

ACP-2024-001 Annex C

# Stakeholder Engagement for NATS TRA Proposal (Drone Trial BVLOS)

ACP-2024-001

October and  
November 2024

**NATS**

NATS Private

## Introduction

NATS Services ([link](#)), has partnered with an uncrewed aircraft (UA) operator Flylogix ([link](#)) to conduct airspace UA flight trials over the North Sea. The objective of the trial is to generate a cooperative and recognised airspace environment and to safely integrate uncrewed with crewed airspace operations.

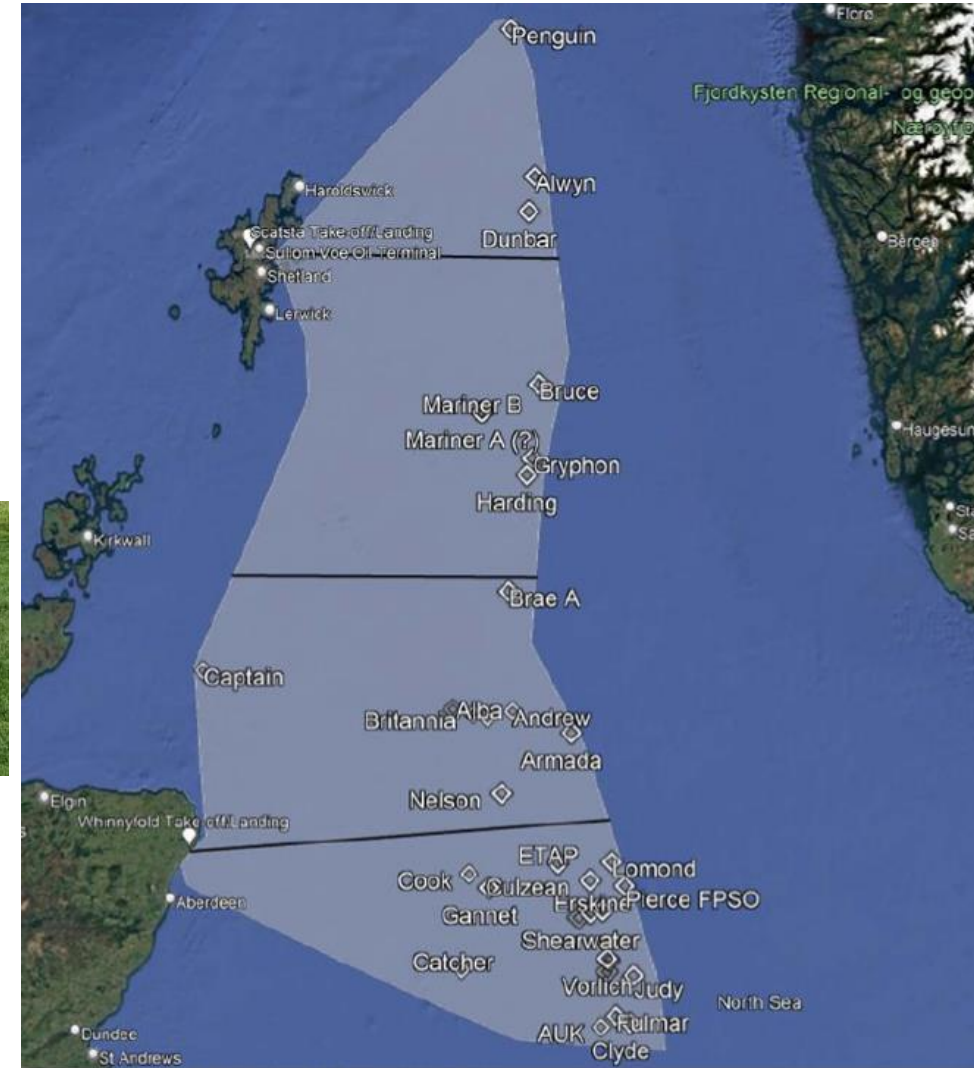
Our intent is to request a sectorised Temporary Reserved Area (TRA), which would be a Transponder Mandatory Zone (TMZ) to ensure electronic conspicuity.

Most air operations in the TRA region would already expect to follow the Aberdeen Offshore Safety Area (OSA) radio communications procedures as per AIP (see supplied Engagement Material for details).



