

Project Adair Wreck Map

This map shows the 'density' of ship and aircraft losses in Scottish waters, giving a clear sense of the historical importance of particular ports and harbours (such as Aberdeen, Stornoway and Scapa Flow); of shipping routes (such as the Sound of Mull and the Firth of Clyde); and of navigational hazards (such as Fife Ness or the Mull of Kintyre). The map also gives a broad sense of the potential for discoveries in different parts of Scotland's waters – although survival of sites will be conditioned by many other complex factors.

These density values have been generated from Whittaker's *Off Scotland* record of maritime and aviation losses in Scottish Waters, published in 1998. This dataset was collected using a consistent methodology and remains the most comprehensive publication of this information. The data includes vessels built as recently as 1992, as well as losses of shipwrecks reported from as early as AD800. The methodology is described in full in the preface to the book.

Whittaker's records have been sifted to remove those assigned generalised locations (eg 'off the Hebrides', or 'off the west coast'), amounting to about 10% of the total. Even so, in the case of most losses the location is still not accurate, though not entirely arbitrary, for example '10 miles E of Aberdeen', or 'on the Bass rock'.

This map has been produced as part of Project Adair, an RCAHMS project funded by Historic Scotland. The map is made of thousands of cells each measuring 50m square. A kernel density has been generated for each cell by working out how many wrecks lie within a specific radius, giving a value (between 0 and 7.4) that equates to the number of losses in each 100km². Please note that located sites exist in areas without colour coding.

For information on located wrecks and other seabed obstructions, please refer to [Canmore](http://Canmore.rcahms.gov.uk) (rcahms.gov.uk) or the charts of the [UK Hydrographic Office](http://UKHydrographicOffice.gov.uk).

