

# Individual variation in attraction and avoidance: How Lesser Black-backed Gulls respond to offshore wind farms and fishing vessels

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## Individual variation in attraction and avoidance: How Lesser Black-backed Gulls respond to offshore wind farms and fishing vessels

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## Preface

This report is the result of the assignment with zaaknummer 31199233 ‘Analyseren GPS gegevens meeuwen buiten broedseizoen’ of Rijkswaterstaat Water Verkeer en Leefomgeving (RWS). This involves carrying out analyses of GPS data of large gulls which were collected for an earlier Wozep project on Neeltje Jans in the Delta area.

This assignment was supervised by Henri Zomer and Jos de Visser (RWS). Both provided comments on previous versions of this manuscript and are greatly acknowledged for their input and the smooth cooperation.

Data for this project was collected in a collaborative project between Waardenburg Ecology and Instituut voor Natuur- en Bos Onderzoek (Brussel - INBO). Eric Stienen and Nicolas Vanermen are acknowledged for the use of data.

The team that executed this task consisted of Rosemarie Kentie (Nederlands Instituut voor Onderzoek der Zee – NIOZ), Rob van Bemmelen and Ruben Fijn (Waardenburg Ecology).

A modified version of this report is intended to be published in a peer-reviewed journal in due course, with potentially co-authors of INBO and University of Amsterdam as well.

The authors thank everyone who has contributed to this report.



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## Summary

Offshore wind farms are increasing rapidly in number and scale, posing potential risks for seabirds. While some seabirds avoid offshore wind farms, others are attracted to them. Collision rate models use parameters such as avoidance rate, flight height and flight speed, to predict the risk of collisions of birds with wind turbines. Discard-feeding seabirds could appear to avoid offshore wind farms, while in fact they are attracted to fishing activities which are, within most wind farms, restricted or not allowed. Here we studied the avoidance and attraction of 58 GPS-tracked Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*) to both offshore wind farms and fishery activity within the foraging range from their breeding colony during the pre-breeding, breeding and post-breeding period. We used a Step Selection Analysis to estimate relative selection strength to the offshore wind farms in reach and areas with fishery activity, including individual variability. Individuals varied greatly in the time they spent at sea and stayed longer at sea during weekdays than during weekends. Gulls were 1.7 times as likely to avoid the offshore wind farm and 1.5 times as likely to select areas with recent fishery activity compared to areas without. The avoidance of windfarms and attraction to fisheries varied substantially between individuals. Individual variation in avoidance of offshore wind farms varied most during the breeding period, while the attraction to fishing activity varied most during the pre-breeding period. We expected a difference in avoidance of the offshore wind farm during weekends when fishery intensity were four times lower, and gulls at sea were likely more relying on self-foraging, however, we found no difference. The findings of individual variability in avoidance behaviour suggest that collision rate model might benefit from incorporating behavioural heterogeneity rather than assuming uniform population responses. This research contributes valuable empirical data to improve the biological realism of collision rate models.



## Nederlandse samenvatting

Offshore windparken nemen snel in aantal en omvang toe, wat potentiële risico's voor zeevogels met zich meebrengt. Terwijl sommige zeevogels offshore windparken mijden, voelen anderen zich erdoor aangetrokken. Beide gedragingen kunnen schadelijke gevolgen hebben: vermijding kan leiden tot habitatverlies of barrières creëren ten opzichte van foerageergebieden, terwijl aantrekking het risico op botsingen kan vergroten. Zeevogels die zich voeden met visserij-discards lijken offshore windparken te mijden, terwijl ze waarschijnlijk worden aangetrokken door visserijactiviteiten die in de meeste landen verboden zijn in de parken, en daar dus niet voorkomen. In dit onderzoek bestudeerden we de vermijding en aantrekkingskracht van kleine mantelmeeuwen (*Larus fuscus*) voor zowel de offshore windparken als de visserijactiviteiten binnen hun foerageergebied. We gebruikten stapselectieanalyses om de relatieve selectiesterkte te schatten voor offshore windparken en gebieden met visserijactiviteiten en namen individuele variabiliteit mee in deze modellen. Individuen varieerden sterk in de tijd die ze op zee doorbrachten en bleven doordeweeks langer op zee dan in het weekend. Op zee gebruikten vogels anderhalf keer zo vaak gebieden met recente visserijactiviteiten in vergelijking met gebieden zonder. Op populatieniveau vermeden meeuwen offshore windparken, maar individuele reacties varieerden aanzienlijk. We veronderstelden dat als het vermijden van windmolenparken werd aangestuurd door aantrekking tot nabijgelegen visserijactiviteiten, meeuwen minder windmolenvermijding zouden vertonen tijdens de weekenden, wanneer de visserijintensiteit vijf keer lager was dan tijdens weekdays. We vonden echter geen verschil in relatieve selectiesterkte voor het offshore windmolenpark tussen weekdays en weekenden. Er is verder onderzoek nodig om te bepalen of dit patroon het gevolg is van actieve vermijding van windturbines of van andere oorzaken, zoals verschillen in prooibesikbaarheid binnen versus buiten het windmolenpark. Een ander onderwerp voor toekomstige studies is de mate van seizoensgebondenheid in het vermijden van windmolenparken en aantrekking tot visserijactiviteiten. In de bijlage hebben we nog enige aanvullende resultaten opgenomen over zilvermeeuwen (*Larus argentatus*).



# 1 Introduction

Coastal shelf seas, such as the North Sea, are among the most heavily human impacted marine habitats in the world (Halpern *et al.* 2015). Fishery intensities and shipping traffic are high, and offshore wind farms are increasing in number, area and the size of individual turbines (Emeis *et al.* 2015, Gusatu *et al.* 2021). To become carbon neutral in 2050, the EU's wind power action plan will accelerate construction of new offshore wind farms in near future (European Commission 2023). These human activities can impact wildlife, especially apex predators such as seabirds (Furness and Camphuysen 1997, Hazen *et al.* 2019).

Offshore wind farms can affect seabirds directly by increased mortality rates due to collisions with wind turbines, or indirectly via habitat loss if seabirds avoid wind farm areas (Mendel *et al.* 2019). Offshore wind farms can also act as a barrier, leading to increased flight costs (Thaxter *et al.* 2024). An important driver of both collision risk and habitat loss is the extent to which a bird is either attracted to or avoiding offshore wind farms (Dierschke *et al.* 2016, Johnston *et al.* 2022). For example, some species such as Great Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and European Shags (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) have been observed to use the base of turbines to perch (Dierschke *et al.* 2016), species such as Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*) have been seen foraging on the fouling communities on the foundations (Vanermen *et al.* 2014), while others, such as Loons (*Gavia* spp.) avoid the offshore wind farm and associated shipping traffic up to 16 km distance thereby substantially reducing their foraging area (Mendel *et al.* 2019).

Because fishing is prohibited in many offshore wind farms, discard-feeding seabirds, such as Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*), Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*) (Sherley *et al.* 2019) probably have a lower tendency to enter a wind farm. However, avoidance of wind farms could then be driven by the attraction to fishing vessels outside and absence of fishing vessels within offshore wind farms, instead of an avoidance of the wind farm per se. As experiments have been done to study the feasibility of passive fishing (gillnets, handline fishing, mechanical jigging and multi-species pots) within wind farms (Neitzel *et al.* 2024), fishing within wind farms may be more common at a wider scale in future, thereby potentially altering the avoidance rate of discard-feeding seabirds and increasing the risk of collisions with turbines.

Based on flight height, manoeuvrability and foraging behaviour at night, large gulls such as Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) are often listed as particularly vulnerable to collisions with turbines at sea (Furness *et al.* 2013, Bradbury *et al.* 2014). Studies on the avoidance of wind farms by Lesser Black-backed Gulls have shown mixed results (Vanermen *et al.* 2014, Dierschke *et al.* 2016, Johnston *et al.* 2022). One reason for the variation in responses could be the large individual differences within species in how they respond to environmental conditions, such as found in Black-legged



Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*) (O'Hanlon *et al.* 2024). Another reason could be the distribution of nearby fisheries. Although the effects of an absence of fishing activity within wind farms was acknowledged, it was thus far not feasible to include fishing activities in previous studies. With the development of fishery tracking websites such as the Global Fishing Watch (Global Fishing Watch 2025), this is now within reach.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls have a varied diet ranging from marine to terrestrial food (Camphuysen *et al.* 2024). Previous studies have shown that Lesser Black-backed Gulls spent less time at sea during the weekends, when fishery activity is lowest compared to weekdays (Tyson *et al.* 2015, Sotillo *et al.* 2019). Foraging patterns of gulls also vary between colonies, depending on colony size (Corman *et al.* 2016), but other factors, such as distance to foraging areas, likely also play an important role in habitat choice. Lesser Black-backed Gulls breeding on Texel, the Netherlands, for instance, spent between 25% and 78% of their time at sea (depending on sex and breeding phase) (Camphuysen *et al.* 2015), while gulls breeding in South Walney, UK, hardly spent any time offshore (Clewley *et al.* 2023).

Developments of GPS-tracking now allow studying wind farm avoidance behaviour in more detail (Johnston *et al.* 2022, Fijn *et al.* 2024) and on an individual level (O'Hanlon *et al.* 2024). Here, we studied habitat use at sea of a Lesser Black-backed Gull colony located relatively close to an offshore wind farm (~40 km). Gulls were tagged with GPS trackers in 2020 and 2021. We first investigated how much time they spent at sea, and inside the offshore wind farm and if this differed per breeding phase or during weekdays or weekends, when commercial fisheries are less active. We investigated the flight speed and height at sea and whether this differed inside or outside the offshore wind farm as these are important parameters for collision risk models (Masden *et al.* 2021). Then we studied simultaneously the attraction / avoidance of windfarms and fishery activity at sea using Step Selection Analyses (SSA; (Thurfjell *et al.* 2014, Avgar *et al.* 2016, Chatterjee *et al.* 2024). An SSA is based on the principles of resource selection analyses and compares the properties of actual used steps (two subsequent GPS positions) with randomly chosen available steps at each time interval. The randomly chosen available steps are generated for each used step using the distribution of step lengths and turning angles from the data. Spatial and temporal characteristics can be linked to the start and/or end of each random and used step. With habitat characteristics at the end of each step, selection coefficients of certain habitat types within reach can be estimated, whereas habitat characteristics at the start of each step allow estimation of the influence of habitat on movement behaviour (i.e. speed and direction). Recent developments in these models made it possible to add individual random slopes (Muff *et al.* 2020), and thereby acknowledging and focussing on individual differences in habitat selection.

We tested the following hypotheses: (1) gulls are attracted to areas with fishing activity, (2) gulls avoid the offshore windfarm area, (3) gulls spent less time at sea during weekends due to lower fishing intensity compared to weekdays, and (4) gulls at sea are avoiding the wind farm area less during weekends than during weekdays because of the general absence of, and therefore draw to, fisheries.



## 2 Materials and methods

### 2.1 Fieldwork

Lesser black-backed gulls breeding on the artificial island Neeltje Jans (Figure 2.1) in the south of the Netherlands were tagged with GPS loggers (OT-15-3GCT) of 15g manufactured by Ornitela (Vilnius, Lithuania; [ornitela.com](http://ornitela.com)), attached with a permanent wing harness (Thaxter *et al.* 2015). All tags were less than 3% of the body weight. 25 Gulls were tagged between 20-5-2020 and 2-6-2020, and 50 gulls were tagged between 25-5-2021 and 2-6-2021. The settings of the GPS loggers varied per time of day and location, with a position recoded every 900 seconds inside the colony, 180 seconds outside the colony and 20 seconds inside the offshore wind farm area within the home range of the gulls. From dusk to dawn, the position inside the colony was recorded every 1800 seconds and outside the colony every 900 seconds, but the settings for positions inside the wind farm remained every 20 seconds. Gulls were captured with walk-in cages on the nest during the incubation phase and received a metal ring and a coloured plastic ring with a unique inscription. Individuals were weighed and measured, and sex was based on body size (Camphuysen *et al.* 2024). In 2021, nests of a large subset of individuals (n=40) were monitored for hatching success, hatching date, and presence of chicks until 25 June (halfway fledging for the eldest chick in the study).

### 2.2 Habitat data

The offshore wind farm complex nearest to the breeding colony lies 40 km in westerly direction and consist of the wind farms in Dutch waters (Borssele I-IV) and wind farms in Belgian waters (Norther, C-Power, Rentel, Northwind, Seastar, Belwind, Northwester 2 and Mermaid). We calculated a buffer of 1 km around each wind turbine present in 2021. The wind turbine locations from Borssele were downloaded from ESRI NL (published by Nationaal Georegister), those from the Belgian wind farms were downloaded from GeoNetwork (published by the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences). For each turbine we calculated a buffer of one km around its base, after which we filled the gaps within the perimeter to arrive at a polygon for the entire offshore wind farm (Figure 2.1). Fisheries data was downloaded from Global Fishing Watch (Global Fishing Watch 2025), which provides apparent fishing intensity in hours of fishing based on AIS and sailing speed, using version 3 of their AIS data pipeline (Figure I.4.1). The resolution of fishing intensity data is at 0.01° on a daily scale (from midnight to midnight UTC).

### 2.3 GPS-data selection

We selected data of GPS-tagged Lesser Black-backed Gulls between 01-03-2021 and 31-09-2022 and kept only those points in the North Sea north of 51.0°N (Figure 2.1, Table 2.1,



Appendix IV for details on individual bird). Most gulls arrive in the breeding area in April and start to migrate southwards in August (Camphuysen *et al.* 2024). We removed GPS location data which were obtained by four or less satellites to assure accuracy of the GPS positions (0.195% of all data locations). We checked the remaining positions for abnormal speeds and removed positions where the calculated speed (distance divided by time) between locations was  $> 75$  km/u but the instantaneous GPS speed registered by the loggers was  $< 25$  km/u (0.055% of the locations). Thoroughly checking the data showed that these positions were very likely wrong positions. We categorized three time periods based on the nest data from 2021: the pre-breeding period between arrival in the area until 15 May, the breeding period between 15 May and 15 July, and the post-breeding period from 15 July until departure from the area (Figure 2.1, Table 2.1, Appendix IV for details for individual birds).

## 2.4 Time spent at sea and in the wind farm

We summed the time a bird spent at sea or within the perimeter (with a buffer of one km) of the offshore wind farm per day and analysed if this differed between breeding phases and between days during the week (Mon – Thu) or weekends (Fri – Sun). We used a general linear mixed model with a *tweedie* distribution, as the data has a cluster of zeroes, using the package *glmmTMB* (Brooks *et al.* 2017). Random intercepts were included for individual and model fit was assessed with the package *Dharma* (Hartig 2022).

## 2.5 Flight speed and height

We assessed the flight speed, based on instantaneous GPS ground speed, and flight height of gulls inside and outside the offshore wind farm. Flight speed showed a bimodal distribution, of which the lower mode likely represents floating on tidal currents or resting at the base of the wind turbine. We therefore selected, per individual per breeding period and within and outside the OWF, the speed of the second mode (faster than 10 km/h) and kept those of individuals with 10 or more measurements. As flight heights showed a wide variation partly due to erroneous measurements but no bimodality, and a strong skew to low values, we used the median in flight height per individual when their instantaneous GPS speed was higher than 5 km/h to remove gulls resting at sea, for each breeding period and inside and outside the OWF to model the differences, and kept those of individuals with 10 or more measurements. Modal speed and median heights per individual per breeding period and within and outside the offshore wind farm was used as dependent variable in a linear mixed model with a gaussian distribution and individuals as random intercept. Statistical significance of the explaining variables ‘within offshore wind farm’, ‘breeding period’ and its interaction were tested with a chi-square test.

## 2.6 Step selection analysis

Steps are defined as the connections between consecutive individual GPS locations. Step length is the distance between consecutive locations, and turning angle is the change in directionality between consecutive steps (Fortin *et al.* 2005, Signer *et al.* 2019). The time between GPS locations should be regular, not too short so step lengths can be long enough



to reach a different habitat, and not too long to maintain a high enough resolution. Based on visual inspection of the foraging tracks overlaying the habitat maps, and considering the sampling scheme of the GPS loggers, we resampled the tracking data to 15 minutes with a tolerance of 2 minutes using the function `track_resample` from the `amt` package (Signer *et al.* 2019), keeping bursts (consecutive locations with 15 minutes intervals) of more than 3 locations. When using an average commuting speed of 32.4 km/h (Shamoun-Baranes *et al.* 2016, Thaxter *et al.* 2019), a distance of 8 km could be covered per step.

We generated 25 random steps for each used step using the `random_steps` function from the package `amt` (Signer *et al.* 2019), using a gamma distribution for step lengths and a Von Mises distribution for turning angles. See Figure I.4.2 and Figure I.4.3 for the distribution of step lengths and turning angles. We removed positions which fell outside the area with known fishing intensity (Appendix Figure I.4.1), and random positions which fell on land. For each end point of the step we extracted whether gulls were within the wind farm perimeter, or within a grid cell of 0.01 x 0.01 degrees where fishing activity took place within 24 hours. To be able to estimate if temporal drivers influence the movement of individuals, we defined if a step started in a weekend (including Friday), when fishing intensity is five times lower than during weekdays (see Figure 3.1).

We ran SSA models as conditional logistic regressions using mixed models with a Poisson distribution in `glmmTMB` (Brooks *et al.* 2017, Muff *et al.* 2020). Used steps versus random steps were used as a dependent variable, and step ID (the grouping variable to link observed with random steps) as random intercept of which we fixed its variance to  $10^6$  to avoid shrinkage to the mean (see Muff *et al.* 2020). To estimate individual differences, we included individual random slopes per environmental variable and included the log of step length and the cosines of the turning angle as fixed effects, to reduce bias in parameter estimation (Forester *et al.* 2009). We first ran models including the environmental variables 'within wind farm' and 'at fisheries activity', both with an interaction with breeding periods (pre-breeding, breeding, and post-breeding). We then ran SSA models where we allowed the selection coefficient for 'within wind farm' to differ between weekdays (high fishing intensity) and weekends (low fishing intensity). We compared, per breeding period, the latter model to the model without weekend effects using a likelihood ratio test.

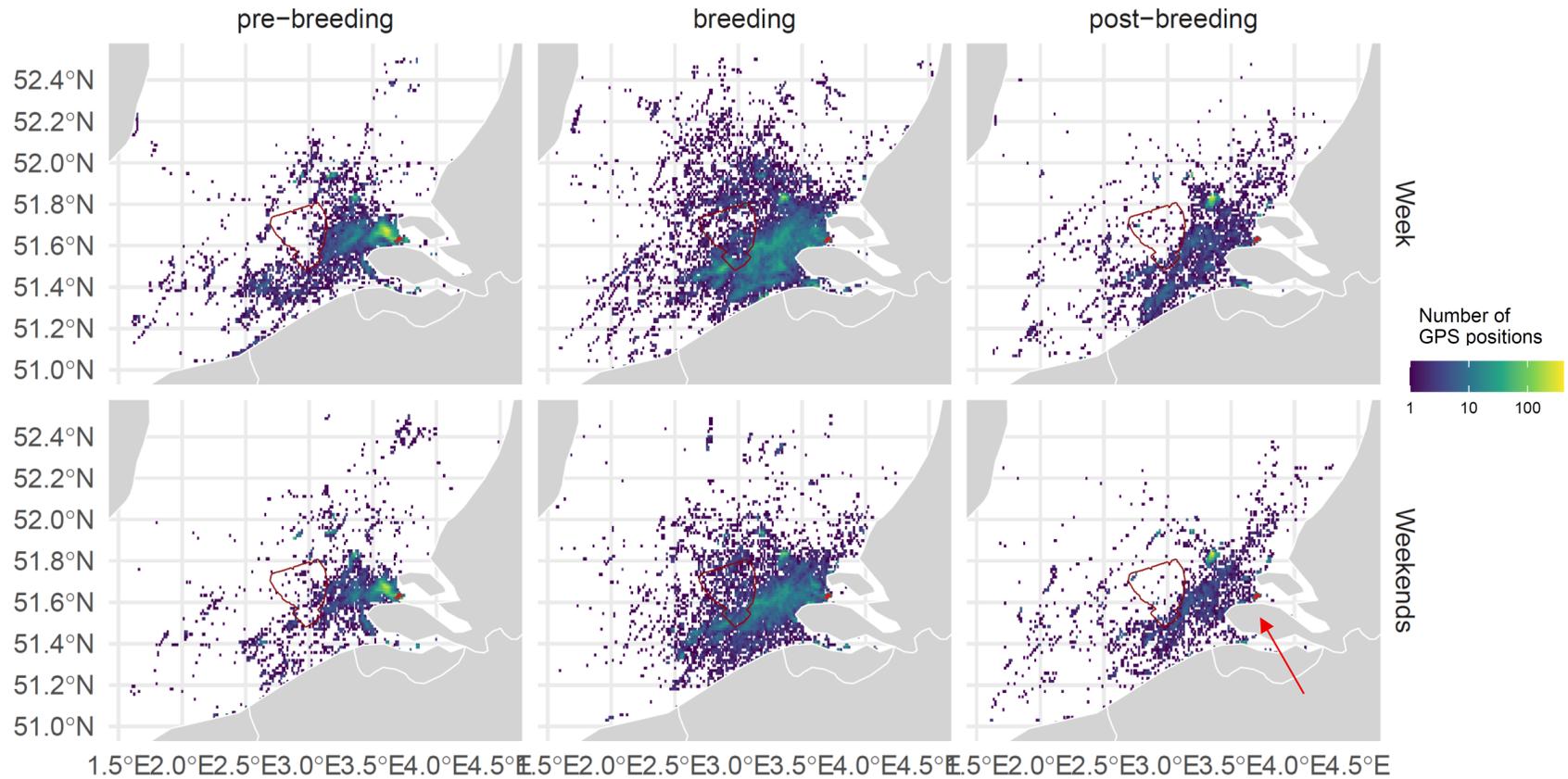


Figure 2.1 Density of GPS positions of Lesser Black-backed Gulls (regularized positions with 20 minutes) at sea in relation to the offshore windfarm and the colony in the different breeding periods and during the week (Mon – Thu) and weekends (Fri – Sun). The red outline encompasses the offshore wind farm with a 1000 m buffer. The red arrow indicates the colony.



**Table 2.1** Cumulative numbers of GPS positions of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the study region north of 51.0°N in and outside offshore windfarms during different months and years. Each figure is given as the total number of positions with the % of the overall total in brackets.

Year	Month											
Outside OWF												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	578 (0.7%)	68 (0.1%)	2,416 (2.8%)	65,283 (76.8%)	15,602 (18.4%)	1,012 (1.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
2022	0 (0%)	371 (0.7%)	3,900 (7.4%)	6,827 (12.9%)	6,557 (12.4%)	16,313 (30.8%)	13,133 (24.8%)	5,931 (11.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Inside OWF												
2021	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4,161 (0.9%)	10,448 (2.2%)	16,592 (3.5%)	267,670 (57.2%)	136,671 (29.2%)	22,231 (4.8%)	8,459 (1.8%)	901 (0.2%)	608 (0.1%)	14 (0.0%)
2022	14 (0.0%)	1,502 (0.4%)	19,925 (4.8%)	42,858 (10.3%)	99,063 (23.9%)	106,852 (25.8%)	116,950 (28.2%)	20,631 (5.0%)	6,839 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)



### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Fishing intensity

Fishing intensity around the colony was lower during the weekends including Friday (on average 270 hours per day) than on Mondays until Thursdays (on average 1066 hours per day). Weekly maximum fishing intensity was highest in the breeding period in 2021 (Figure 3.1). See Figure I.4.1 for the spatial distribution of fishing activity around the colony, which shows that no fishing took place within the wind farm and most fishing took place south east of the wind farm near shore.

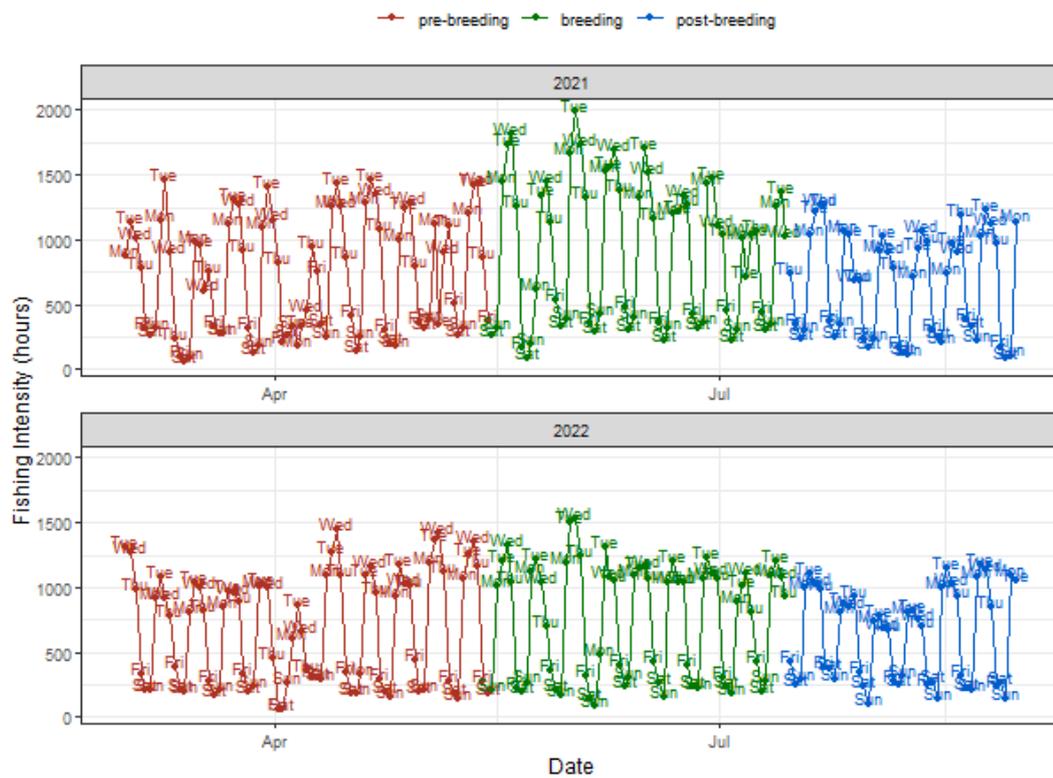


Figure 3.1 Daily fishing intensity, in hours fished per day, around the colony between 1 March 2021 and 31 August 2022. The breeding periods are coloured differently, and day of the week is shown in the graph.



### 3.2 Time spent at sea and in the wind farm

We found large differences between individuals in the time they spent at sea and in the offshore wind farm during the period they are present in the Dutch North Sea (Figure 3.2, Figure 3.3). Gulls spend on average more time at sea during the week than during weekends, and during the pre-breeding period (Table 3.1). During the week in the pre-breeding period, gulls spent on average 5.18 (4.34 – 6.17 95% CI) hours at sea, while during the weekend in the breeding period this was 3.19 (2.68 – 3.80 95% CI) hours. The pattern per year is similar but with 4.21 (3.54 95% CI) hours at sea in 2021 they spent more time at sea than in 2022 when they spent 3.79 (3.19 – 4.51 95% CI) hours at sea (Figure 3.2, Table 3.1).

Gulls spent most time in the offshore wind farm during the breeding period compared to the pre- and post-breeding period (Figure 3.3). On average, gulls spent 0.035 hours (2 minutes) per day in the offshore wind farm during the breeding period; this average included gulls that never entered the offshore wind farm. During the pre- and post-breeding period the time spent in the offshore wind farm was on average 0.015 and 0.016 hours per day, which comes down to 1 minute per day. There was no difference in time spent in the offshore wind farm during weekends and weekdays, but the total time spent in the offshore wind farm differed per year (Table 3.1); 0.027 (0.014 – 0.052 95% CI) hours per day in 2021 and 0.015 (0.008 – 0.029 95% CI) hours per day in 2022. On a daily basis these are very low numbers, but over a whole season from arrival in the North Sea until departure, these numbers add up to on average 13 hours per gull in 2021, and 8 hours per gull in 2022.

Table 3.1 Results of statistical analyses on time spent per day at sea, and in the offshore wind farm per breeding phase and weekend (Fri-Sun) and weekdays (Mon-Thu).

Parameter	Chisq	df	P
<i>At sea</i>			
Weekend	36.838	1	< 0.001
Period	145.510	2	< 0.001
Weekend x Period	4.035	2	0.133
Year	15.772	1	< 0.001
	Variance	St Dev	
random effect*	0.442	0.665	
<i>In OWF</i>			
Weekend	2.347	1	0.126
Period	43.902	2	< 0.001
Weekend x Period	0.862	2	0.650
Year	22.705	1	< 0.001
	Variance	St Dev	
random effect*	5.508	2.347	

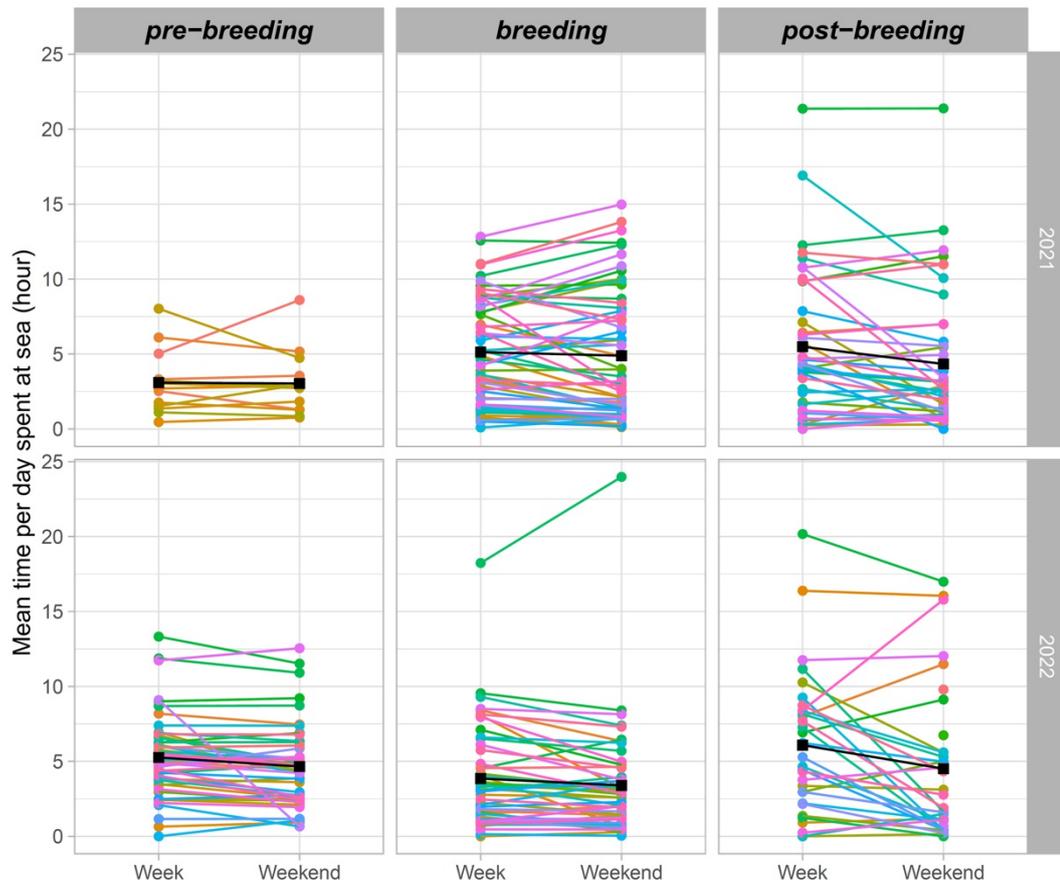


Figure 3.2 Mean daily time spent at sea per breeding phase differentiated for week (Mon – Thu) and weekend (Fri – Sun in 2021 and 2022). Coloured points and lines are individuals, black squares and lines are the overall averages.

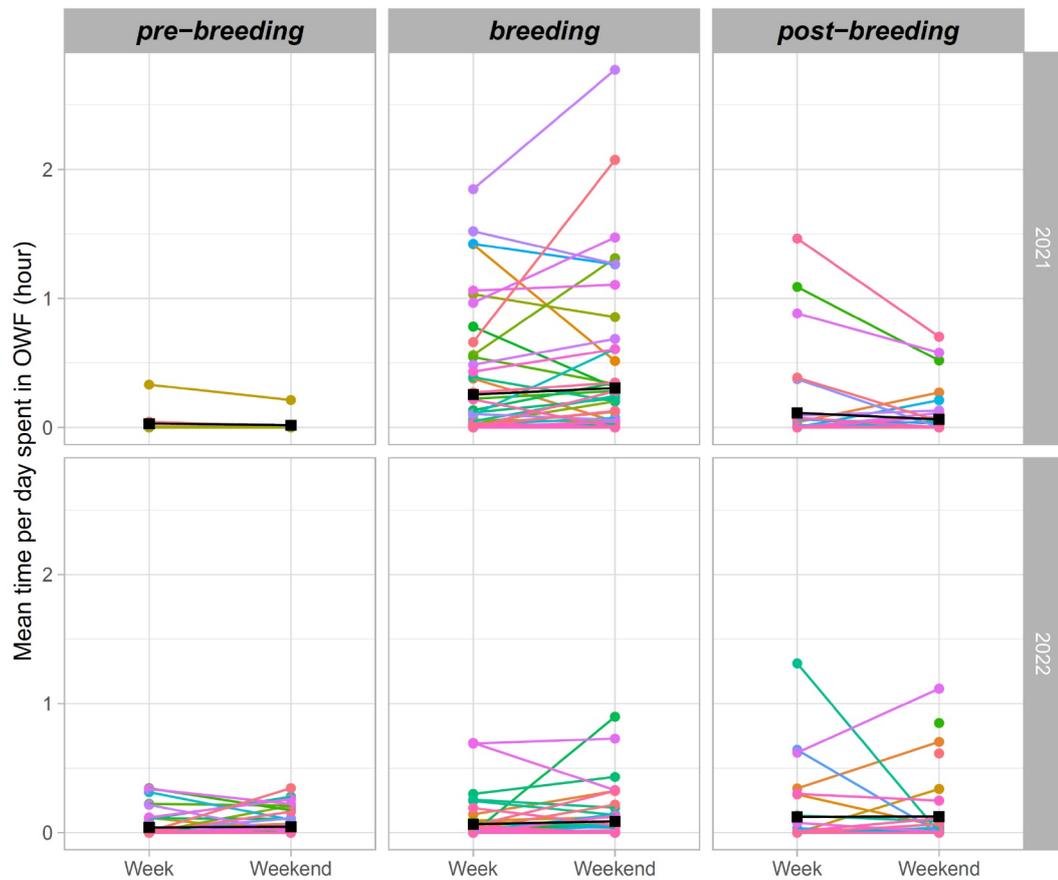


Figure 3.3 Mean daily time spent in offshore windfarms per breeding phase differentiated for week (Mon – Thu) and weekend (Fri – Sun) in 2021 and 2022. Coloured points and lines are individuals, black squares and lines are the overall averages.



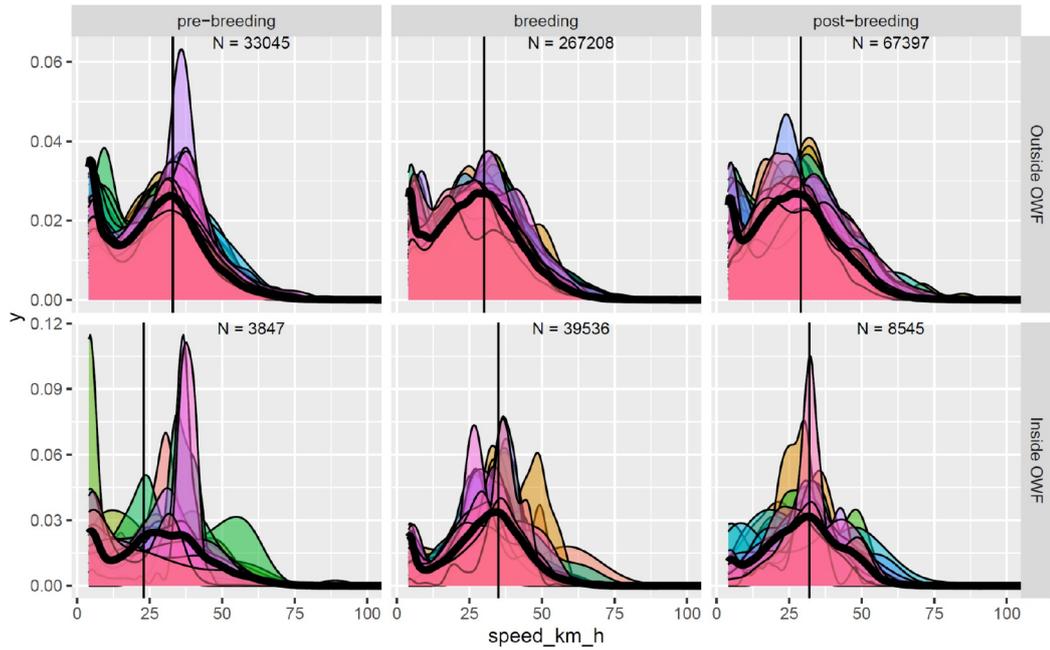
### 3.3 Flight speed and height

There was a large variation in flight speeds (Figure 3.4). Flight speed was higher inside than outside the OWF; seen over the total period that gulls were present in the North Sea, the mode of the speed was 35 km/h inside and 30 km/h outside the offshore wind farm (Figure 3.4), which differed statistically (Chisq = 16.529, df= 1,  $p < 0.0001$ ).

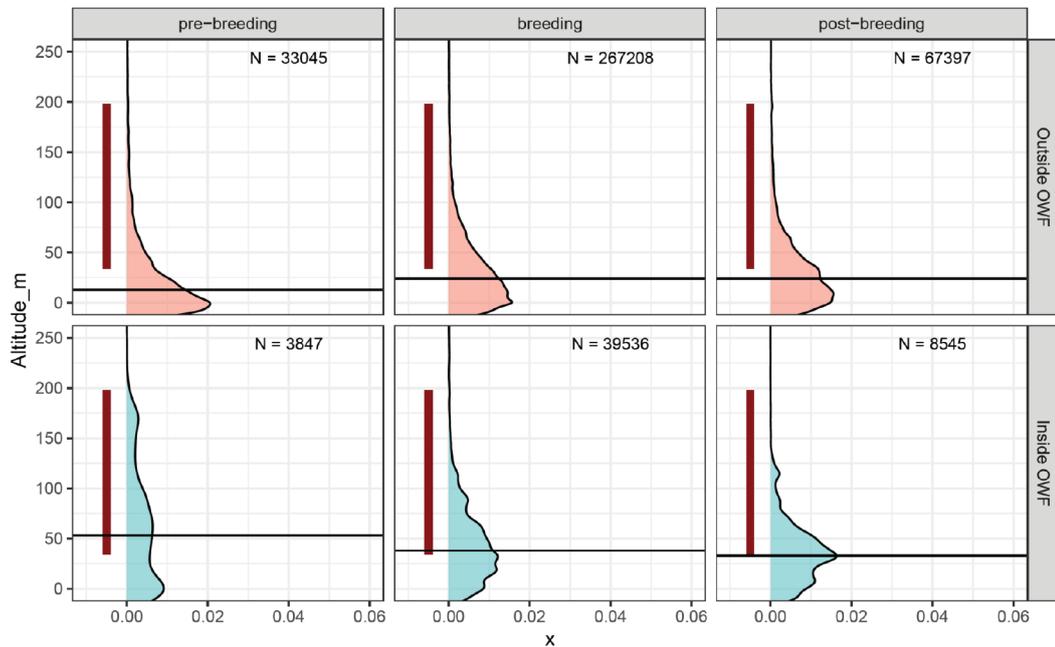
There was no statistical difference in flight speed between breeding period (Chisq = 4.698, df = 2,  $p = 0.095$ ). The median speeds were 32 km/h inside and 29 km/h outside the offshore wind farm, but these might be biased downwards towards floating speeds (the 'hump' at lower speeds).

Height measurements by GPS have substantial vertical errors (Schaub *et al.* 2023) and should therefore be considered with care. We compared flight height outside and inside OWF but selected data with speeds higher than 5 km/h to exclude resting behaviour. We also excluded points below -15 meter and above 275 meter to remove large erroneous measurements. Out of the 401,793 GPS-positions over sea and 5 km/hr, a total of 40,537 (10%) were below -15 meter and 3,380 (0.8%) above 275 meter.

We found a wide range in flight heights of Lesser Black-backed Gulls (Figure 3.5). Flight height differed per breeding phase (Chisq = 27.033, df = 2,  $p < 0.0001$ ) and for outside and inside the offshore wind farm (Chisq = 68.222, df = 1,  $p < 0.0001$ ). During the breeding period the average median flight height was 34.8 meter (31.8 – 37.8 95% CI), while this was 22.6 meter (19.0 – 26.2 95% CI) in the pre-breeding period and 30.3 meter (26.6 – 33.9) in the post-breeding period. Within the offshore wind farm, the median flight height was on average 38.2 meter (34.8 – 41.6 95% CI) and outside this was 20.2 meter (17.8 – 22.6 95% CI).



**Figure 3.4** *Distribution of flight speed of tagged Lesser Black-backed Gulls (faster than 3 km/h are shown), outside and inside the offshore wind farm (OWF), per breeding period. The thick black line shows the density plot of speeds of all data, and the coloured areas show density plots per individual. The vertical lines show the mode of all speeds larger than 5 km/h. The sample size of data points is shown in each graph.*



**Figure 3.5** *Distribution of flight height of tagged Lesser Black-backed Gulls outside and inside OWF per breeding period. The red vertical bar indicates the rotor-swept zone of wind turbines in OWF Borssele, and the horizontal lines show the median of flight heights.*



### 3.4 Attraction and avoidance of offshore wind farm and areas with fishing activities

After regularization of the GPS data, the dataset for the SSA encompassed 98,785 steps from 59 individuals, generating 2,567,191 used and random positions (Table 3.3). The proportion of used positions within the OWF varied markedly across breeding periods: 6% during breeding, 2.6% during post-breeding and only 1.3% during pre-breeding.

On the population level, Lesser Black-backed Gulls revealed consistent behavioural patterns across all breeding periods. Gulls avoided the offshore wind farm, with the negative selection coefficients indicating they were 1.6 to 1.8 times more likely to avoid wind farm areas than to enter them when within range (Table 3.2, Figure 3.6). Conversely, gulls showed strong attraction to areas with active fishing, being 1.4 to 1.6 times more likely to select these areas compared to those without fishing activity (Table 3.2, Figure 3.6).

Individual variation in wind farm selection throughout the breeding periods was large and most prominent in the breeding period (Table 3.2, Figure 3.6). The selection coefficients for areas with active fishing differed most in the pre-breeding period (Figure 3.6).

Table 3.2 Model estimates of the SSA model analyses for three breeding periods.

	Estimate	SE	z-value	P value	Random individual slope (variance; st dev)
<b>Pre-breeding period</b>					
In OWF	-0.575	0.120	-4.811	< 0.0001	0.065; 0.254
At fishing activity	0.303	0.075	4.059	< 0.0001	0.121; 0.347
<b>Breeding period</b>					
In OWF	-0.589	0.103	-5.701	< 0.0001	0.317; 0.563
At fishing activity	0.460	0.031	14.793	< 0.0001	0.011; 0.104
<b>Post-breeding period</b>					
In OWF	-0.500	0.154	-3.256	0.001	0.244; 0.494
At fishing activity	0.445	0.053	8.423	< 0.0001	0.005; 0.0072
Log_sl	-0.008	0.002	-5.002	< 0.0001	
Cos_ta	0.004	0.005	0.737	0.461	



**Table 3.3** *Sample sizes as used in the step selection analyses of individuals and GPS positions (used points), individuals entering the offshore wind farm, and the number of individuals attracted to, were indifferent, or avoided the offshore wind farm based on whether or not the 95% CI crossed 0. Note that this is sensitive to small sample sizes.*

	Pre-breeding period (< 15 May)	Breeding period (15 May – 15 July)	Post-breeding period (> 15 July)
<b>Sample sizes</b>			
N individuals	52	58	46
N used points	32013	48926	17810
N individuals in OWF	21	43	22
Percentage of used points in OWF	1.3 %	5.8 %	2.6 %
<b>N individuals</b>			
Attracted to OWF	0	1	1
Avoided OWF	39	21	7
Indifferent to OWF	2	29	30

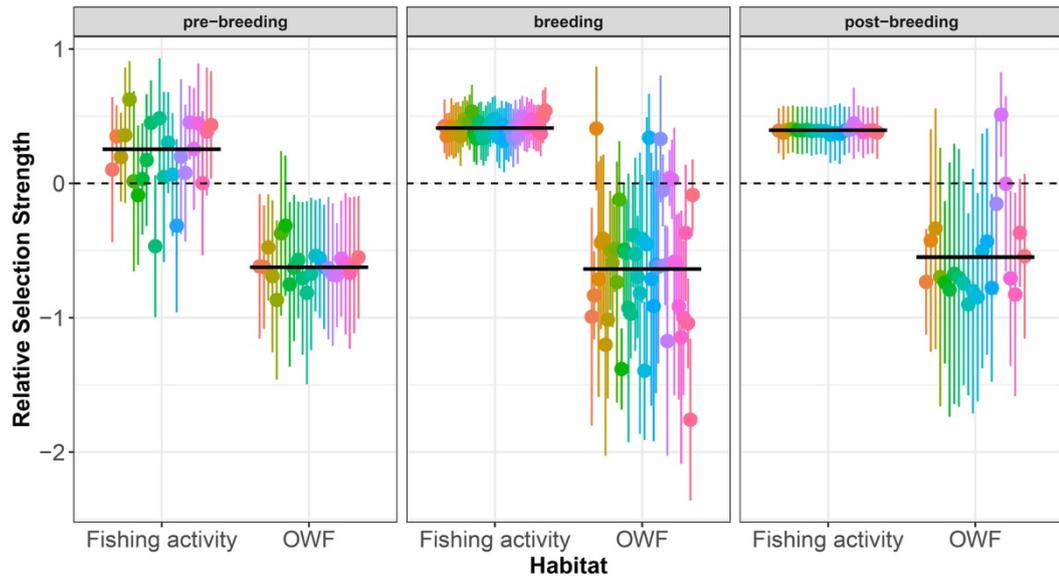


Figure 3.6 Conditional relative selection strength of Lesser Black-backed Gulls for areas with fishing activity and offshore wind farm during the pre-breeding, breeding and post-breeding period, where positive values indicate attraction and negative values indicate avoidance. Black lines are population means (fixed effects in the model), while coloured points and lines are individual estimates and confidence intervals (random effects). The log of step length is set at 6.57 per 20 min (see Figure I.4.2) and the cosines of the turning angle at 0 (see Figure I.4.3), representing a bird in flight going straight. Only estimates of individuals with >10 steps with a used or random location within the OWF are shown.



Table 3.4 Model estimates of the relative selection strength of offshore wind farms in weekdays (Mon-Thu) and weekends (Fri-Sun).

Period	Weekdays (SE)	Weekend (SE)
Pre-breeding	-0.678 (0.160)	-0.472 (0.156)
Breeding	-0.654 (0.108)	-0.500 (0.112)
Post-breeding	-0.535 (0.171)	-0.458 (0.179)

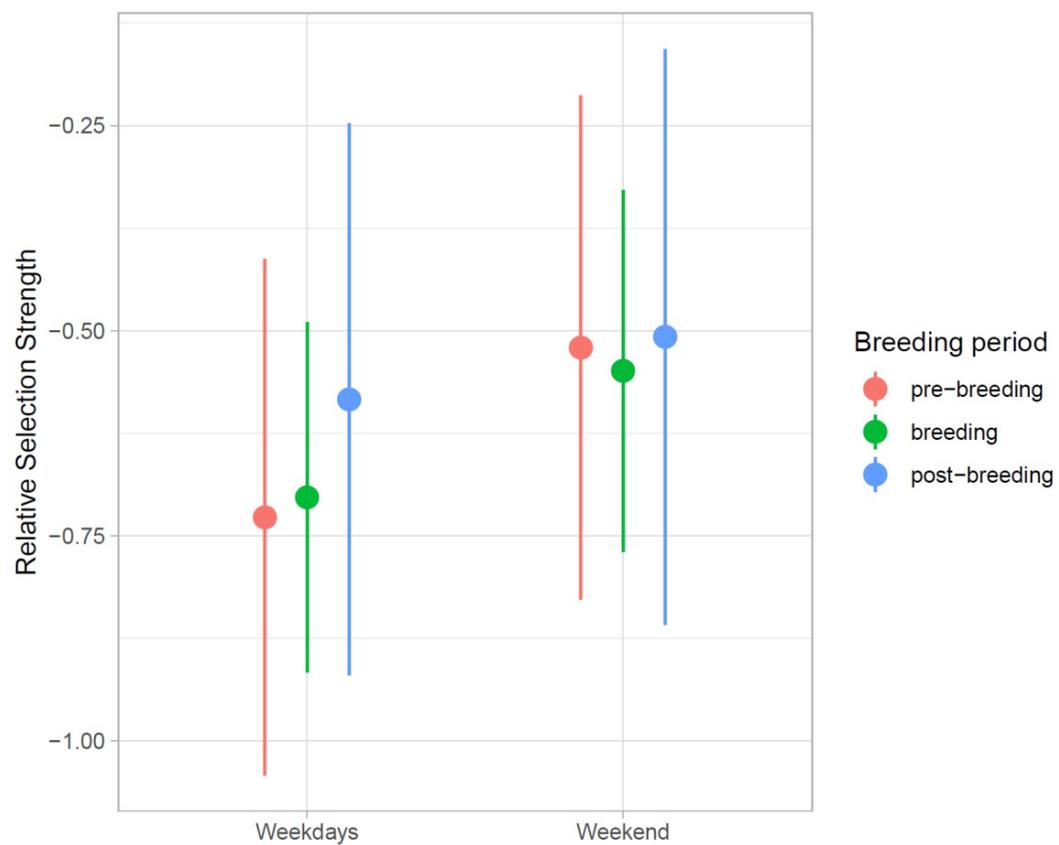


Figure 3.7 Conditional relative selection strength of the offshore wind farm during weekdays (Mon – Thu) and weekends (Fri – Sun), where negative values indicate avoidance. The log of step length is set at 6.57 per 20 min and the cosines of the turning angle at 0, representing a bird in flight going straight.



### **3.5 Attraction to offshore wind farms during the weekend?**

We did not find a significant difference in attraction on the population level to offshore wind farms during weekdays and weekends in any breeding period, nor when considering the entire period ( $\chi^2 = 5.616$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p = 0.13$ , Table 3.4, Figure 3.7). Estimates in all models show that gulls in general avoided offshore wind farms, during weekdays and weekends.



## 4 Discussion and conclusion

We used a step selection analysis to estimate Lesser Black-backed Gulls' selection strength to areas with recent fishing activity (within a time span of 24 hours) and a large offshore wind farm complex within their foraging range. We found that, in general, gulls were attracted to areas with fishing activity and avoided the offshore wind farm. On a population level, gulls were almost 1.5 times as likely to select areas with fishing activity than without, and 1.7 times as likely to select an area outside the offshore wind farm than inside, if given the opportunity. Because fishing with trawlers is not allowed inside the offshore wind farm, we cannot rule out that instead of actively avoiding the offshore wind farm, gulls were instead attracted to fishery activities outside the wind farm.

To investigate whether wind farms were avoided less when no or little fishing took place, we compared the selection strength to the offshore wind farm during weekdays (Mon – Thu) and during weekends (Fri – Sun) when fishing intensity was on average four times lower. However, there was no significant difference in selection strength to offshore wind farms, suggesting that gulls preferred to stay outside the offshore wind farm area when there was likely no or little fishing activity nearby.

Note that the step selection analysis estimates show how likely it is that an individual selects one habitat over another on the basis that these habitats are otherwise equal in availability (Fieberg *et al.* 2021), and that it does not examine the behaviour of an individual in that habitat.

### 4.1 Time spent at the North Sea

Although we only selected location data at sea, we observed large individual variation in how many hours individuals spent at sea per day. Some gulls spent almost all their time at sea, presumably to forage and rest, while others only spent some days at sea. During the breeding period from 15 May until 15 July gulls spent on average least time at sea on a daily basis (4.15 hours) than during the pre- (5.05 hours) and post-breeding (5.89 hours) periods, after they have arrived in the North Sea and before they depart. That they spent less time at sea during the breeding period can be explained by the time they need to attend their eggs or chicks.

On average, gulls spend more time at sea during weekdays than weekends when fisheries activity is lowest, although the difference was relatively small: on average 4.3 hours per day during weekdays and 3.7 hours during the weekend. Lesser Black-backed Gulls breeding on Texel, the Netherlands, also reduced foraging time in the fished areas in the Wadden Sea during weekends compared to weekdays (Tyson *et al.* 2015). The magnitude of this difference varied between colonies: gulls breeding on Texel showed a much larger



contrast (27% of their time in the Wadden Sea during weekdays versus 1% during weekends), while gulls breeding on Neeltje Jans showed a smaller difference (18% of their time at sea during weekdays in the breeding period, versus 16% during weekends). Similarly, gulls breeding in the neighbouring colony of Zeebrugge spent approximately 40% of their trips at sea during weekdays compared to 20% during weekends (Sotillo *et al.* 2019). Overall, the time spent at sea varies considerably among colonies, for instance, gulls breeding in a UK colony spent less than 1.25% of their time offshore (Clewley *et al.* 2023), while gulls from a German colony spent almost half of their foraging trips at sea (Garthe *et al.* 2016). The Zeebrugge study showed that foraging at sea implied larger energy expenditure rates while time investments were shorter compared to terrestrial foraging (Sotillo *et al.* 2019). However, the proximity to alternative food sources such as urban areas (Spelt, 2019) or landfills (Langley *et al.* 2021) likely influenced these time investments.

#### 4.2 Attraction and avoidance of fished areas and offshore wind farm

Bottom trawling was the main type of fishing around the colony (Global Fishing Watch 2025). This type of fishing produces many discards (undersized or unwanted fish and invertebrates thrown back to sea), which is a food source for many seabirds (Sherley *et al.* 2019). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are known as discard specialists (Camphuysen 1995, Sherley *et al.* 2019, Camphuysen *et al.* 2024), however, they also self-forage on subsurface pelagic fishes and crabs (Baptist *et al.* 2019). Interestingly, there was less variation between individuals in the selection coefficient to areas with active fishing in the breeding and post-breeding period compared to the pre-breeding period. Lesser Black-backed Gulls breeding on Texel are also observed to rest at sea (Shamoun-Baranes *et al.* 2011), which they most often do before the breeding period (R. Kentie pers. obs.). Perhaps, the larger individual variation in the pre-breeding period is a result of differences in prey or discard availability or of other behaviours than foraging at sea, typical for the pre-breeding period. During the breeding and post-breeding period, there was little individual variation in selection strength for areas with fishing activity. Even if the selection strength for areas with fishing activity was high, it does not necessarily mean that individuals only or predominantly foraged on discards; we only show that if given the choice between an area with fishing activity and without, they would rather select the area with fishing activity.

On a population level, gulls avoided the offshore wind farm area, but there was large individual variation, particularly during the breeding period. Some individuals were attracted to the wind farm, while others actively avoided the area. Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been observed to use the base of the turbines to rest (Vanermen *et al.* 2014, Dierschke *et al.* 2016), or to forage on pelagic prey in between the turbines (Vanermen *et al.* 2014). A study on Kittiwakes also found substantial individual variation in selection strength to various environmental covariates, making it difficult to predict population responses to local stressors such as OWFs (O'Hanlon *et al.* 2024). Whether attraction to the wind farm area is a repeatable trait, which individuals (e.g. with certain personalities or life history traits) are attracted to the wind farm, and their behaviour inside the wind farm, needs further research. Understanding their behaviour within wind farms helps determine if and how



much individuals are more at risk of collision within wind farms and potential energetic consequences of avoidance or attraction of wind farms.

In general, Lesser Black-backed Gulls avoided the offshore wind farm equally during weekdays and the weekend, when fishery activity was at its minimum. If gulls were avoiding the offshore wind farm primarily because fishery activities were not allowed inside and not because they avoided wind turbines, we would have expected a lower avoidance rate during the weekend. However, it is also possible that prey availability inside the wind farm is lower than outside, or that gulls are attracted to other prey species which do actively avoid wind farms. Detailed data on prey distribution may help in disentangling the effects of foraging opportunities and active avoidance of wind farms.

### 4.3 Flight speed and height inside and outside OWFs

We found that the mode of flight speed was on average 35 km/h within the OWF, which is 5 km/h faster than when they fly at sea outside the OWF. There was little variation between breeding periods, although during the pre-breeding period the average mode speed was lower than in the other periods. This difference in speed outside and within the OWF might be related to foraging behind fishing vessels which sail at lower speeds, and only outside OWFs. Note, however, that there are large variations in speeds, also between individuals. Wind speed and flight direction (from or towards the colony) affect flight speed (Masden *et al.* 2021) and individual size might also influence flight speed. Collision Rate Models are sensitive to flight speed (Masden *et al.* 2021), which means that these numbers are needed to be used with precaution.

Height measurements by GPS should be interpreted with care (Schaub *et al.* 2023) and we did find large errors. If we assume that these errors are similar inside and outside the OWF, we found that gulls fly on average higher within the OWF (median 38 m) compared to outside the OWF (median of 23 m). There were differences in flight height between breeding periods, and gulls seemed to fly higher inside the OWF during the pre-breeding period. Median flight height inside the OWF overlapped in each breeding period with the lowest rotor-swept zone of the wind turbines. Previous studies found that straight-line segments of flight, representing commuting flight, correlated with higher flights (Corman and Garthe 2014). Therefore, that gulls fly faster and higher within the OWF may suggest that gulls behave differently within the OWF compared to outside. This most likely corresponds to the absence of fisheries within the wind farms.

### 4.4 Application of our results in Collision Rate Modelling

Avoidance, flight speed and flight height are important parameters of Collision Rate Models (CRM) that are used to predict the number of casualties due to collisions with offshore wind turbines. In the report at hand, we present new figures for all three parameters, however, we also show large variation between individuals and over the season. Since the various levels of avoidance (micro, meso and macro) are lumped in CRMs to one figure, the (macro-)avoidance rate of this study is not directly applicable to these models. Yet, this study gives a very precise insight in the level and variation in individual macro-avoidance



based on GPS-tracking data in contrast to general avoidance rates based on survey data. Our new estimates of flight speed and flight height could be directly applied in CRMs and our results suggest that birds fly slightly higher within wind farms compared to outside. This will have consequences for the predicted mortality in CRMs. We therefore suggest repeating our analyses with more data (f.e. with Lesser Black-backed Gulls from Belgium, Rotterdam or Texel) to test the robustness of our results. Furthermore, it is advised to perform a sensitivity analysis of the consequences of changing parameters first. A similar strategy should be applied for flight speed although the predicted consequences will be less. Our data also suggest variation in input parameters for CRMs during different periods of the year. Application of this variation in these models is not straightforward but can be applied as has been done recently with specific avoidance rates of Northern Gannet for the breeding and the non-breeding period in the latest version of the KEC (IJntema *et al.* 2025).

#### 4.5 Conclusions

In general, we found that Lesser Black-backed Gulls, when at sea, were attracted to areas with active fishing, and were avoiding the offshore wind farm within their foraging range. However, not every individual avoided the wind farm, some were attracted to it. This individual variation must be taken into account when considering effects of offshore wind farms on population levels. Because gulls avoided the wind farm equally during weekends and weekdays, this suggests that the wind farm is actively avoided instead of a larger attraction to the area outside the wind farm where fishing occurred. Within the OWF, gulls flew faster and higher, indicating different behaviour compared to outside the wind farm, likely caused by the absence of fishing activity. However, if fishing would be allowed, gulls might enter the wind farm more often and change their behaviour, potentially increasing collision risk. Yet, the flight height of gulls specifically behind fishing vessels plays a significant role in terms of potential collisions as well.



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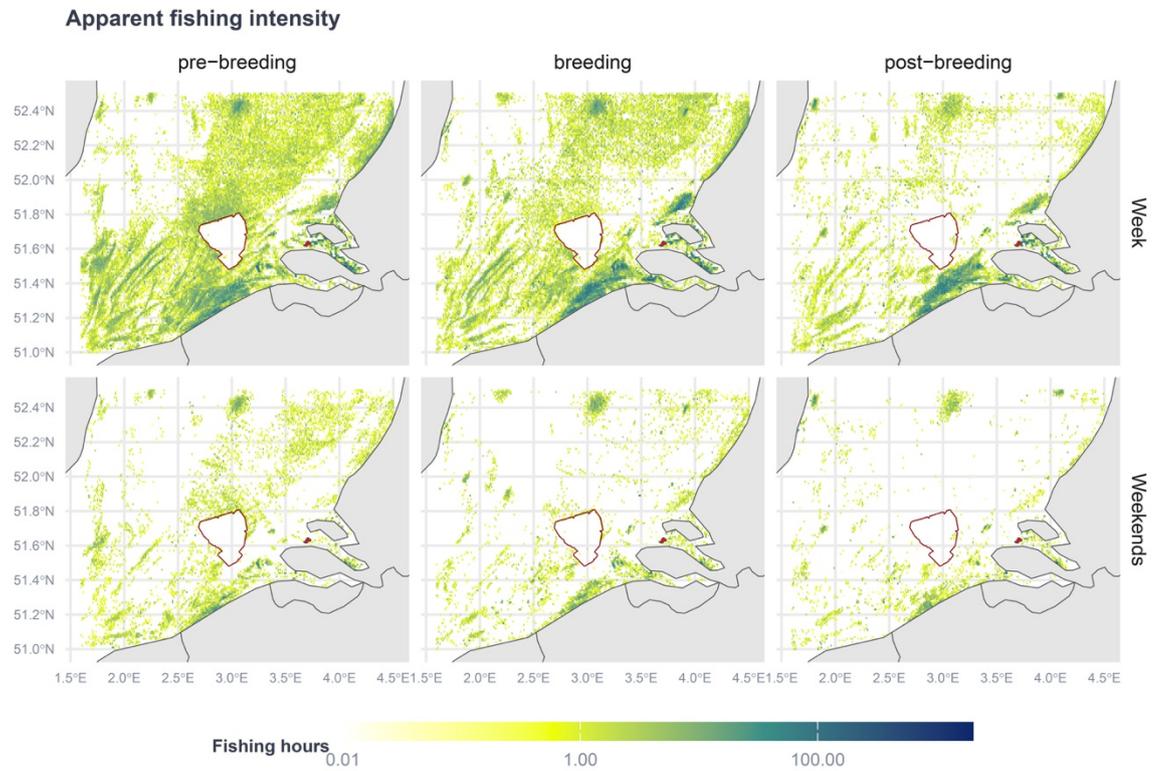
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## Appendix I – Supporting Information



**Figure I.4.1** *Map of fishing intensity around the breeding colony at Neeltje Jans in 2021 and 2022 in hours summed per breeding period and during the week and the weekend. Fishery data comes from Global Fishing Watch.*

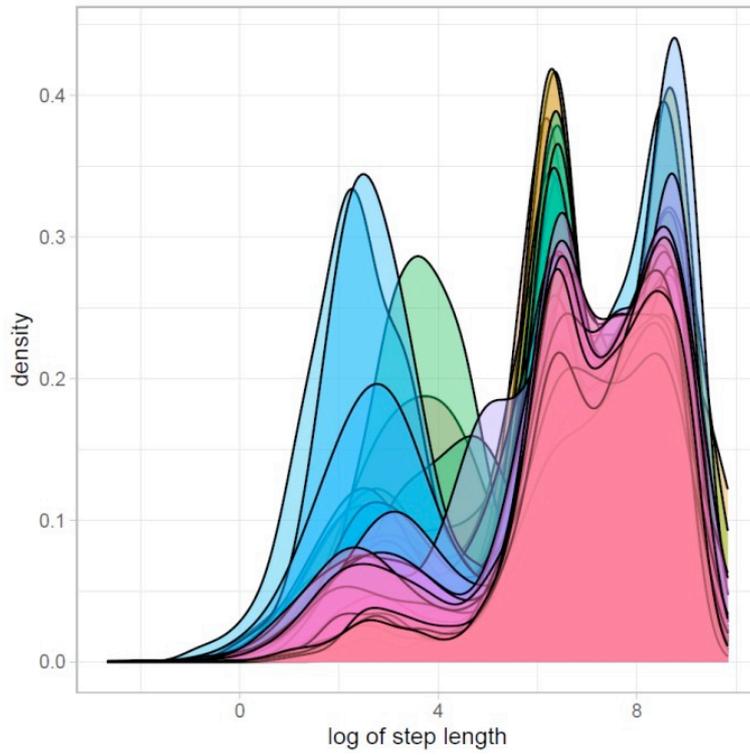


Figure 1.4.2 *Distribution of (log of) step length in km, per 15 min, coloured per individual.*

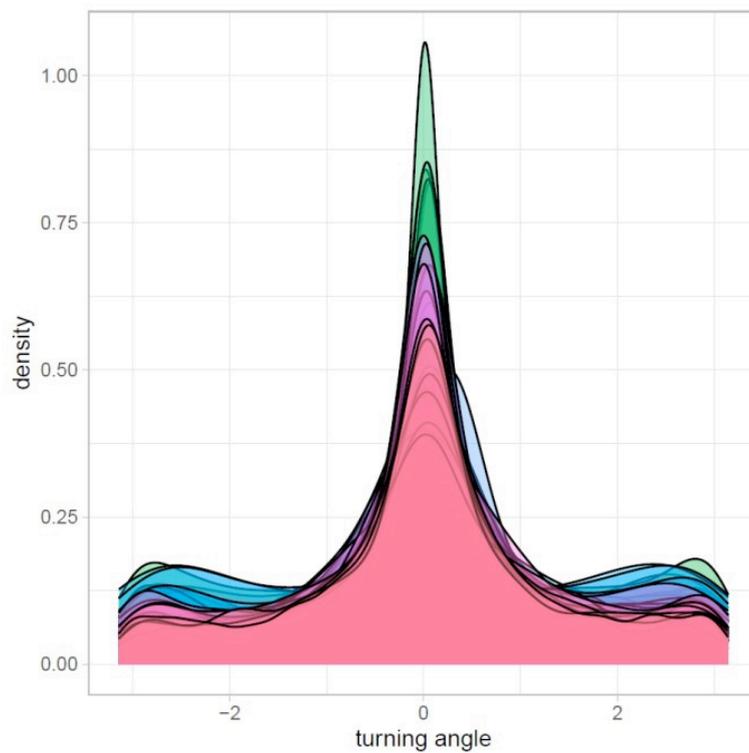


Figure 1.4.3 *Distribution of turning angles, coloured per individual. A turning angle of 0 means that the path goes straight.*

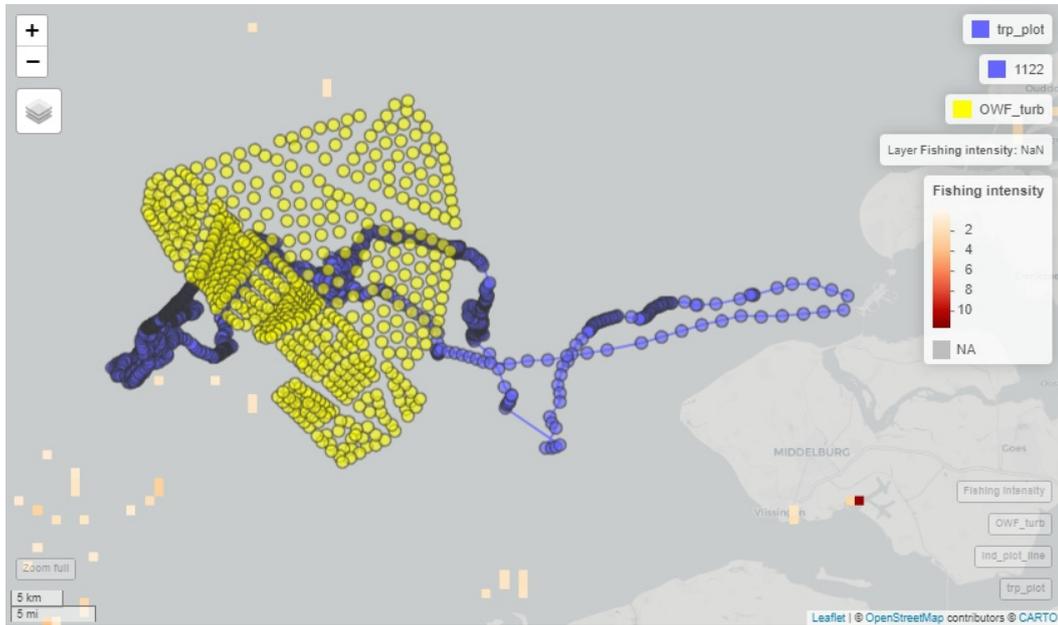


Figure I.4.4 Foraging trip of individual 211276 on Saturday 12-6-2021.

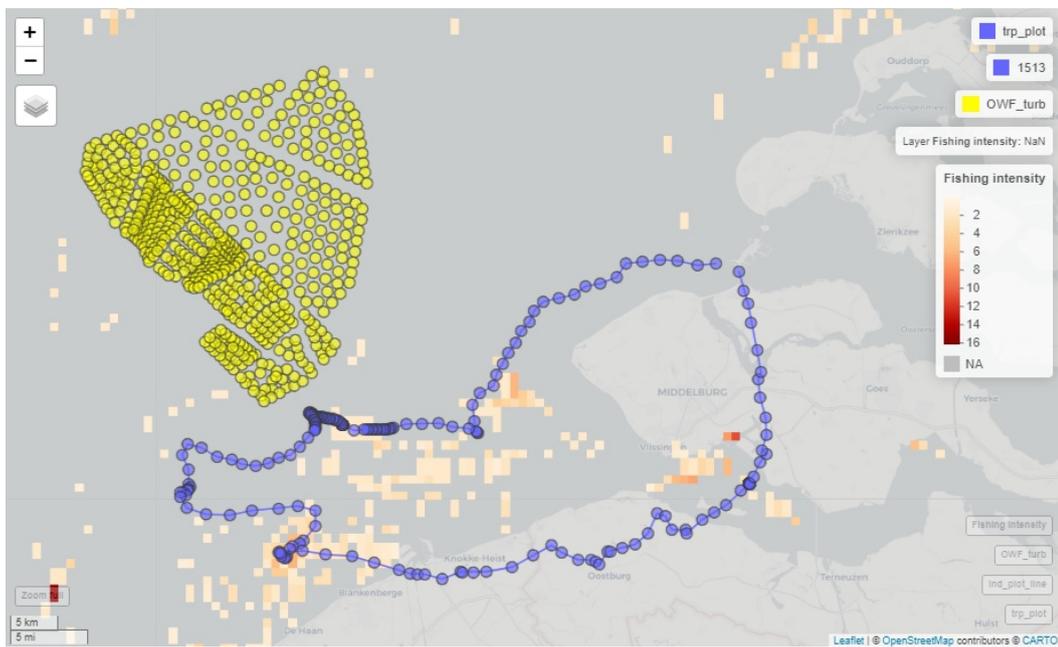


Figure I.4.5 Foraging trip of individual 211279 on Monday 14-6-2021.



## Appendix II - Information on Herring Gulls

We additionally investigated the possibility that Herring Gulls from the same breeding colony entered the offshore wind farm (Borssele and the Belgian wind farms). We used tracking data in the year of tagging in 2020, as in 2021 no new birds were tagged (Vanermen *et al.* 2022). The construction of Borssele (the Northeastern part of the wind farm, Figure II.4.6) started in 2019 and it became operational in the end of 2020. The Belgium part of the wind farm was operational before 2020. After the breeding season, from July onwards, Herring Gulls of Neeltje Jans dispersed and spent most time in the coastal zone, typically within 15 km from the coast (Vanermen *et al.* 2022). This pattern of dispersal after the breeding season was also found in other colonies (Camphuysen *et al.* 2011). We therefore focussed on the period June and July, because this was the period with most data and the highest likelihood of coming close to the offshore wind farm near the breeding colony.

Tracked Herring Gulls never entered the offshore wind farm in 2020 between 1 June and 31 July (when we had most tracks of Herring Gulls; 22 individuals with suitable tracks) (Figure II.4.6). In general, Herring Gulls rarely come closer than 23 km to the offshore wind farm (Figure II.4.7), mostly staying close to shore. Only 8 tracks of 3 individuals came closer than 10 km to the offshore wind farm (Figure II.4.7, Figure II.4.9, Figure II.4.10, Figure II.4.11), and the nearest a Herring Gull approached the wind farm was 1 km (Figure II.4.8).

Herring Gulls are known to forage closer to shore than Lesser Black-backed Gulls (Camphuysen 1995, Camphuysen 2013, van Donk *et al.* 2020). The figures shows that this also applies to the Herring Gulls breeding at Neeltje Jans. Whether or not Herring Gulls are attracted to offshore wind farms is therefore not possible to test with this dataset, since the wind farms seem out of reach of their foraging range.

An important parameter of Collision Rate Models is the flight speed of birds. Our data also allow quantification of this flight speed. There is a wide range of speeds of Herring Gulls when they are at sea (Figure II.4.12). Only speeds larger than 5 km/h are shown in this graph, however, there is still a 'hump' of lower speeds, which may be birds floating at sea, sitting at vessels, or showing other behaviours than flying. The second 'hump' shows the average flight speed, which is 33 km/h. However, there is large variety in speed, as flight speed depends on wind speed, soaring conditions, size of the bird and direction (Shamoun-Baranes *et al.* 2016).

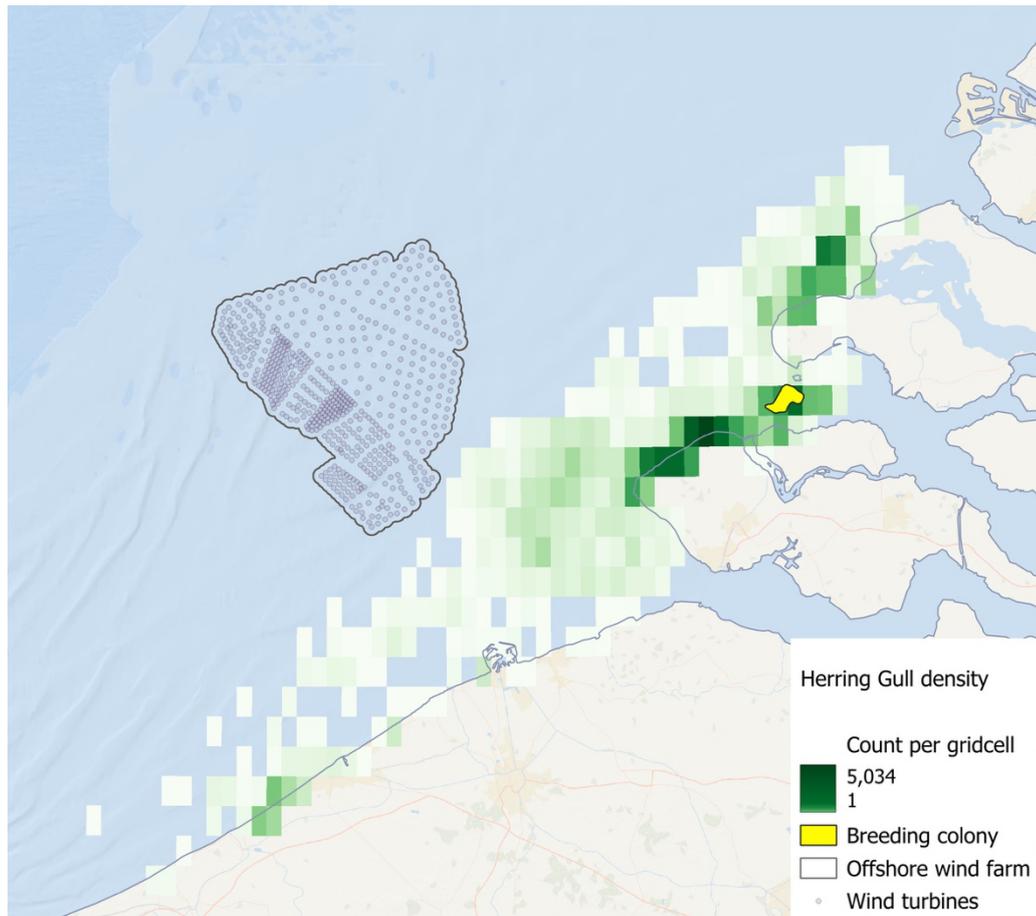


Figure II.4.6 Density of GPS positions of Herring Gulls (regularized positions with 15 minutes) at sea in relation to the offshore windfarm and the colony between 1 June and 30 July 2020.

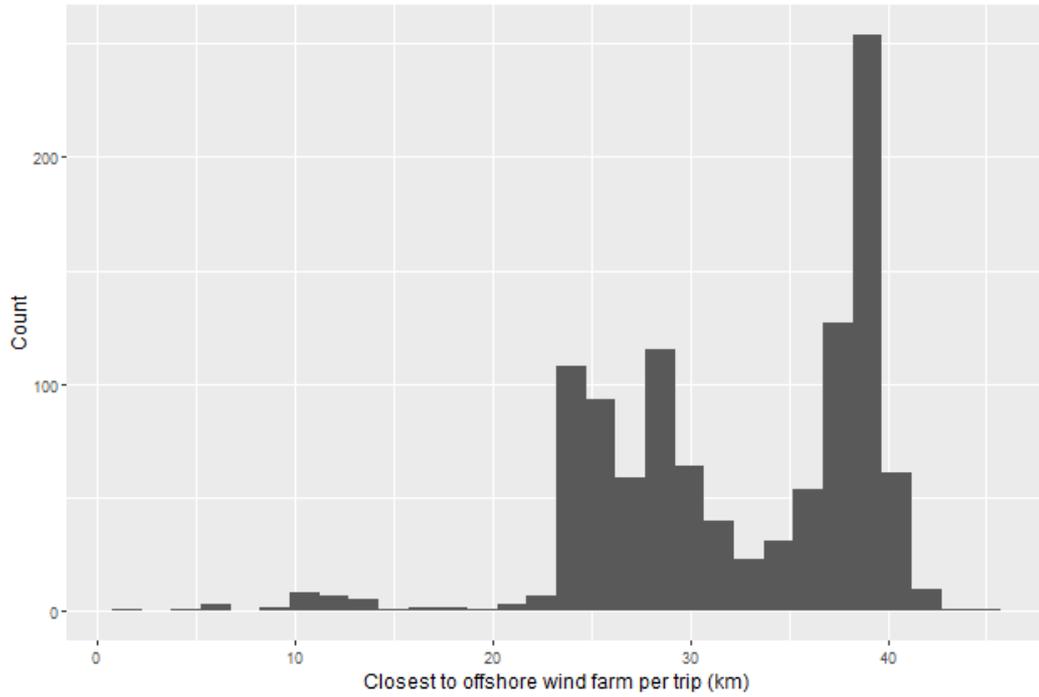


Figure II.4.7 Minimum distance per foraging trip to offshore wind farm. The colony is situated at ~39 km distance, thus when a Herring Gull flies in the other direction than the offshore windfarm, the closest it was, was when it left or entered the colony.



Figure II.4.8 The foraging trip of the Herring Gull which approached the offshore wind farm nearest.



Figure II.4.9 Foraging trip of a Herring Gull which approached the wind farm at less than 10 km.



Figure II.4.10 Foraging trip of a Herring Gull which approached the wind farm at less than 10 km.



Figure II.4.11 Foraging trip of a Herring Gull which approached the wind farm at less than 10 km.