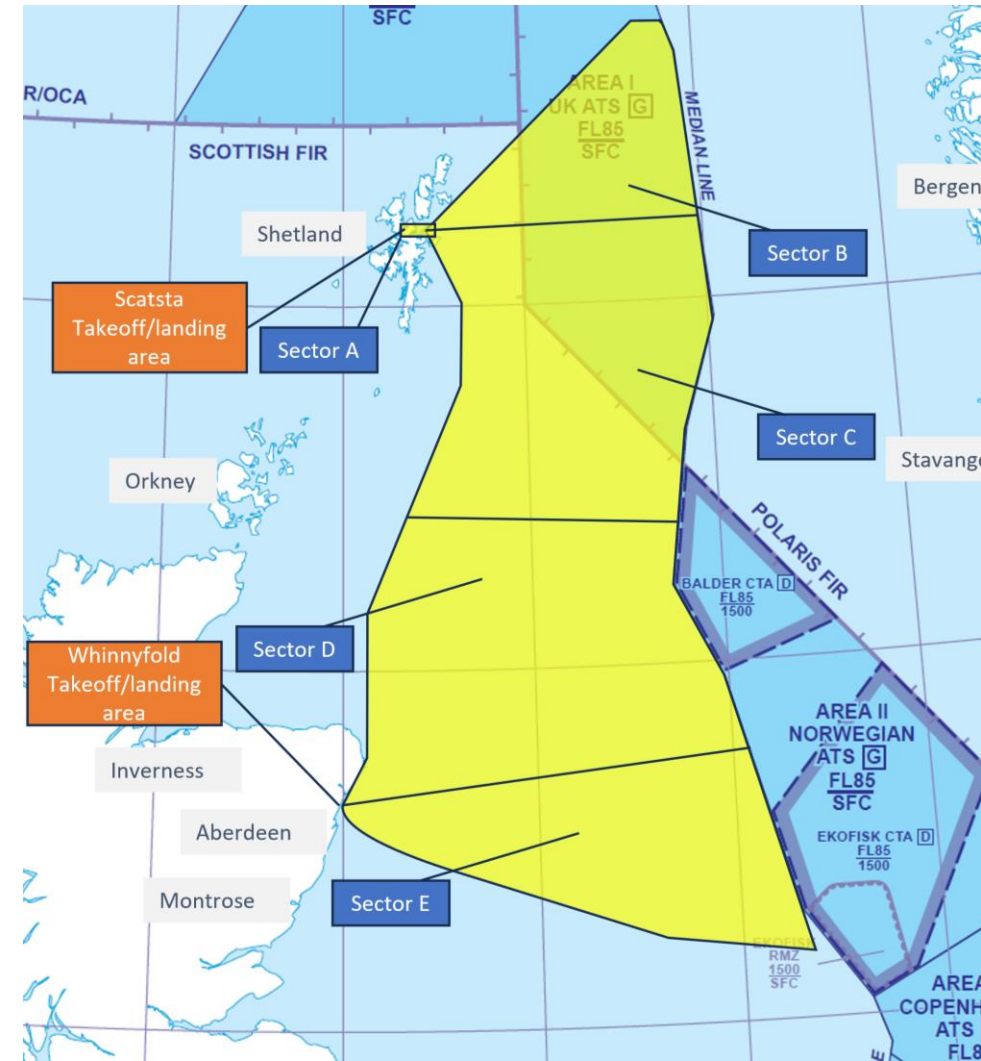
*The Flylogix FX2, c. 50kg, wingspan 3.2m, flight duration c. 5-6hrs*

The trial plan involves our partnered UA operator, Flylogix, to conduct uncrewed BVLOS operations at 800ft, primarily over water in unsegregated airspace to support the oil and gas industry.



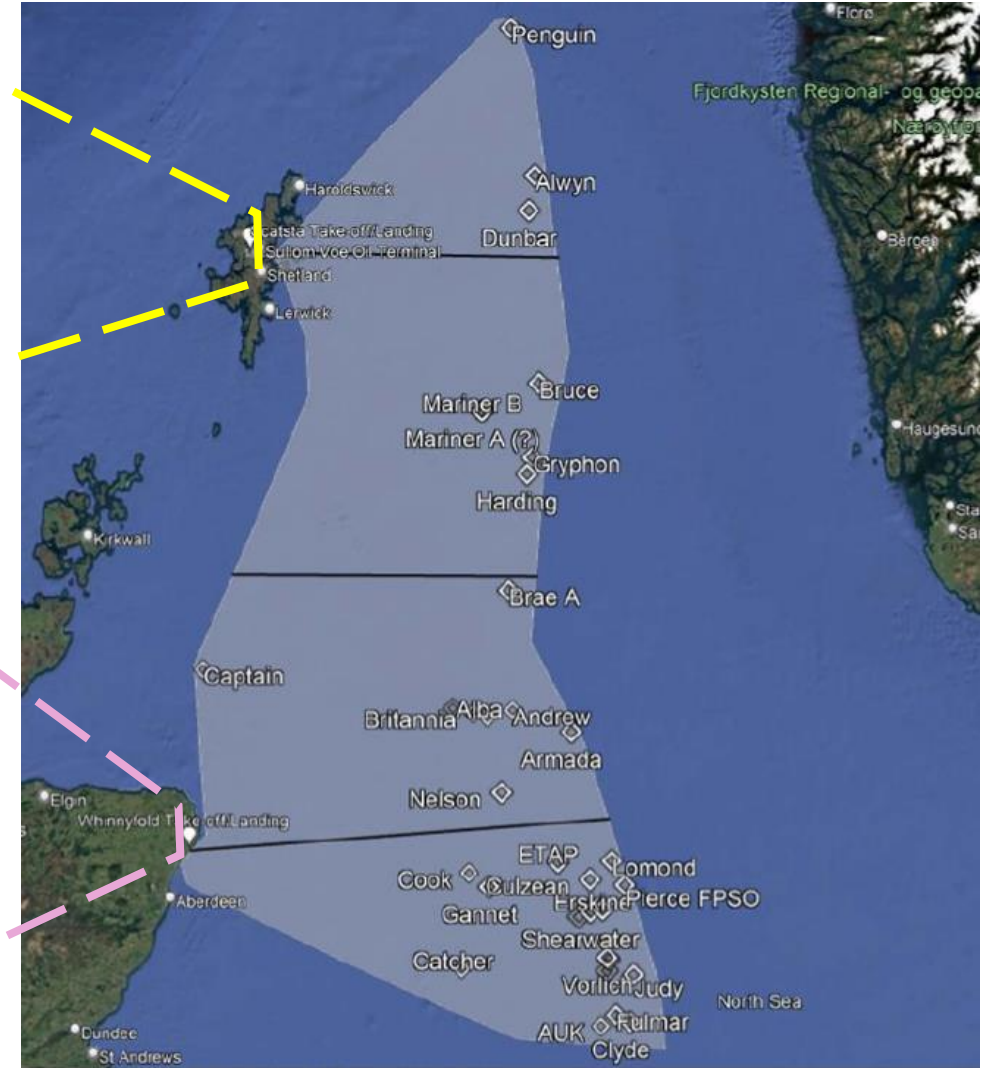
# ACP Design – Temporary Reserved Area (TRA)

- Incorporates Transponder Mandatory Zone (TMZ) for Electronic Conspicuity (EC)
- Aberdeen ATC – TRA Airspace Authority and provides ATS
- TRA vertical dimension 100ft–1,500ft AMSL
- UA would fly at 800ft AMSL
- Two take-off/landing sites (TO/L):
  - Scatsta (Shetland), Whinnyfold (Aberdeenshire)
- UA departs from either Scatsta or Whinnyfold to conduct Oil & Gas methane sniffing operations and maritime operations
- Anticipate TRA activation starting in March 2025
- 6-month duration (potential extension – 12 months)
- Sunrise –Sunset operating hours
- Expecting c.4 flights per week from one of the TO/L sites at a time
- TRA – 4 main sectors proposed – each mission will mainly operate in one of the sectors, but subject to successful progression of the trial, we may operate the two northern or the two southern sectors together





# ACP Design – Take off/landing sites



# Expected impacts summary

- NOTAM activation 24hrs in advance
- The TRA ruleset is simple
  - Crewed Aircraft – EC (Mode-S and ADS-B Out) and comms requirements, most flights in the region already comply
  - Uncrewed Aircraft – EC (Mode-S and ADS-B In/Out) and comms requirements,
  - Crewed Aircraft that do not meet the EC requirements, Aberdeen ATC may provide permission.
- Other ruleset for uncrewed aircraft(s) are:
  - Flight intent notification submission
  - 800ft transit altitude
  - Adopting “Rules of the Air”
  - Enhanced situational awareness feed for UA operator
- **Typical North Sea air traffic: minimal**
- **Military/Maritime: minimal**
- **General Aviation: minimal**
- **Biodiversity and tranquillity: minimal**

Questions?

# Thank you

Please respond by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024

***NATS***