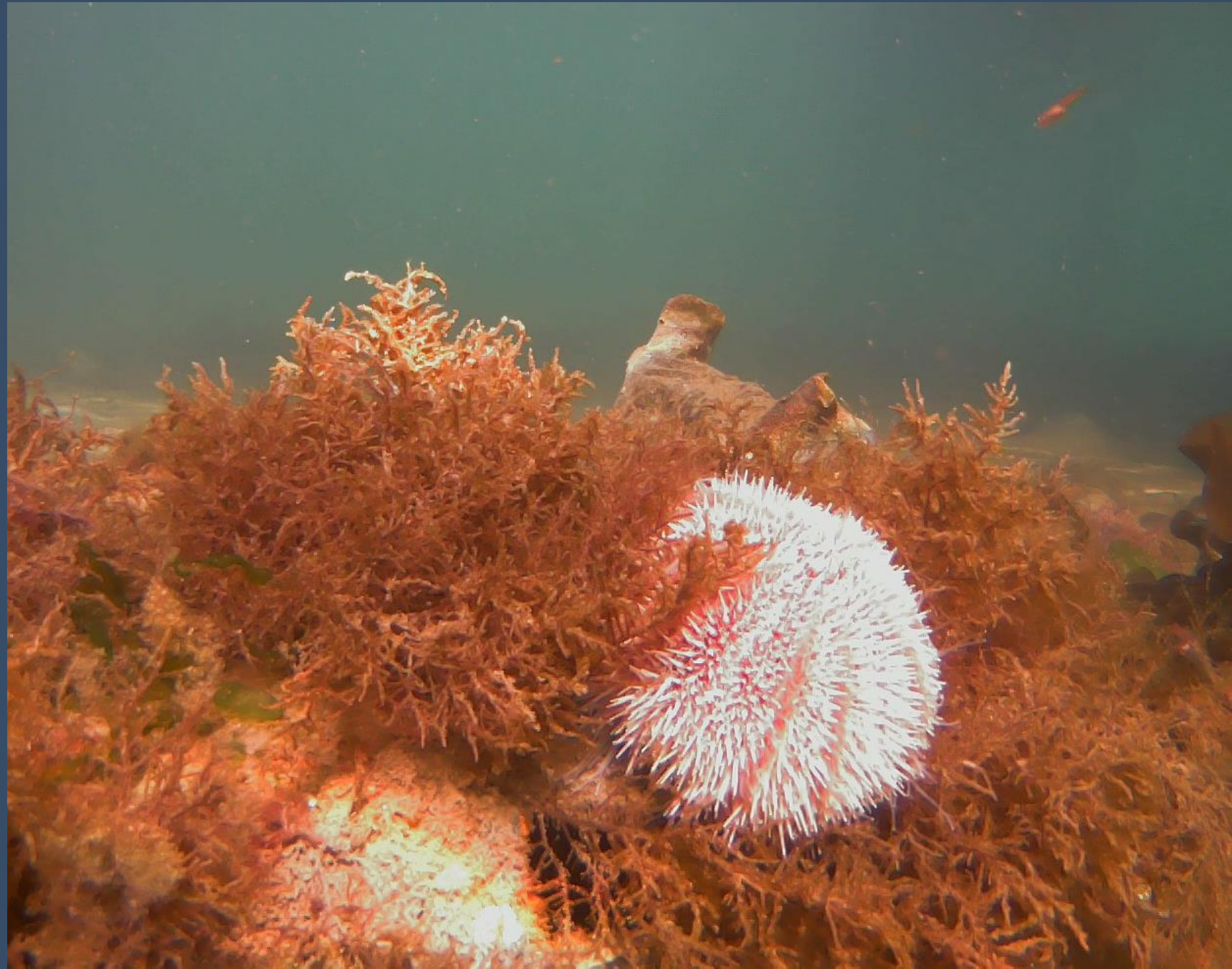


Underwater Drone

We deployed our Blueye Pioneer underwater drone to explore the waters of Port Ellen, Islay.

In the marina, we navigated through forest-like macroalgae and spotted invertebrates including edible sea urchins, Norwegian lobsters, and edible crabs!

View the highlights from our underwater drone footage [on YouTube](#)





Beach Clean-up

In the remote community of Vatersay, we joined forces to clear marine litter from the local shore. Together, 27 participants removed 19.1 kg of rubbish, contributing to the Surfers Against Sewage Million Mile Clean initiative.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part — your efforts made a real difference!