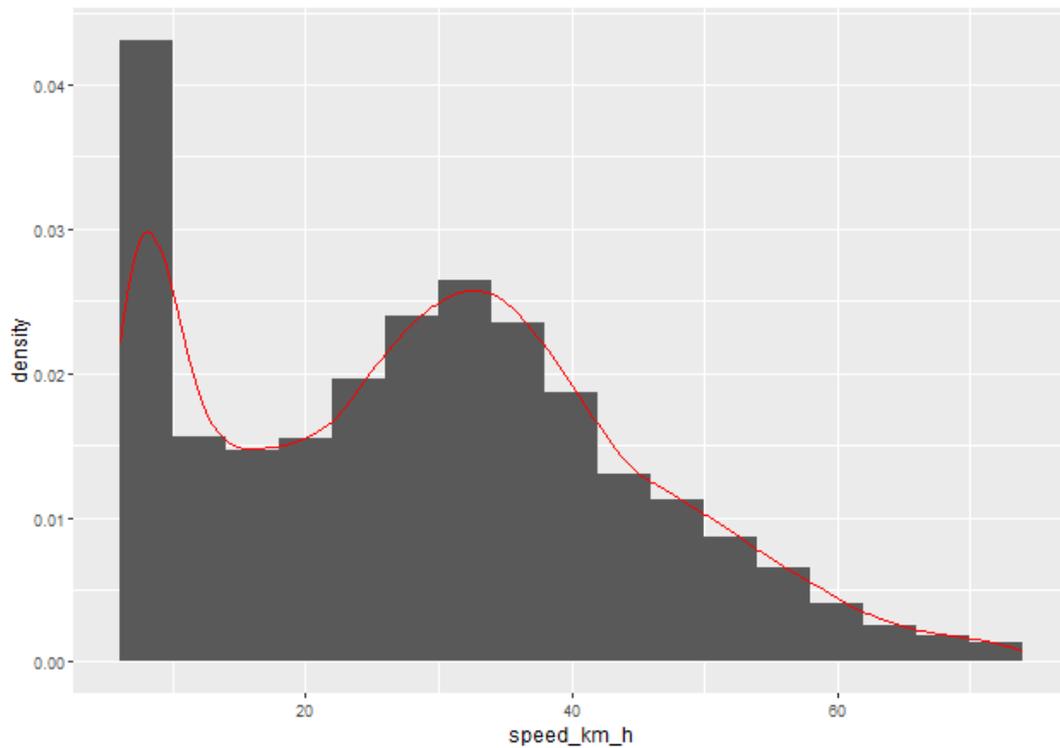
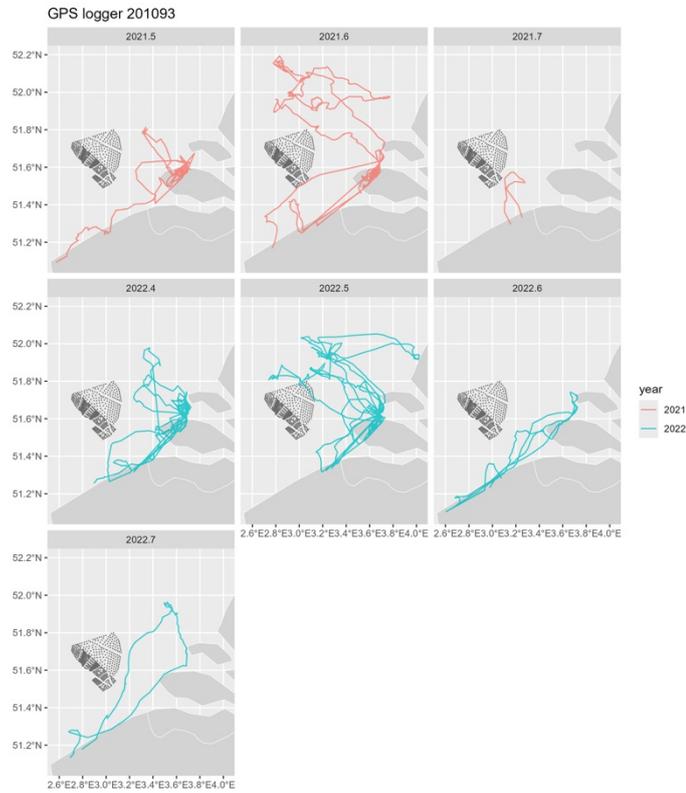


Figure II.4.12 Speed per logged GPS location of Herring Gulls at the North Sea. Speeds faster than 5 km/h are shown.

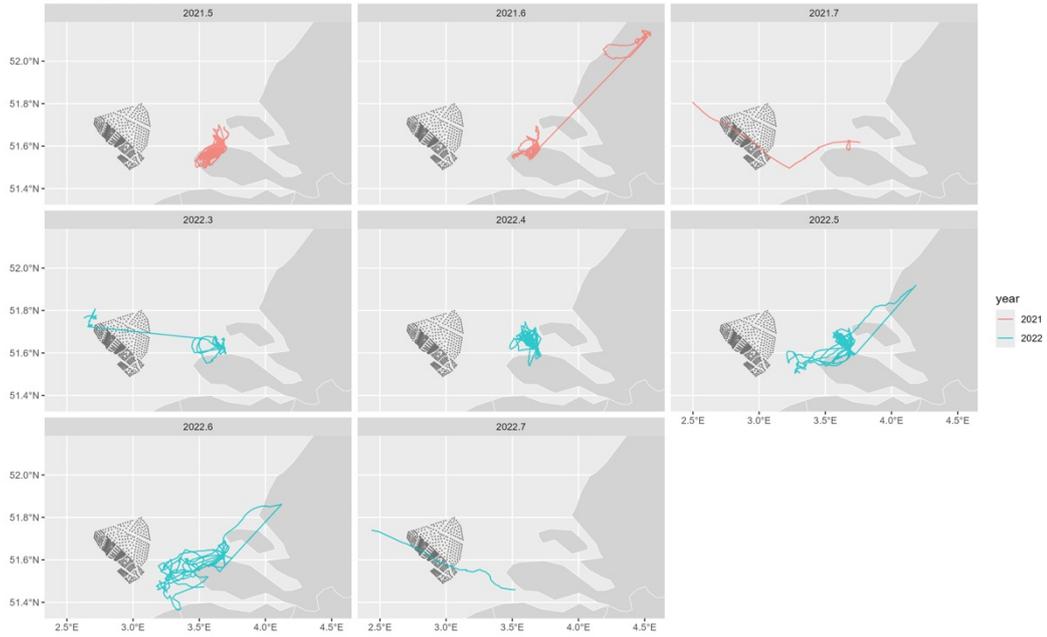


## Appendix III – Year-round maps of Lesser Black-backed Gulls per month

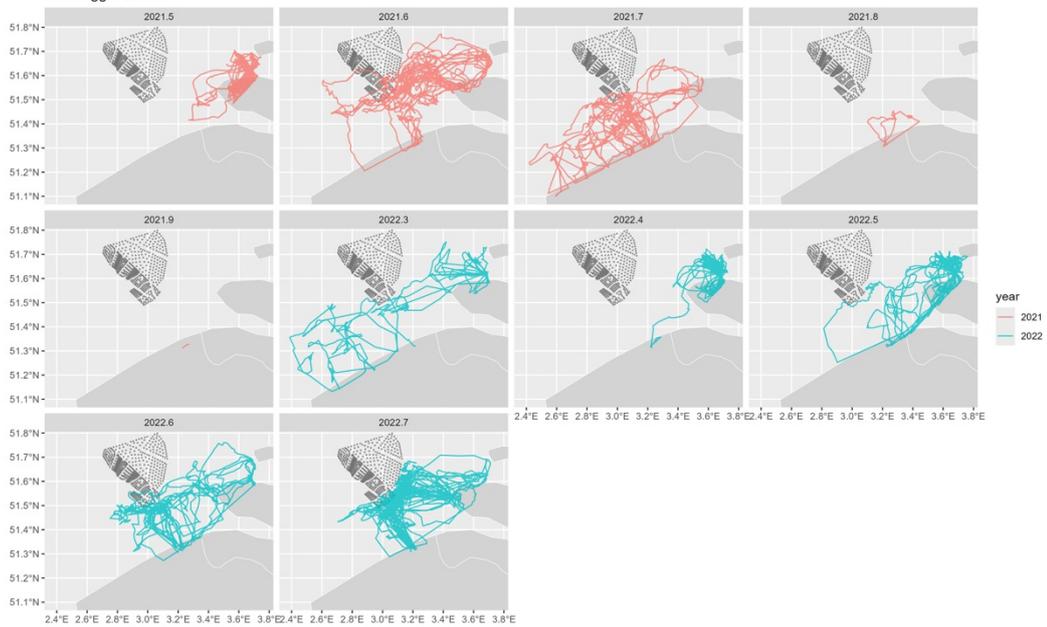




GPS logger 201095

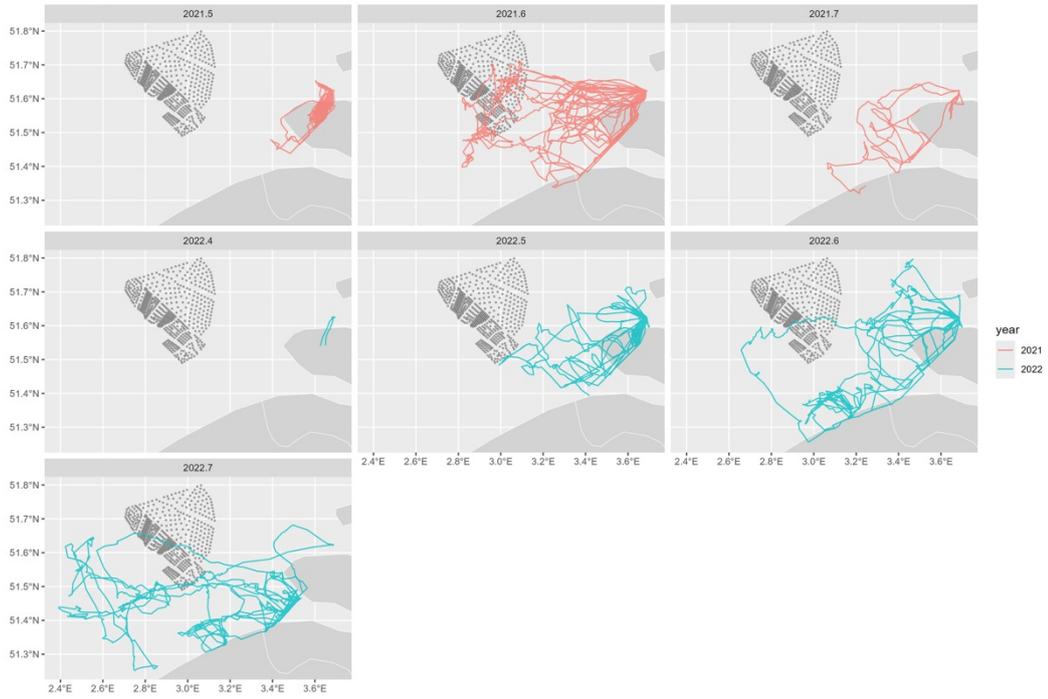


GPS logger 201096





GPS logger 201097

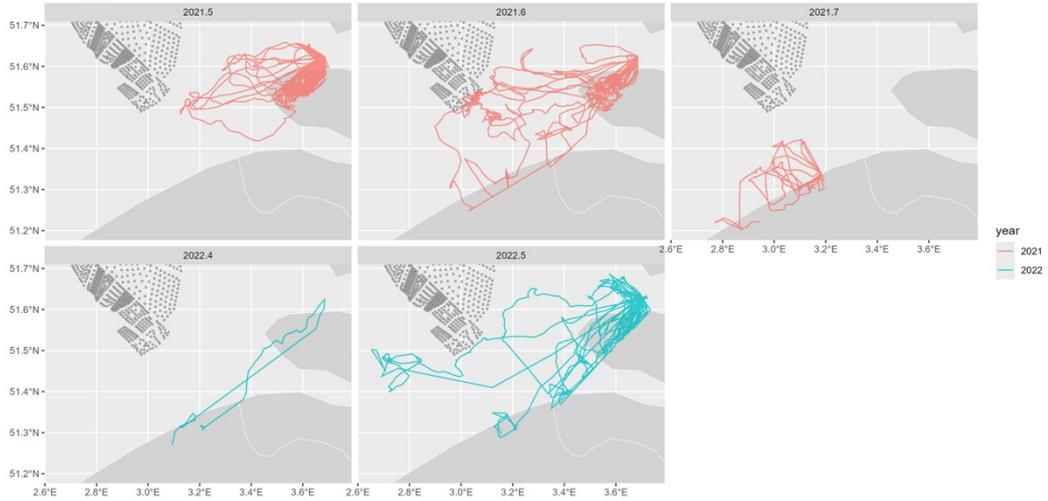


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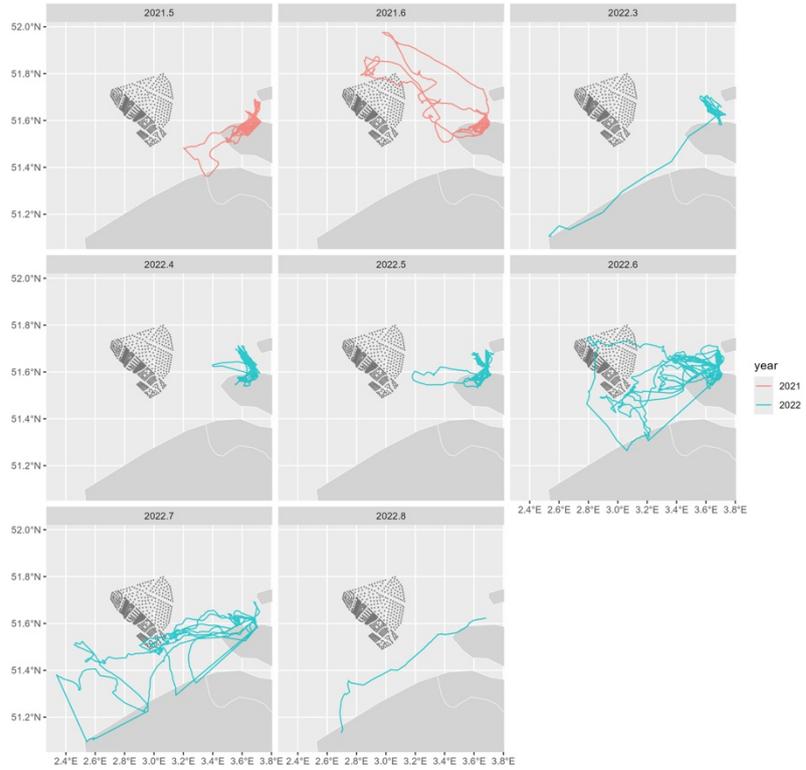




GPS logger 201103

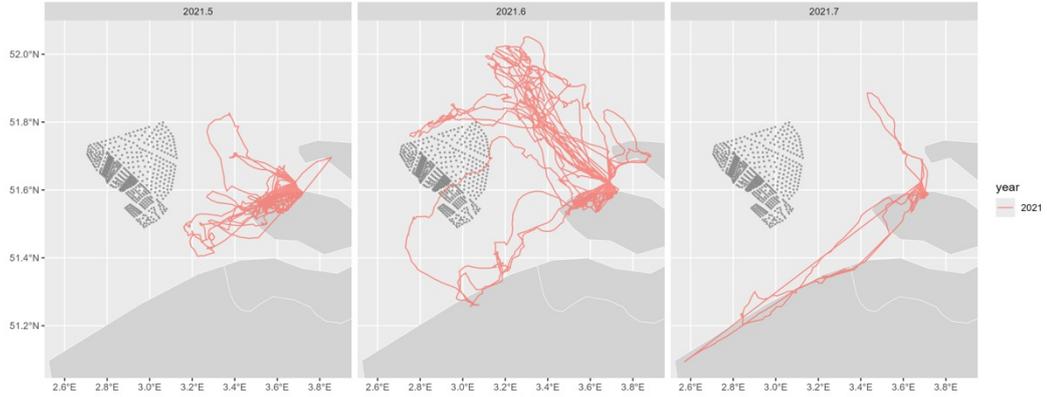


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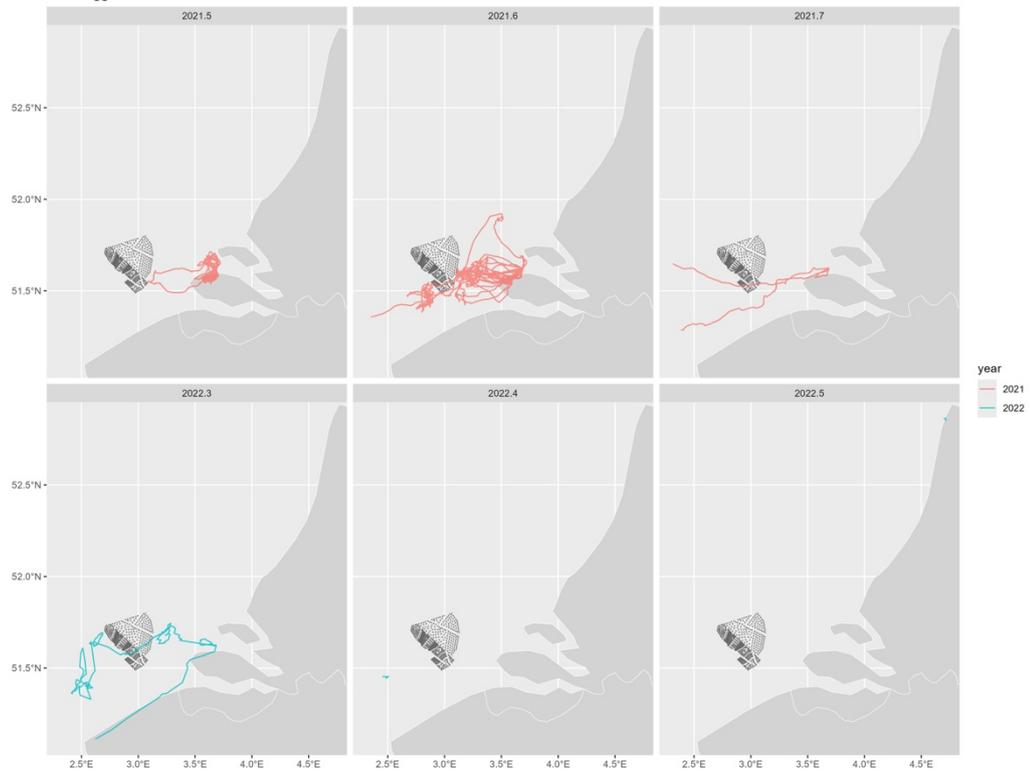




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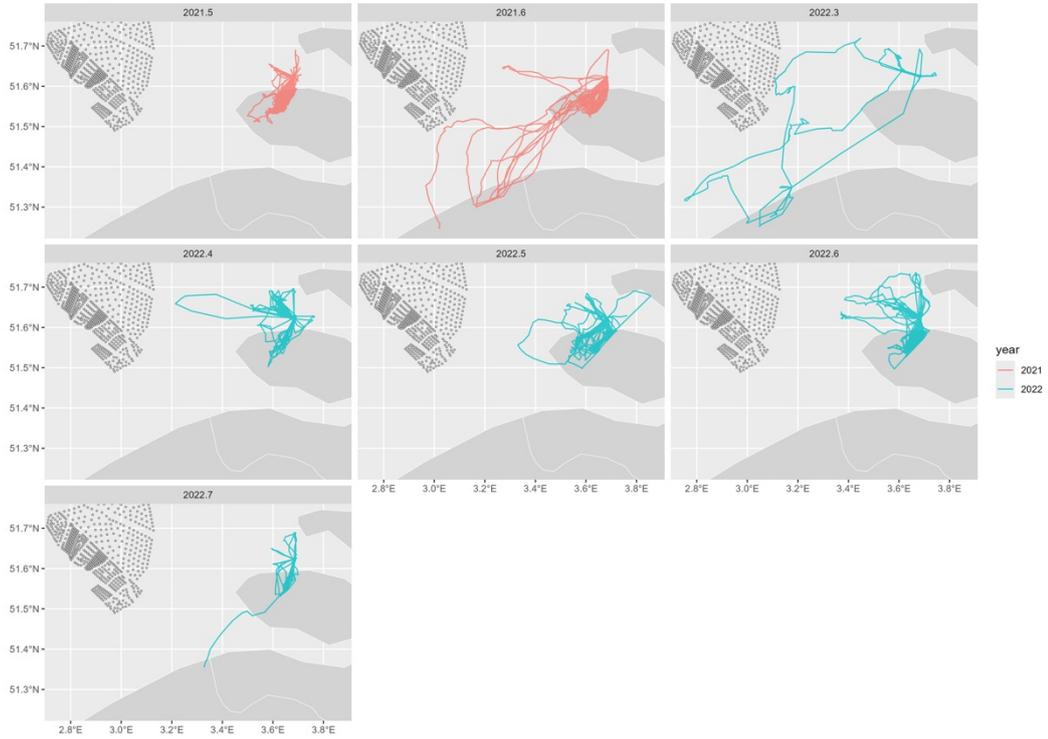


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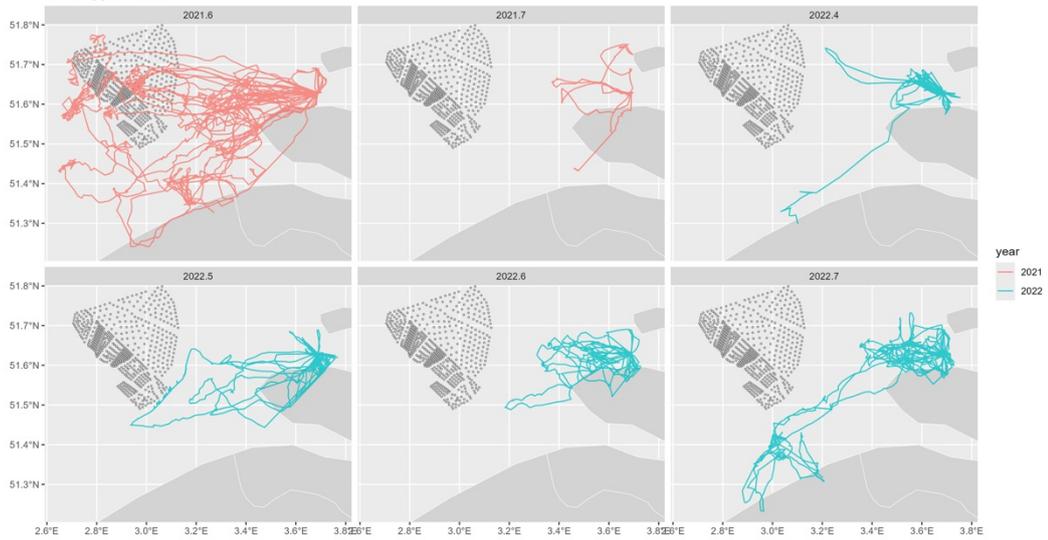




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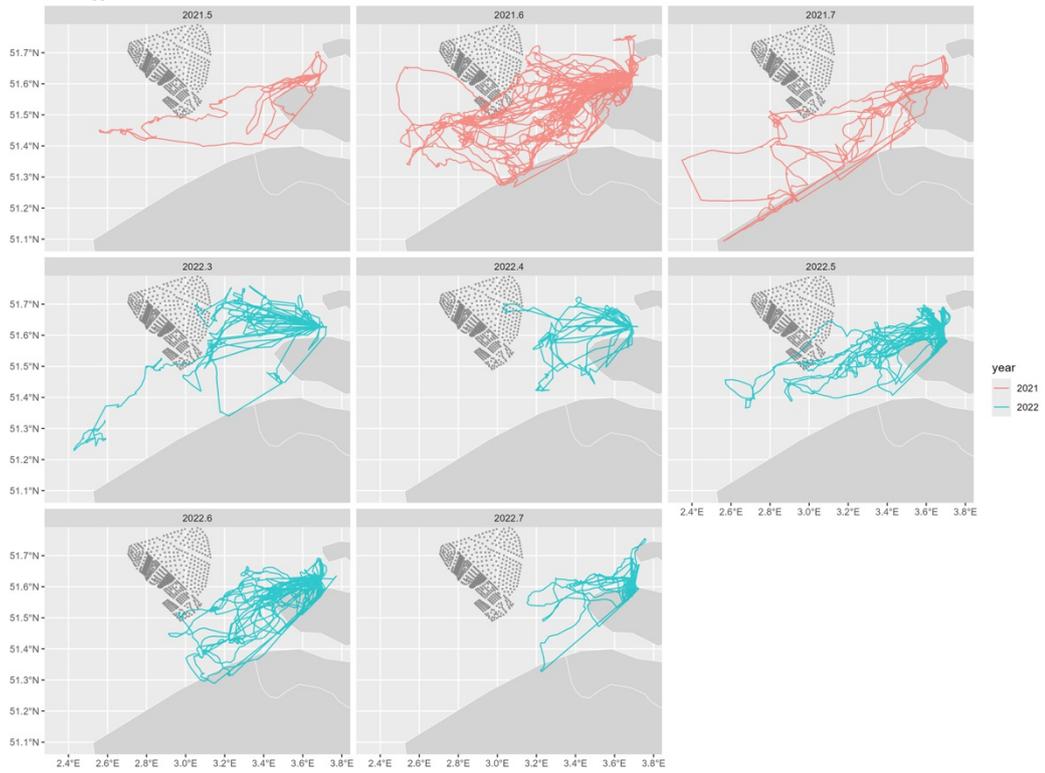


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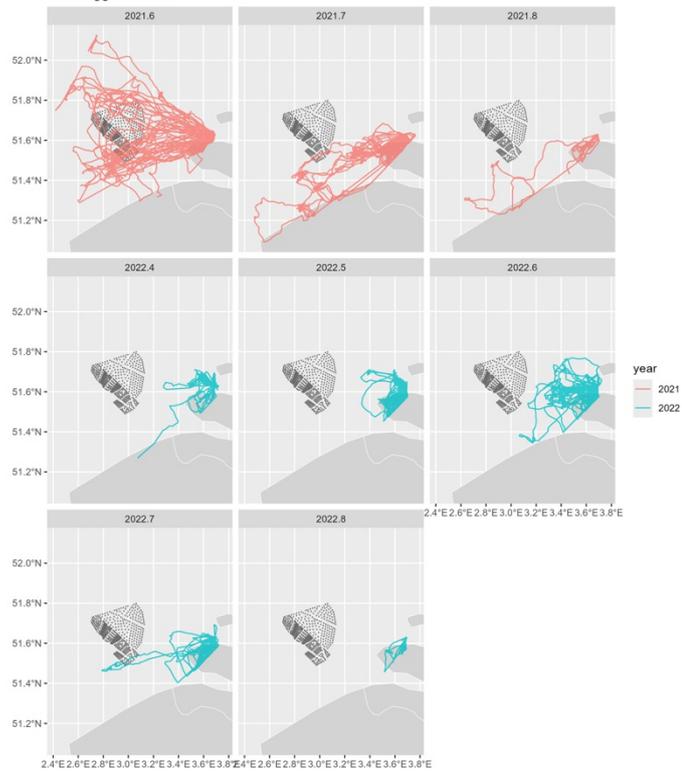


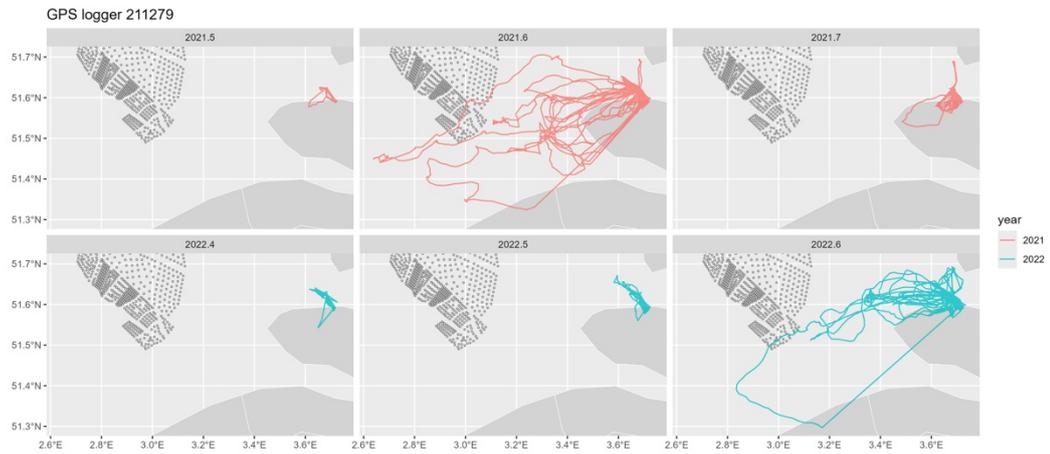


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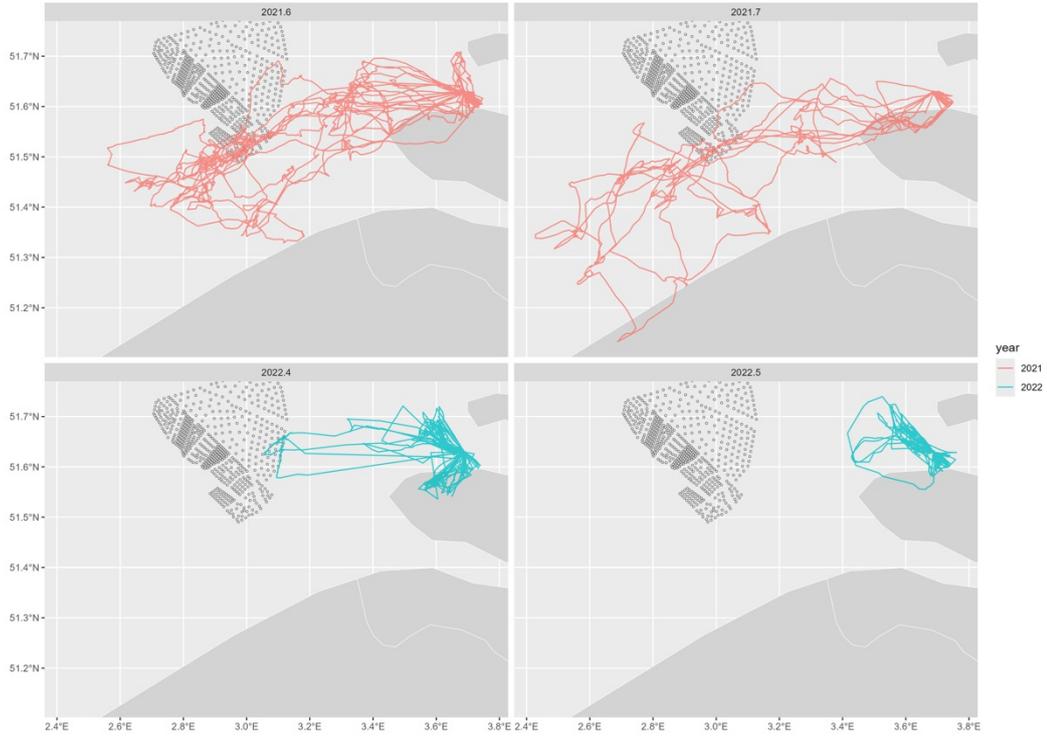
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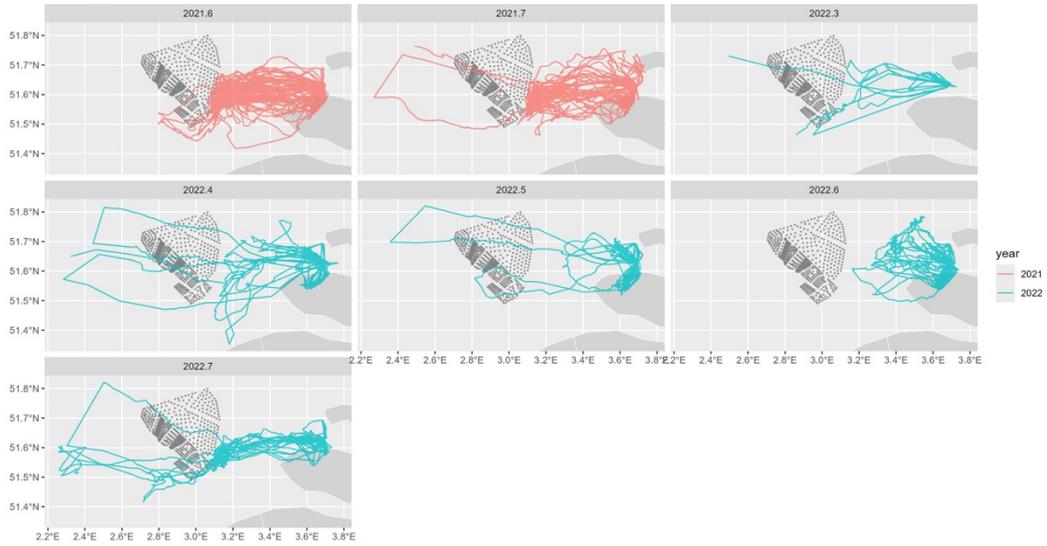




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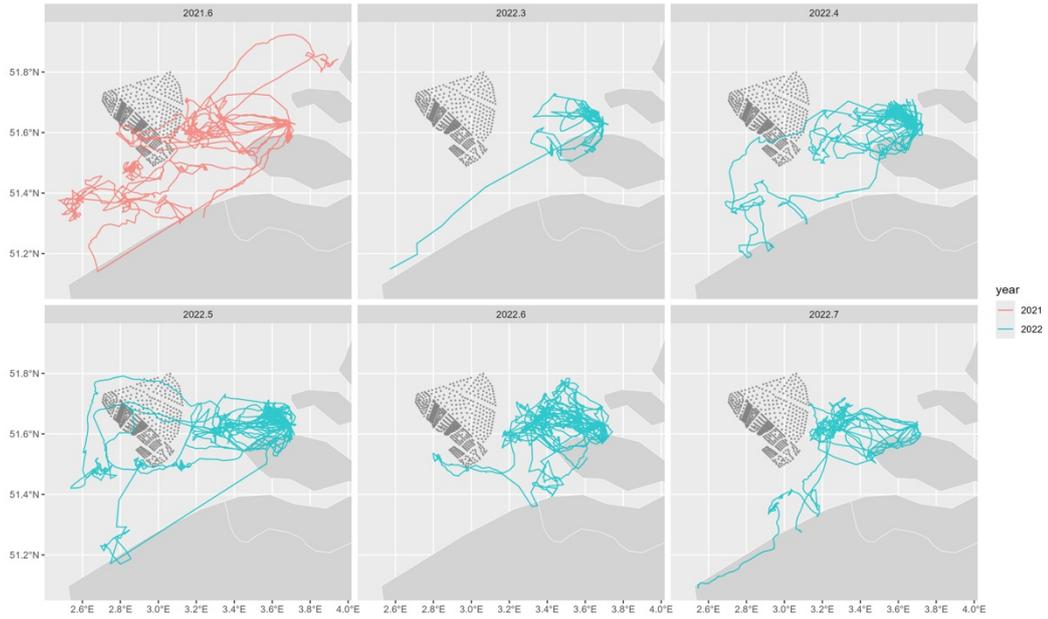


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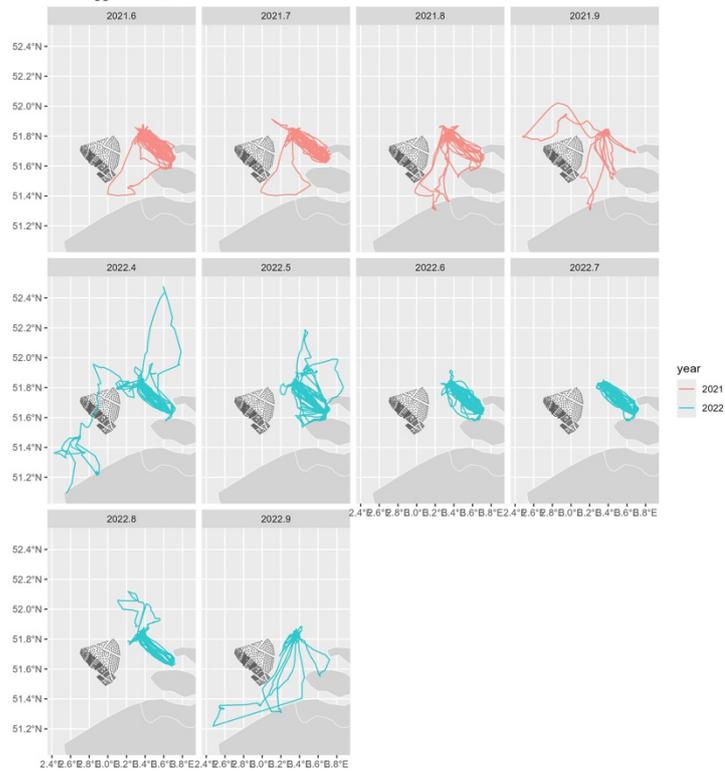




GPS logger 211282

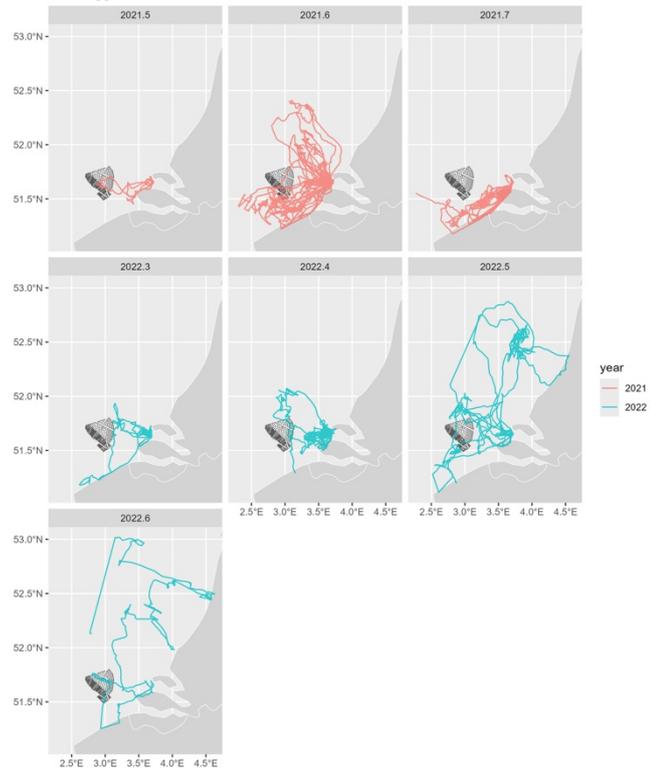


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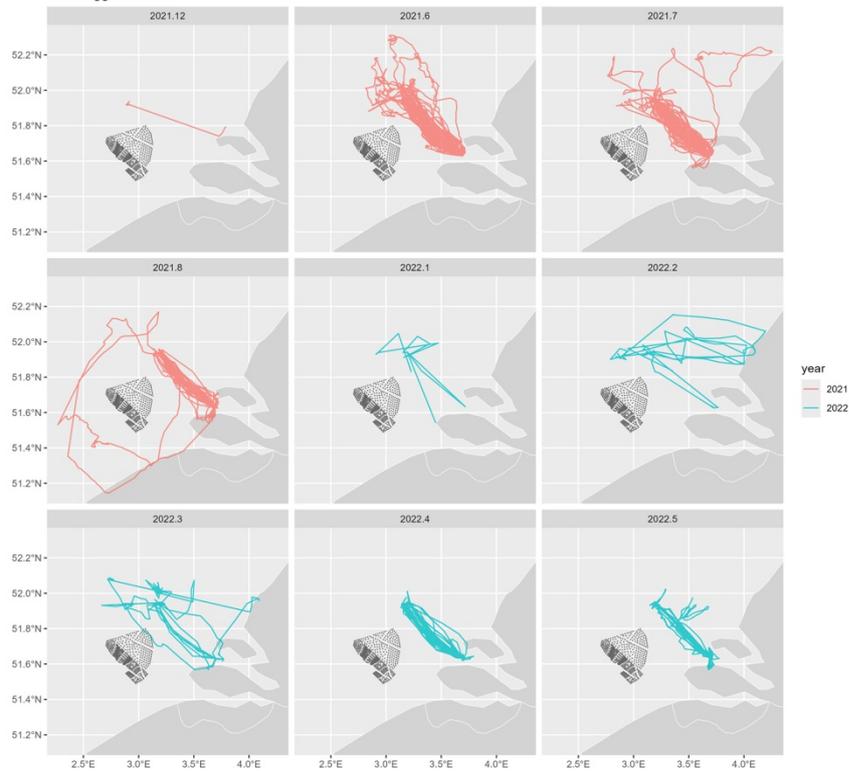


