

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

08.04. – 18.04.2025

The Scottish Isles
Island Hopping in 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 remainings 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





NASA Globe Cloud Observer

Together with our Environmental Scientist Jean you observed the clouds and submitted your observations to NASA GLOBE Observer on 2 occasions. Interestingly, the observation we made “from the ground” on April 15th did not quite match the METEOSAT-10 observations, especially in the mid- to low-cloud altitudes. And yet, that is exactly why we do those observations, to complement satellite data and feed the climate and weather models.

These cloud observations can help NASA improve our understanding of Earth’s atmosphere and climate by providing valuable data for scientific research and climate modelling.

[View our data](#) on the global map

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 159 observations of 81 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

22 eager participants joined our 3 Science Boats in Gigha, Tobermory and Colonsay 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

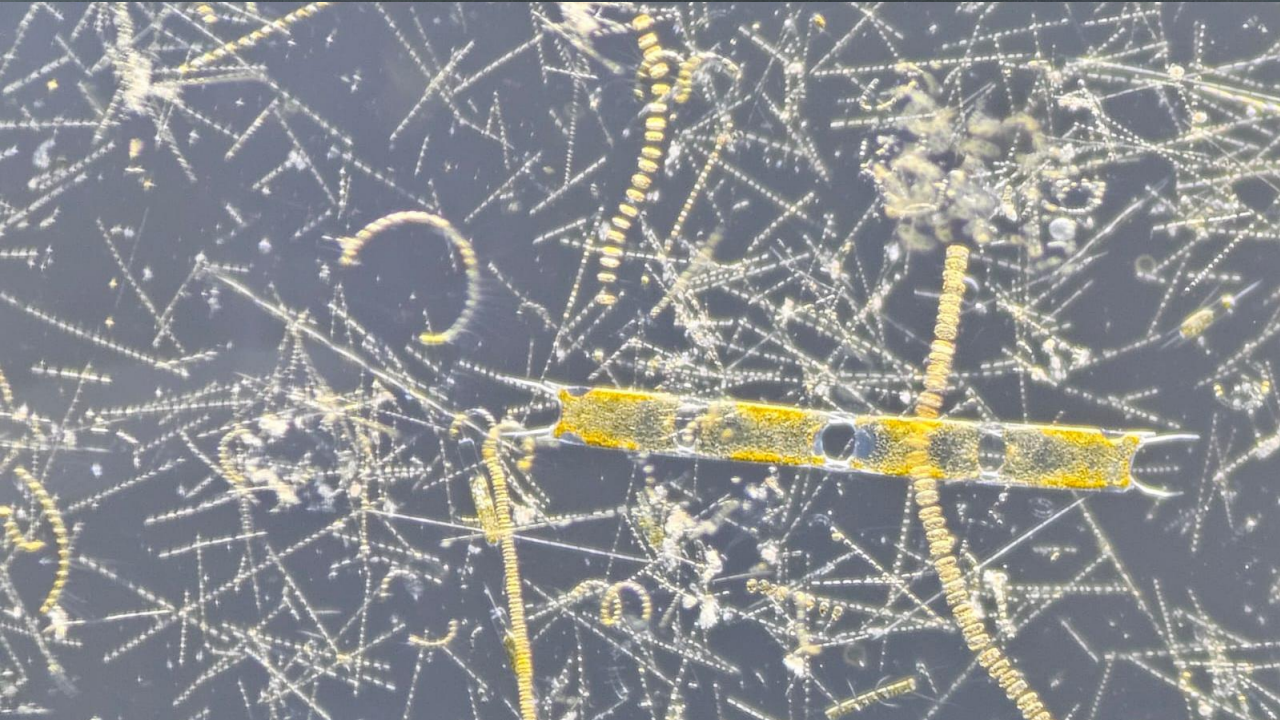


Plankton Samples

We explored the microscopic world of plankton, the tiny organisms that drift in our ocean.

In the plankton samples collected from Gigha, we found mainly zooplankton, whereas our sample from Tobermory was dominated by various species of diatoms, the most abundant type of phytoplankton.