Wildlife List

Birds





Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Northern Gannet	Basstölpel	Fou de Bassan
<i>Larus canus</i>	Common Gull	Sturmmöwe	Goéland cendré
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Heringsmöwe	Goéland brun
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Black-legged Kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle
<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Black Guillemot	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir
<i>Uria aalge</i>	Common Guillemot	Trottellumme	Guillemot marmette
<i>Alca torda</i>	Razorbill	Tordalk	Petit Pingouin

Wildlife List – Water birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan	Höckerschwan	Cygne tuberculé
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	Graugans	Oie cendrée
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose	Kanadagans	Bernache du Canada
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Barnacle Goose	Weißwangengans	Bernache nonnette
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	Stockente	Canard colvert
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider	Eiderente	Eider à duvet
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser	Mittelsäger	Harle huppé
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	Kormoran	Grand Cormoran
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	European Shag	Krähenscharbe	Cormoran huppé
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Austernfischer	Huîtrier pie
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover	Sandregenpfeifer	Pluvier grand-gravelot
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing	Kiebitz	Vanneau huppé
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	Steinwälzer	Tournepierre à collier
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	Flussuferläufer	Chevalier guignette
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	Rotschenkel	Chevalier gambette
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	European Golden Plover	Goldregenpfeifer	Pluvier doré

Wildlife List – Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Ring-necked (Common) Pheasant	Fasan	Faisan de Colchide
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	Seeadler	Pygargue à queue blanche
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	Steinadler	Aigle royal
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard	Mäusebussard	Buse variable
<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	Feral Pigeon	Stadttaube	Pigeon domestique
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common Wood Pigeon	Ringeltaube	Pigeon ramier
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared Dove	Türkentaube	Tourterelle turque
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Eurasian Skylark	Feldlerche	Alouette des champs
<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	Eurasian Rock Pipit	Strandpieper	Pipit maritime
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit	Wiesenpieper	Pipit farlouse
<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	Pied Wagtail	Trauerbachstelze	Bergeronnette de Yarrell
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	Heckenbraunelle	Accenteur mouchet
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European Robin	Rotkehlchen	Rougegorge familier
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Eurasian (Common) Blackbird	Amsel	Merle noir
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	Singdrossel	Grive musicienne
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	Fitis	Pouillot fitis
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest	Wintergoldhähnchen	Roitelet huppé

Wildlife List – Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME		ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Parus major</i>		Great Tit	Kohlmeise	Mésange charbonnière
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		Eurasian Blue Tit	Blaumeise	Mésange bleue
<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		Western (Eurasian) Jackdaw	Dohle	Choucas des tours
<i>Corvus corax</i>		Northern (Common) Raven	Kolkrabe	Grand Corbeau
<i>Corvus cornix</i>		Hooded Crow	Nebelkrähe	Corneille mantelée
<i>Corvus corone</i>		Carrion Crow	Rabenkrähe	Corneille noire
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		Rook	Saatkrähe	Corbeau freux
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		European Starling	Gemeiner Star	Étourneau sansonnet
<i>Passer domesticus</i>		House Sparrow	Haussperling	Moineau domestique
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		Common Chaffinch	Buchfink	Pinson des arbres
<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		European Stonechat	Schwarzkehlchen	Tarier pâtre



eBird

During our Wildlife Watches and on land, our ornithologist Julia conducted bird surveys, recording observations for the citizen science platform eBird. We recorded **35** different species of birds in **11** checklists.

This initiative helps contribute valuable data to global bird conservation efforts, enhancing our understanding of seabird populations and their habitats.

View our data on our [e-Bird trip report](#)

Wildlife List

Marine Mammals



Wildlife List – Marine Mammals



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Common Bottlenose Dolphin	Grosser Tümmler	Grand dauphin
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbour Porpoise	Schweinswal	Marsouin commun
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Grey Seal	Kegelrobbe	Phoque gris
<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Harbour Seal, Common Seal	Seehund	Phoque común

Wildlife List – Other Fauna



Wildlife List – Other Fauna



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Western Roe Deer	Reh	Chevreuril Européen
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Red Deer	Rothirsch	Cerf Élaphe
<i>Neogale vison</i>	American Mink	Mink	Vison d'Amérique
<i>Vipera berus</i>	European Adder	Kreuzotter	Vipère Péliade

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inner scientist