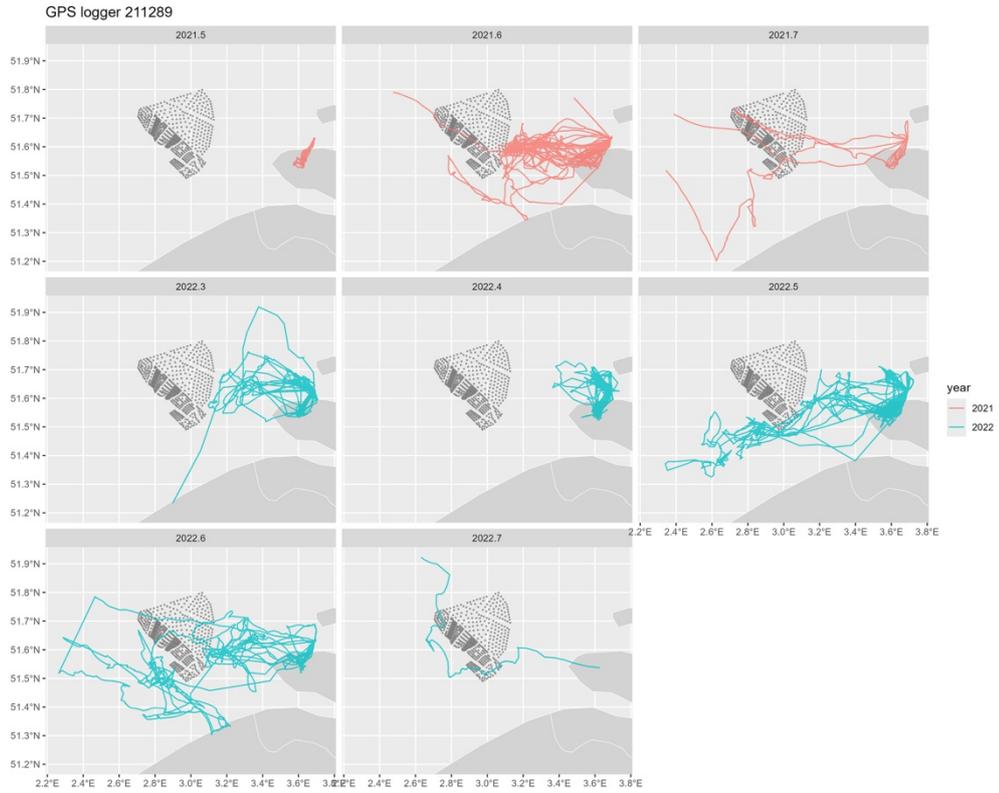


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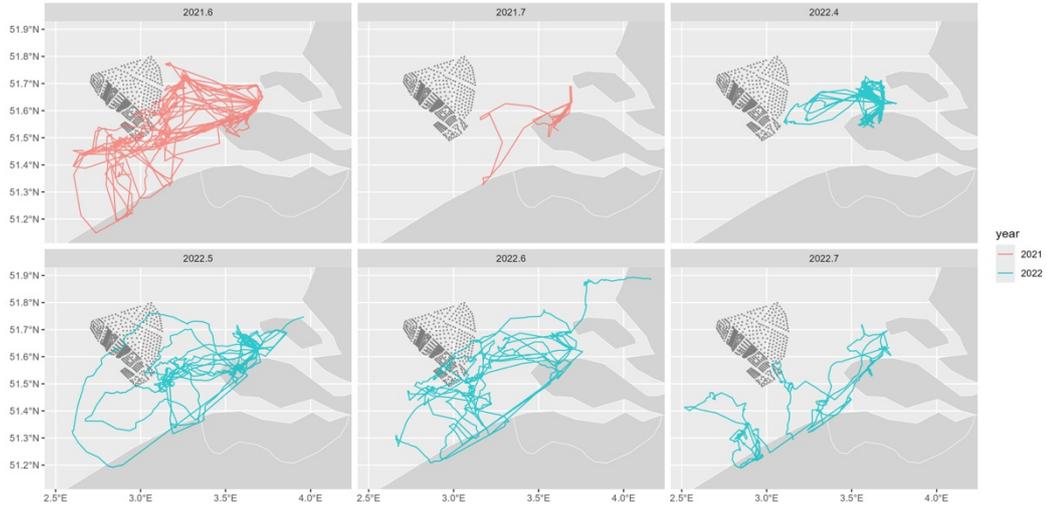
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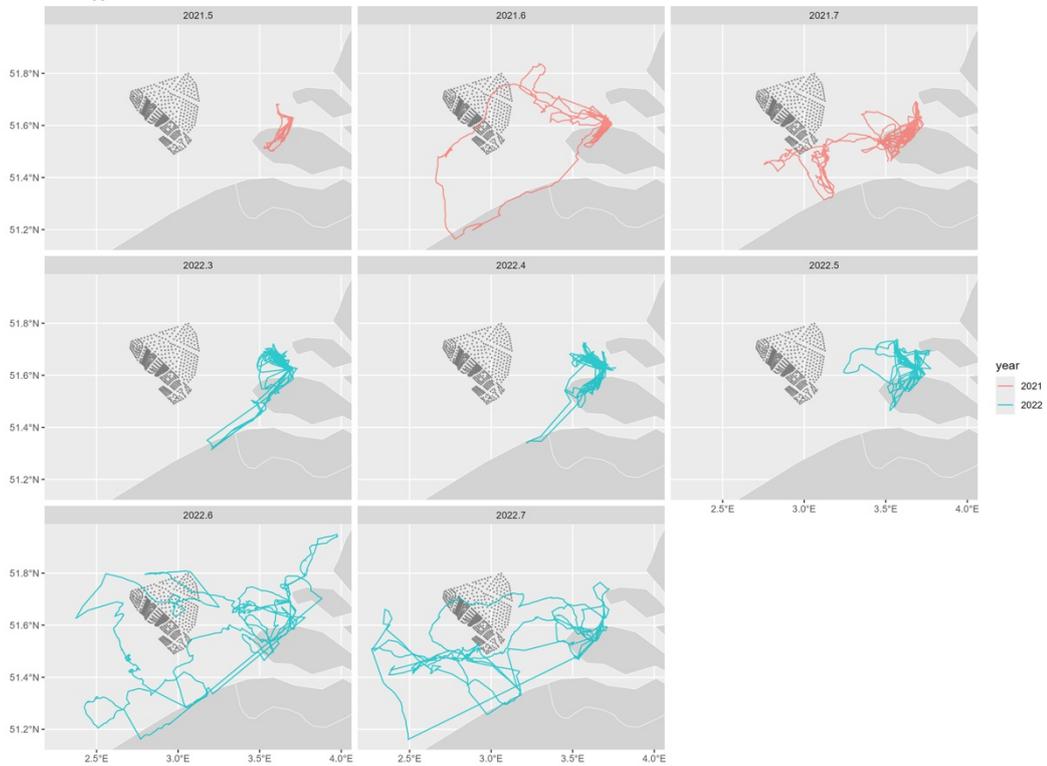


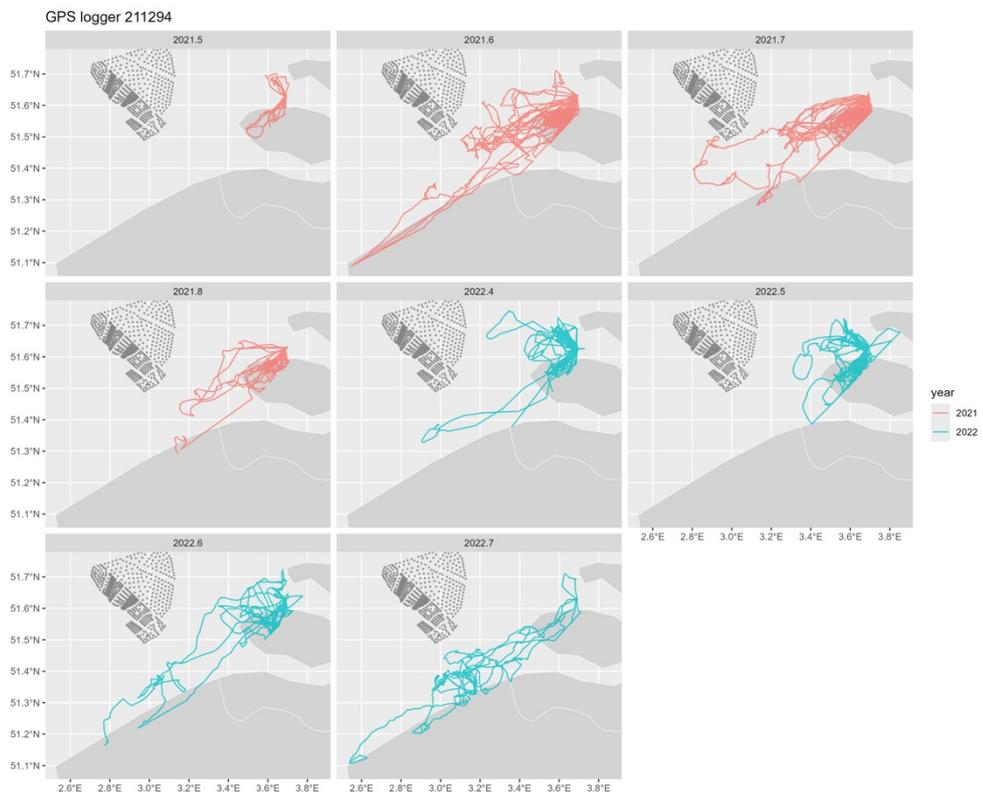
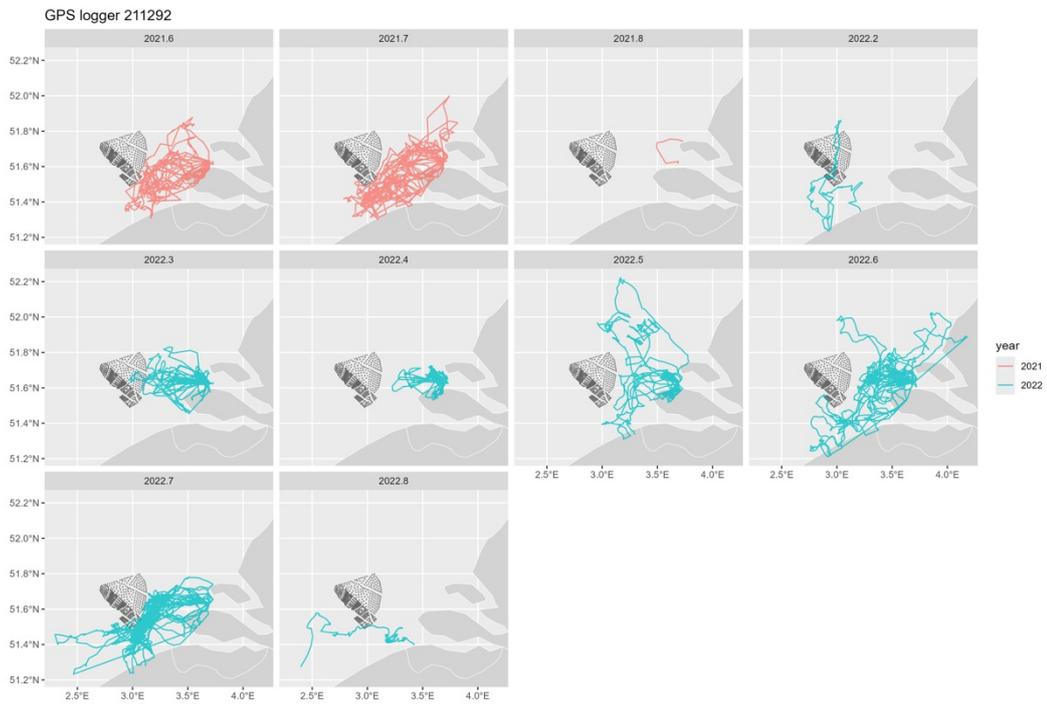


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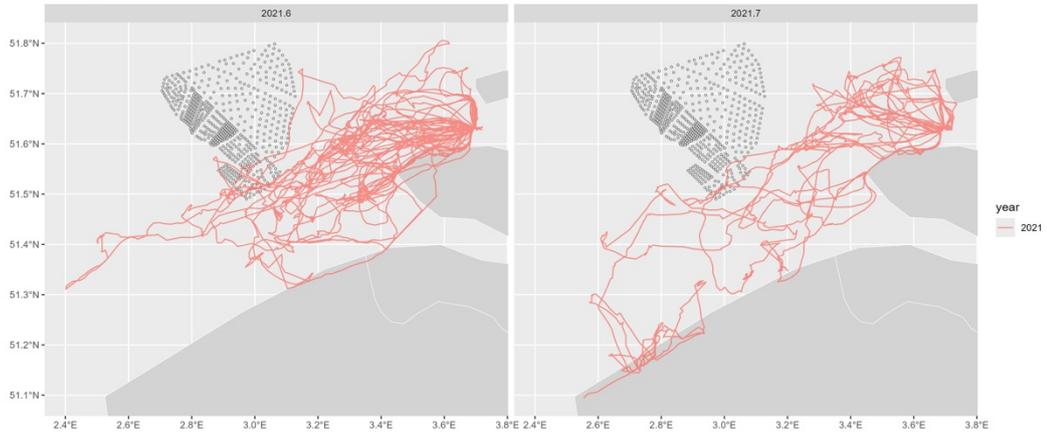
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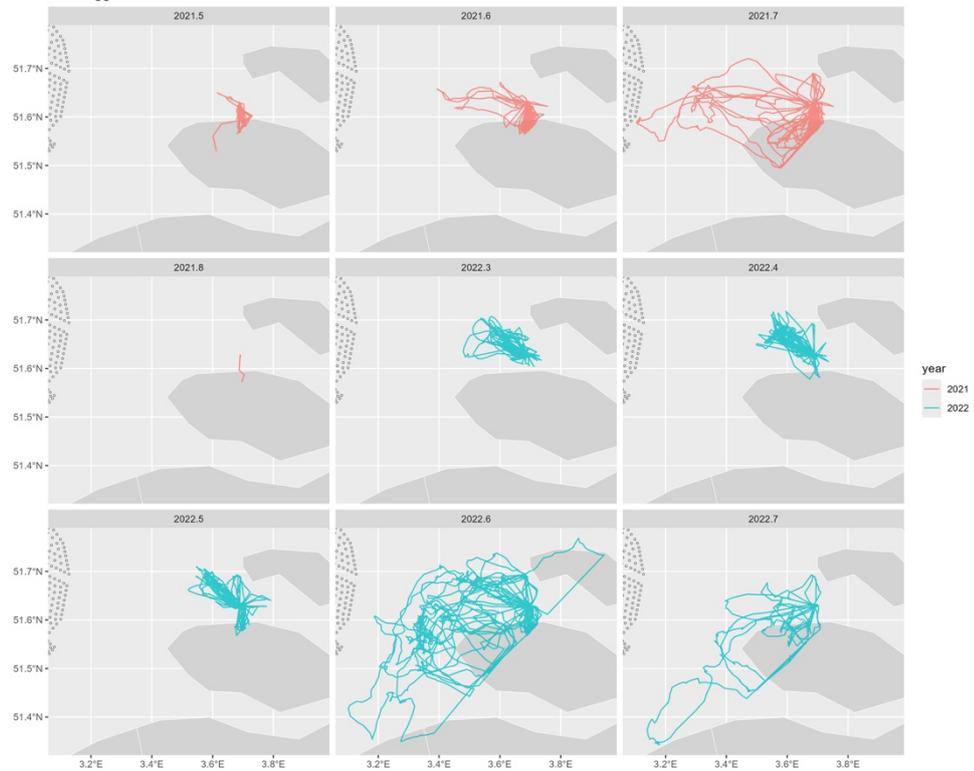


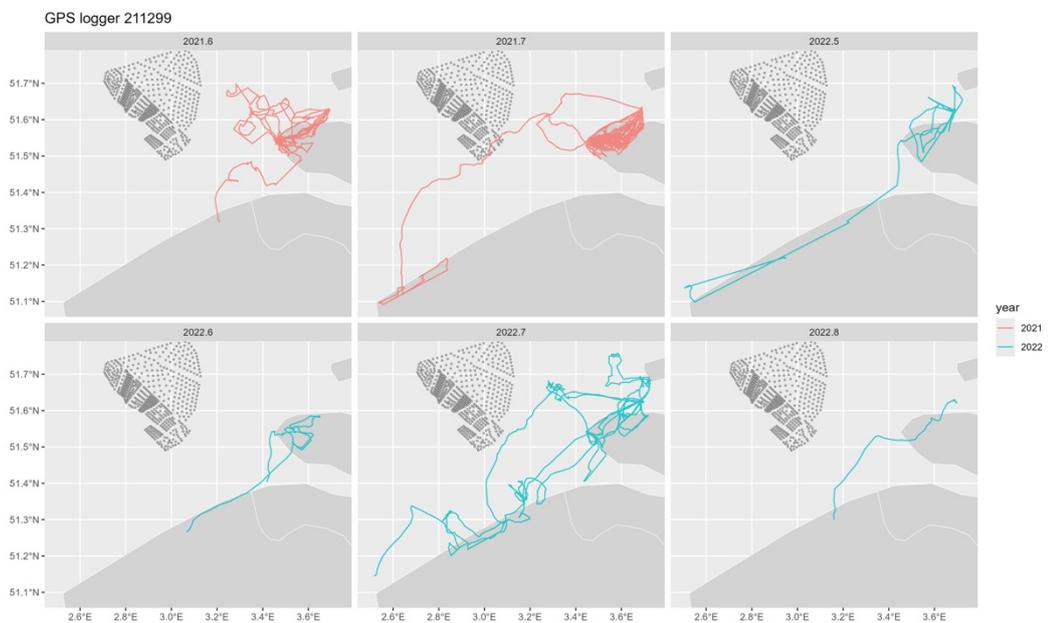
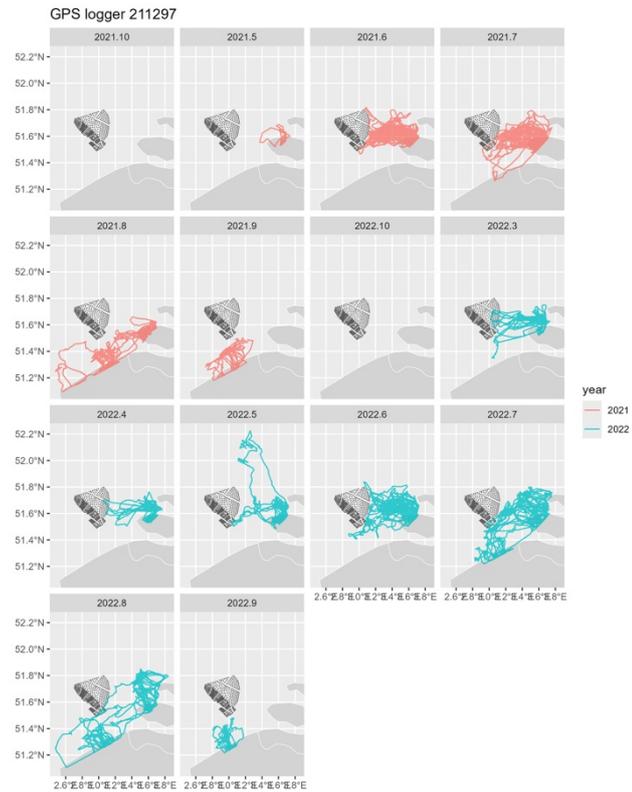


