



National  
Oceanography  
Centre

# ADVISORY NOTICE

## AUTOSUB MISSION OFF PLYMOUTH COAST

MAY - JUNE 2022

The National Oceanography Centre (NOC) will be deploying one of its Autosub Long Range (ALR) robotic submarines on a 2000km mission, launching from a shore facility in Plymouth in early May, with recovery of the vehicle planned for mid-June 2022\*. The deployment is scheduled to run for 35 days\*.

The primary focus of this deployment is to demonstrate the engineering capability of the ALR platform, and to act as a proving ground for future long-duration scientific and commercial applications.

### THE ROUTE

The proposed route has been developed based upon our understanding of fishing vessel activity, AIS data, and the availability of support vessels if required.

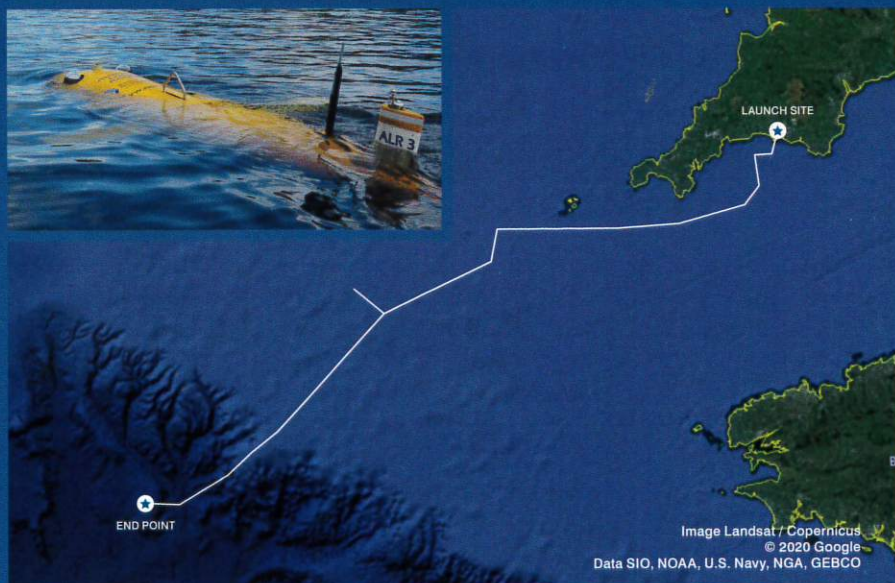


Image Landsat / Copernicus  
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Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

\*Dates and timings are subject to change



- The sub is yellow, 3.4m long, 0.9m wide with a WSP of 1.3Knts. 1 white strobe is bow-mounted with an additional white strobe mounted on the tail fin.
- The vehicle will not be escorted and will surface periodically (every 3 to 48 hours) for 'over the horizon' communications with engineers on shore.
- Its depth along the route will vary from 10m below surface at the start (WP1-WP2) to 20m below surface for most of the deployment.
- The altitude of the vehicle from the sea bed will range from 20m to 50m. Whilst the AUV will be programmed to follow these way points, it is possible its position will be 1Nm either side of the intended track due to the effects of tidal currents.
- Fishing vessels and other water users are encouraged to be aware of the proposed route of this deployment, to avoid close contact with the vehicle at sea as it journeys to the edge of the continental shelf.
- The NOC requests that mariners do not interfere with the vehicle in any way, or attempt to recover it. The vehicle's position will be monitored from shore throughout the deployment.

## **PROJECT LEAD FOR PLYMOUTH OPERATIONS**

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