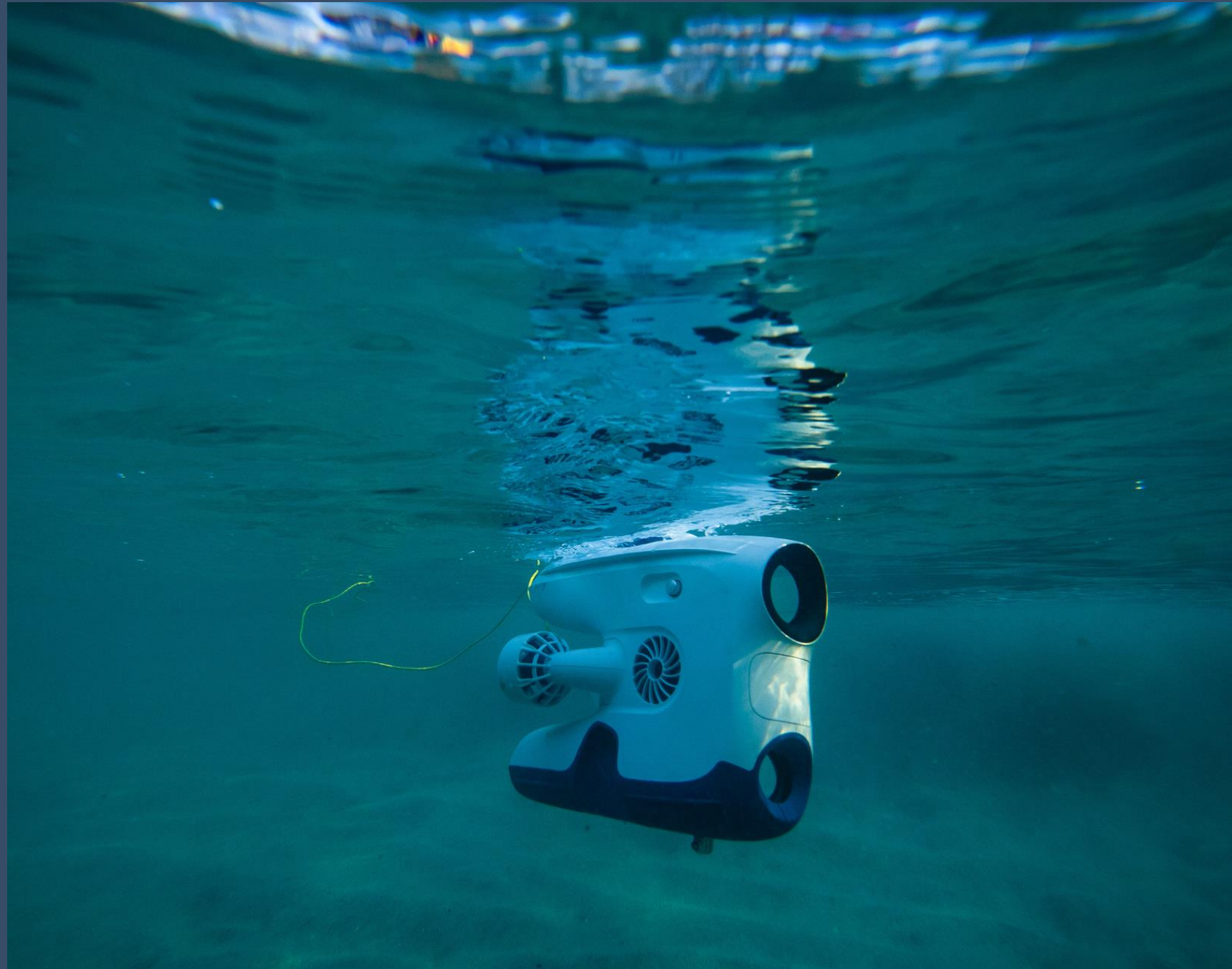
During our open microscope session, we also observed various types of zooplankton, such as the copepods [1,2] and planktonic gastropod [3] captured in the picture.



Underwater Drone

We deployed our Blueye Pioneer underwater drone to explore the underwater world of the British Isles and demonstrate the ROVs capabilities in the Isle of Eigg.

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





Beach Clean-up

Many of you demonstrated your dedication to protecting nature by taking part in our organised beach cleans. This voyage was also the first to pioneer new citizen science sampling techniques as part of the “Big Blue Bag” citizen science project, founded by TV presenter and Marine Biologist Monty Halls

Working alongside Monty, we removed approximately **30kg** of litter from beaches on the Islands of Islay and Vatersay, whilst also carrying out some sand sampling to identify microplastic pollution. A huge thank you to all those involved!

Guest Lecturer

TV broadcaster and marine conservationist Monty Halls joined us to share his experiences of living in the Hebrides. He also pioneered his new conservation project the Big Blue Bag, supported by the HX Foundation, for the first time! During our voyage the first of the bags was delivered to a local community in Stornoway.

[Visit this link](#) to find out more





Big Blue Bag

Consisting out of four protocols to put metrics on coastal debris, ecosystem health, seawater temperature and microplastics, the Big Blue Bag is an engaging way to contribute to ocean conservation by helping to contribute to a growing database!

Thank you for trialling this project with us during your voyage!

Wildlife List — Birds





European Robin - Rotkelchen - Rougegorge familier



European Shag — Krähenscharbe - Cormoran huppé



Black Guillemot - Gryllteiste - Guillemot à miroir



Eurasian Oystercatcher - Austernfischer - Huïtrier pie

Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Northern Fulmar	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal
<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Manx Shearwater	Atlantiksturmtaucher	Puffin des Anglais
<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>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	Lachmöwe	Mouette rieuse
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	Silbermöwe	Goéland argenté
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Black-legged Kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle
<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	Brandseeschwalbe	Sterne Caugek
<i>Cephus 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
<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Atlantic Puffin	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine

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>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	Stockente	Canard colvert
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Green-winged Teal	Krickente	Sarcelle d'Hiver
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Common Shelduck	Brandgans	Tadorne de Belon
<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>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	Graureiher	Héron cendré
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Eurasian (Common) Moorhen	Teichhuhn	Gallinule poule-d'eau

Wildlife List – Shorebirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<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
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	Großer Brachvogel	Courlis cendré
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	Uferschnepfe	Barge à queue noire

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>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>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common Cuckoo	Kuckuck	Coucou gris
<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>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Northern Wheatear	Steinschmätzer	Traquet motteux
<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	European Stonechat	Schwarzkehlchen	Tarier pâtre

Wildlife List – Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>	Eurasian Blackcap	Weißaugen-Schwatzhäherling	Cratérope à tête noire
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common Chaffinch	Buchfink	Pinson des arbres
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Sedge Warbler	Schilfrohrsänger	Phragmite des joncs
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	Fitis	Pouillot fitis
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common Chiffchaff	Zilpzalp	Pouillot véloce
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest	Wintergoldhähnchen	Roitelet huppé
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Eurasian Wren	Zaunkönig	Troglodyte mignon
<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit	Kohlmeise	Mésange charbonnière
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Eurasian Blue Tit	Blaumeise	Mésange bleue
<i>Periparus ater</i>	Coal Tit	Tannenmeise	Mésange noire
<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

Wildlife List – Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Eurasian (Common) Blackbird	Amsel	Merle noir
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	Singdrossel	Grive musicienne
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common Chaffinch	Buchfink	Pinson des arbres
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Eurasian Linnet	Bluthänfling	Linotte mélodieuse
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	European Goldfinch	Stieglitz	Chardonneret élégant
<i>Chloris chloris</i>	European Greenfinch	Grünfink	Verdier d'Europe
<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	Redpoll	Birkenseizig	Sizerin flammé
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Buntspecht	Pic épeiche
<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



eBird

During our Wildlife Watches and on land, our ornithologist Júlia conducted bird surveys, recording observations for the citizen science platform eBird. We recorded **45** different species of birds in **16** 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 commun

Wildlife List — Other Fauna



Wildlife List – Other Fauna



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
<i>Vipera berus</i>	Common European Adder	Kreuzotter	Vipère péliade
<i>Neogale vison</i>	American Mink	Mink	Vison d'Amérique
<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Eurasian Red Squirrel	Eurasisches Eichhörnchen	Écureuil roux

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