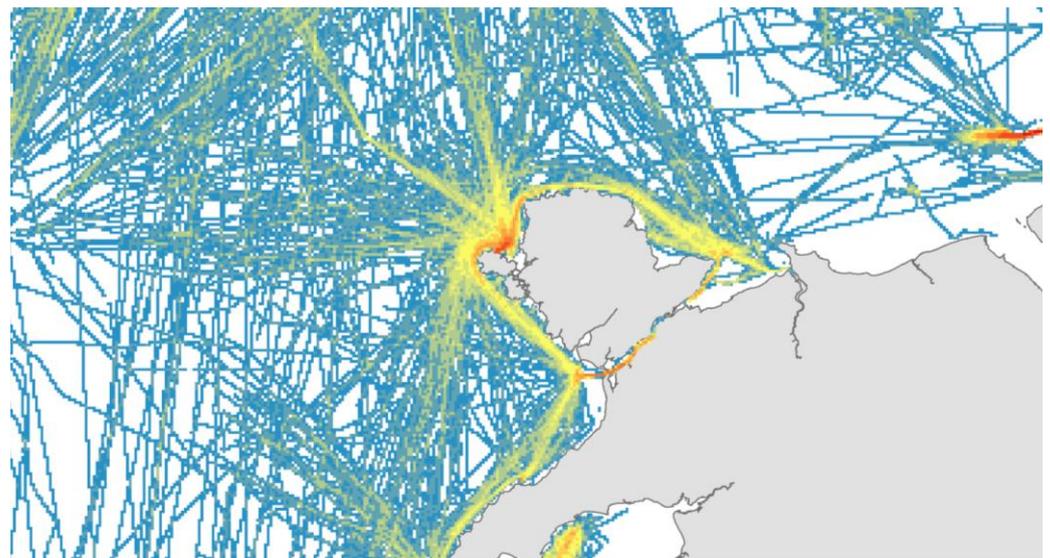




## News Release

16 June 2021

*For immediate release*



### **RYA Coastal Atlas update to improve protection of recreational boating**

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The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) has commissioned ABPmer to update the digital map of Recreational Boating Intensity held in their online UK Coastal Atlas of Recreational Boating.

The RYA Coastal Atlas is a GIS dataset of recreational boating activity around the UK, comprising spatial data including indicators of intensity of use and general boating areas, as well as the locations of clubs, training centres and marinas.

The Atlas is an important tool for the RYA, aiding the representation of recreational boating interests. It is used to help identify and protect areas of

importance to recreational boaters, to inform responses to development proposals and in discussions about navigational safety.

ABPmer will develop maps of recreational boating activity and intensity between 2015 and 2019. This will update and maintain standards for representing recreational boating activity in UK waters in planning and licensing applications.

Chris Jackson, Data and GIS Solutions Business Manager at ABPmer, said “Adding the intensity data layers is an important step in the development of their Coastal Atlas. We will also explore how additional data can be incorporated into the Atlas, to help the RYA expand the capabilities of the Atlas so that it is of wider benefit to those operating in the marine environment.”

Richard Hill, Environment and Planning Officer at the RYA, said “we are looking forward to supplying the updated Coastal Atlas to our partners, whilst using it to expand our own advocacy work to safeguard and promote sustainable waterborne recreation.”

The update is expected to be available from the end of 2021.

ABPmer’s data and GIS specialists are experienced marine data handlers, developing bespoke GIS mapping and data management tools for governing bodies, the public sector and marine and coastal operators.

- ENDS -

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Image credit: ABPmer/Royal Yachting Association

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At ABPmer we employ highly skilled specialists from a variety of marine disciplines so that we can provide a wide range of services. We carefully match the skills and experience of our staff to a client’s requirements so that every project team is unique.

We pride ourselves on understanding client needs and work closely with them to achieve their goals.

All our work is undertaken in accordance with our Quality Management System certified to ISO 9001 for the delivery of Environmental Consultancy and Research Services.

From our base in Southampton, England we support projects around the globe.

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#### **About the RYA**

- The RYA has over 100,000 personal members and 1,500 affiliated clubs and classes, which represent some 350,000 active boaters throughout the UK. It is estimated that 4 million people in the UK take part in boating activity annually.
- We are the national body for dinghy, motor and sail cruising, all forms of sail racing, RIBs and sportsboats, windsurfing and personal watercraft and a leading representative body for inland waterways cruising.
- We also set and maintain an international standard for recreational boat training through a network of RYA-recognised training centres, world-class courses and educational material.
- We are responsible for one of the UK's most successful Olympic medal winning sports. Our coaching and development schemes actively support our country's top sailors, from talented juniors to Olympic and World Champions.
- We are committed to promoting all forms of boating and making them accessible to everyone. For more information please visit [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk).