

Abstract:

The Gulf of Corryvreckan in the Firth of Lorn, Scotland is a tidal channel internationally renowned for its whirlpool activity. Little research has concentrated on its importance to local wildlife. Temporal and spatial distribution of common seabird and cetacean activity was studied in relation to tidal direction and strength.

Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*) and auks (*Uria aalge* & *Alca torda*) were the most common and their distribution showed significant association with tidal direction. Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) were observed with harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) and showed significant associations to tidal strength. Spatial distribution differed significantly between species, with shags (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) preferring gentle eddies to the fast currents and whirlpools preferred by kittiwakes and auks.

An associated food web is hypothesised for these species and their distribution, and is thus presented.