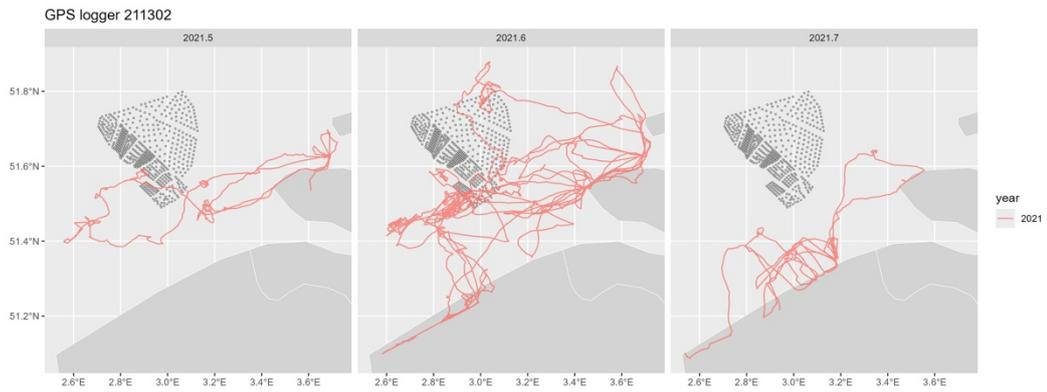
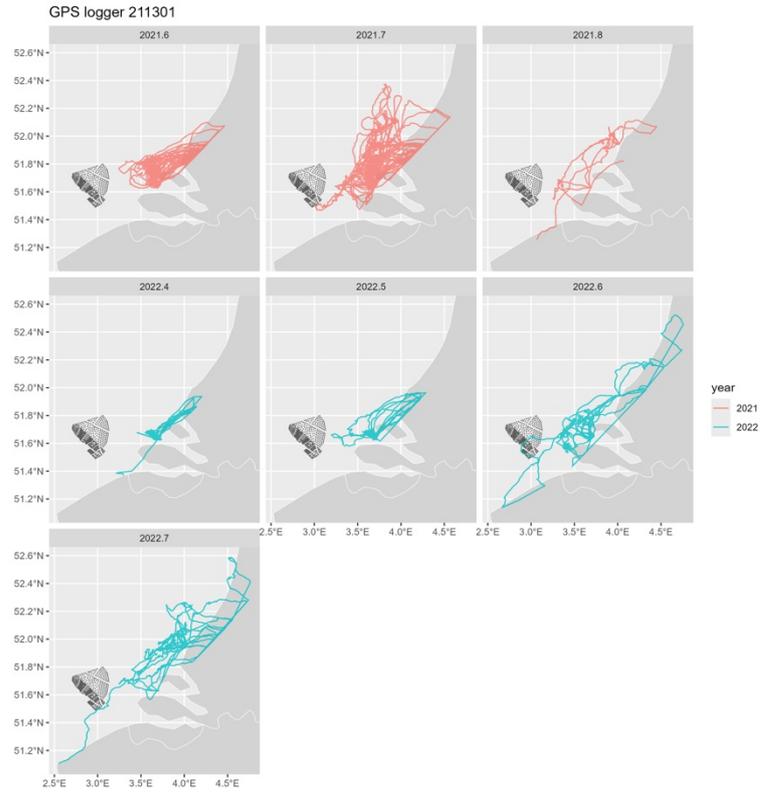
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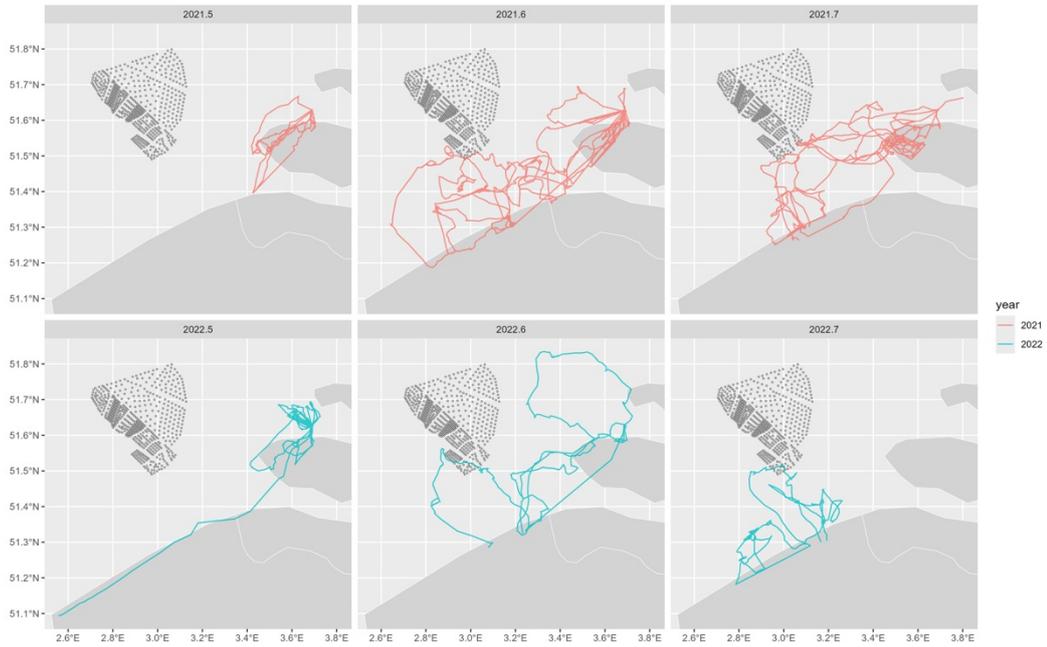




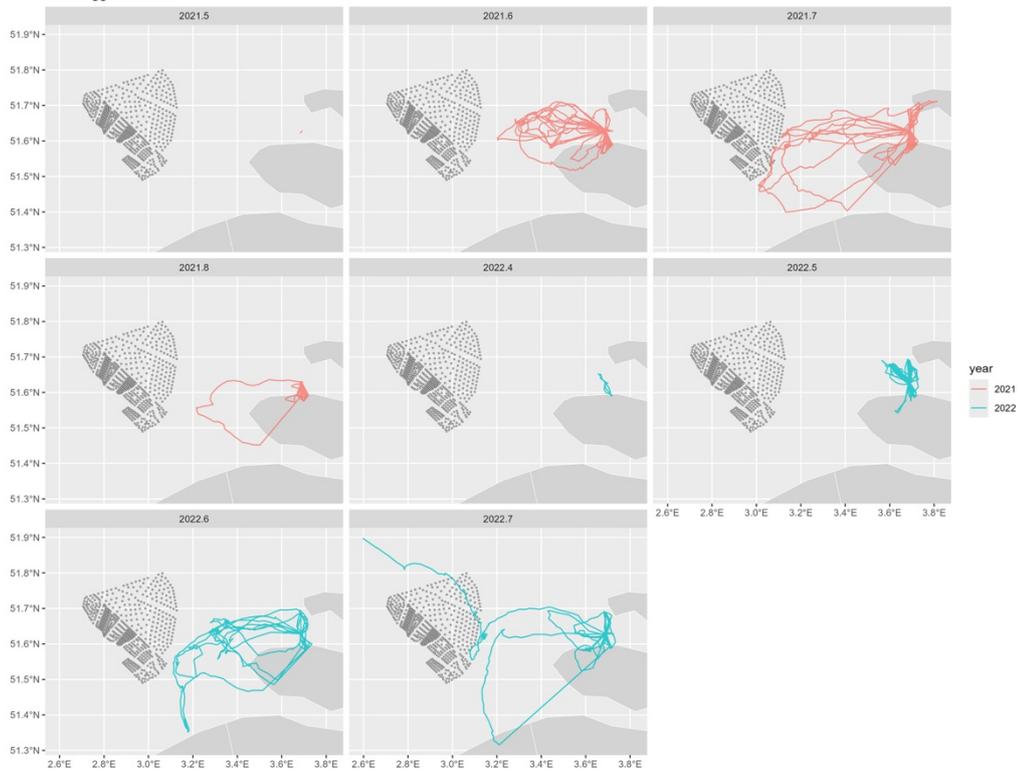




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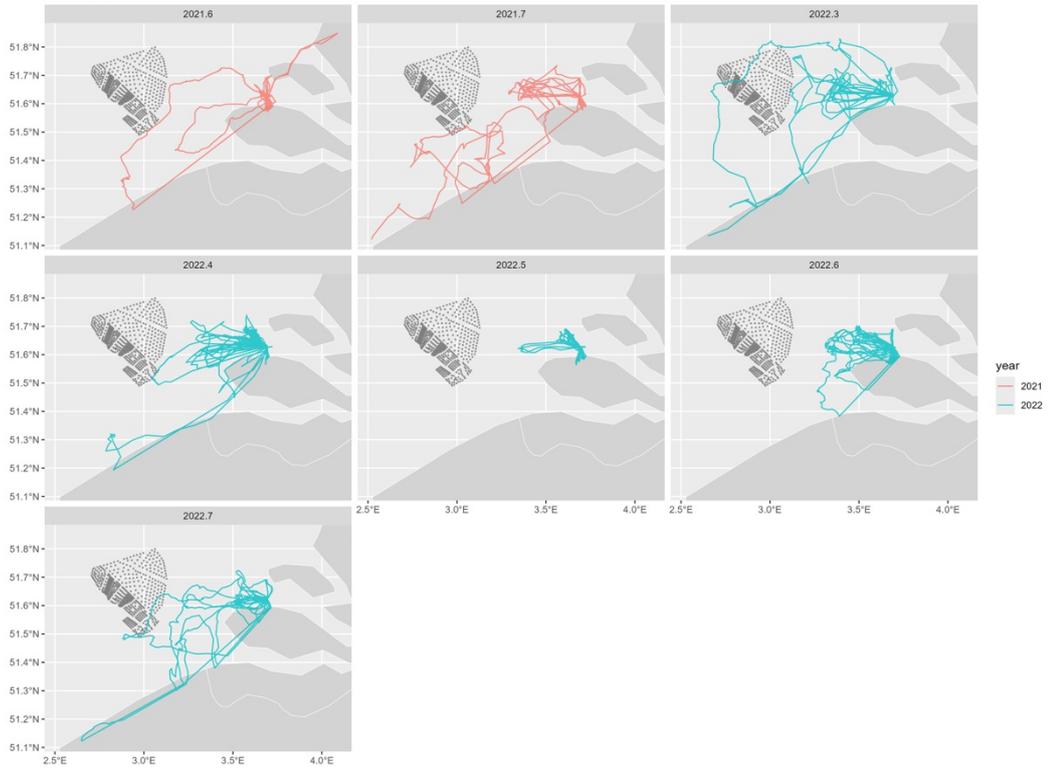


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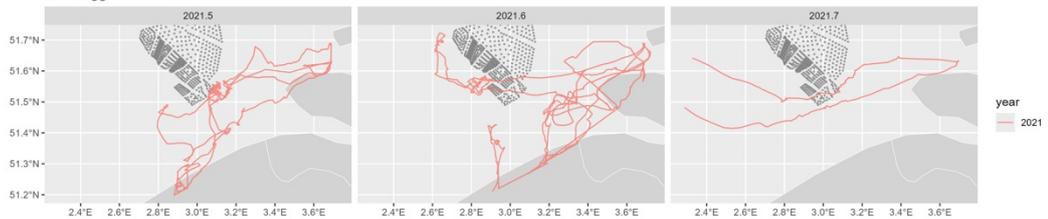




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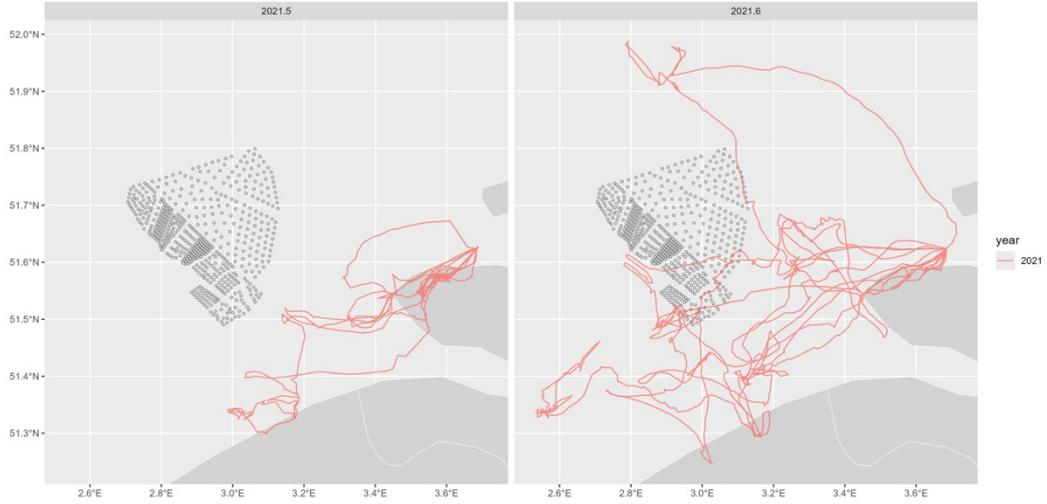


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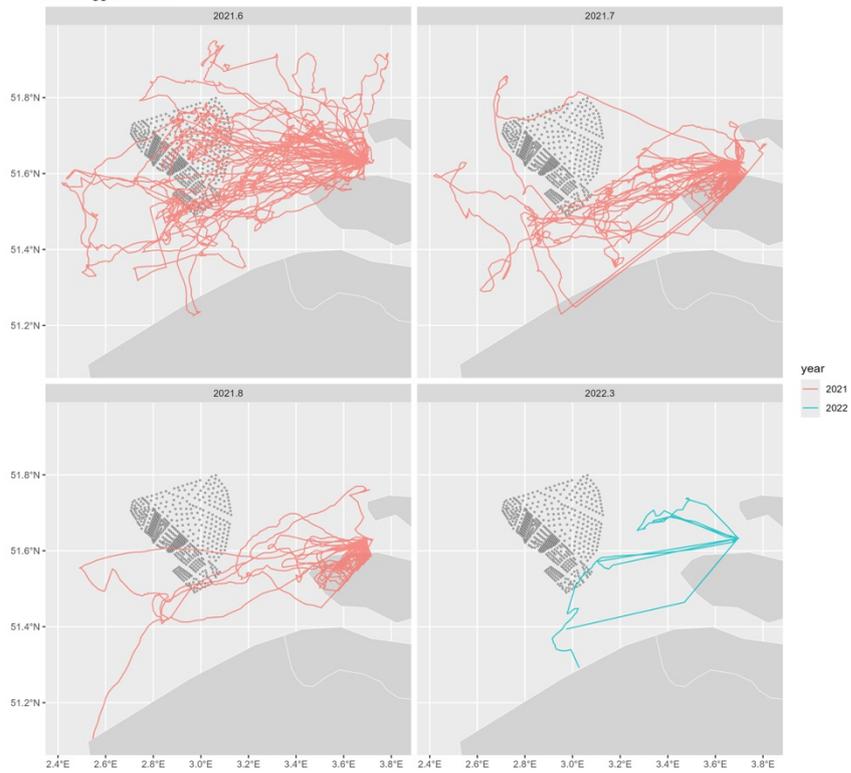


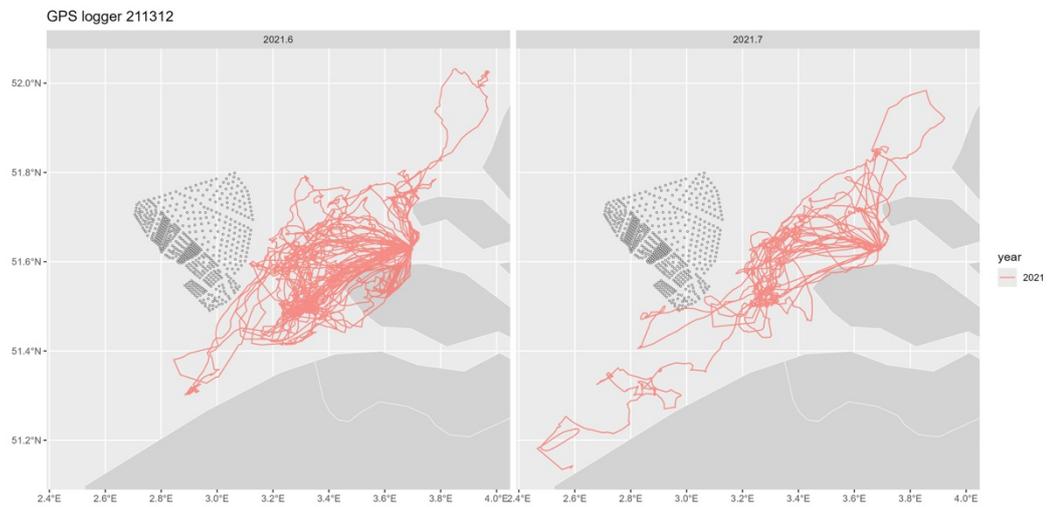
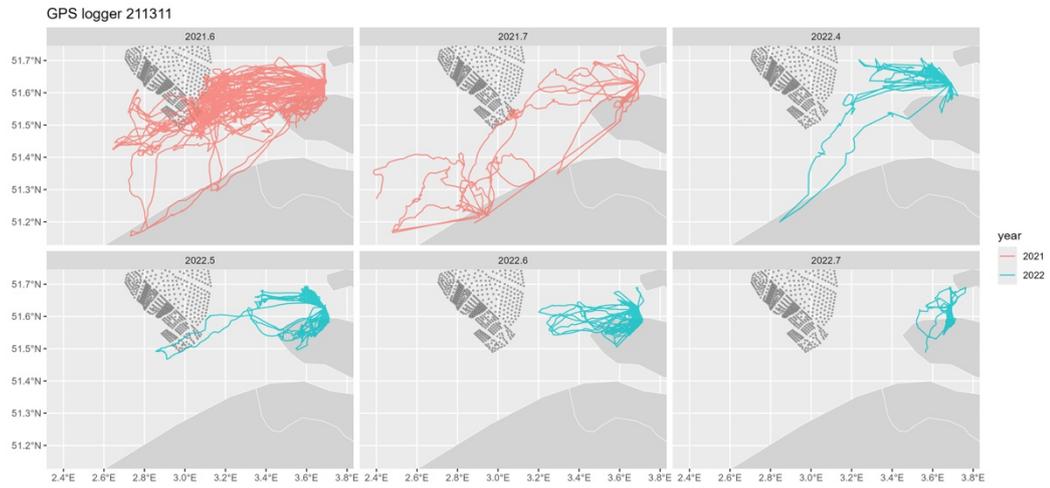


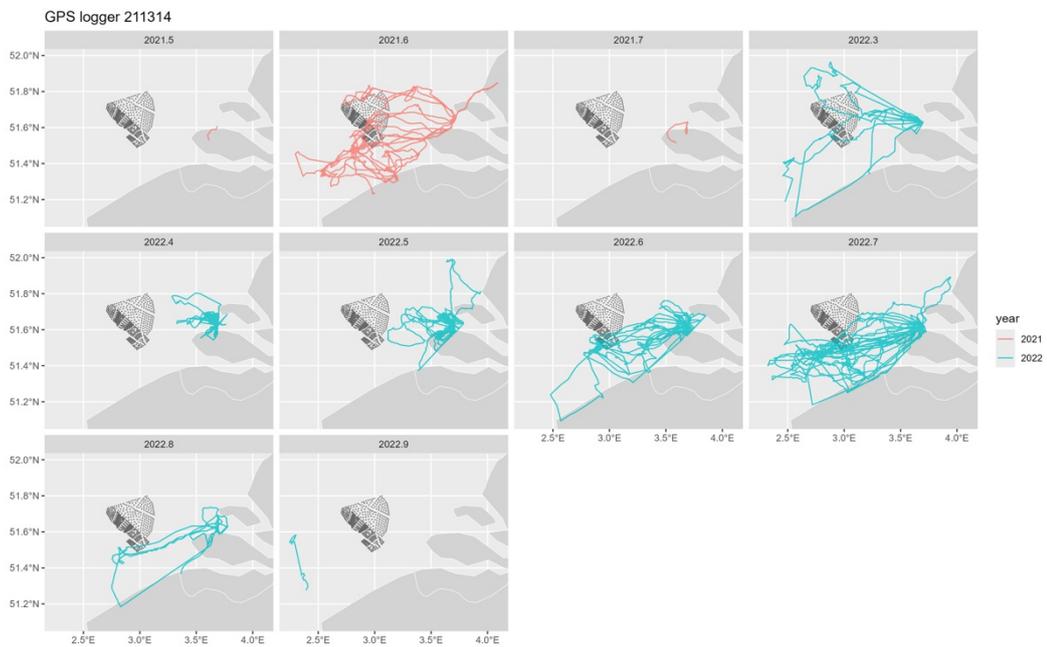
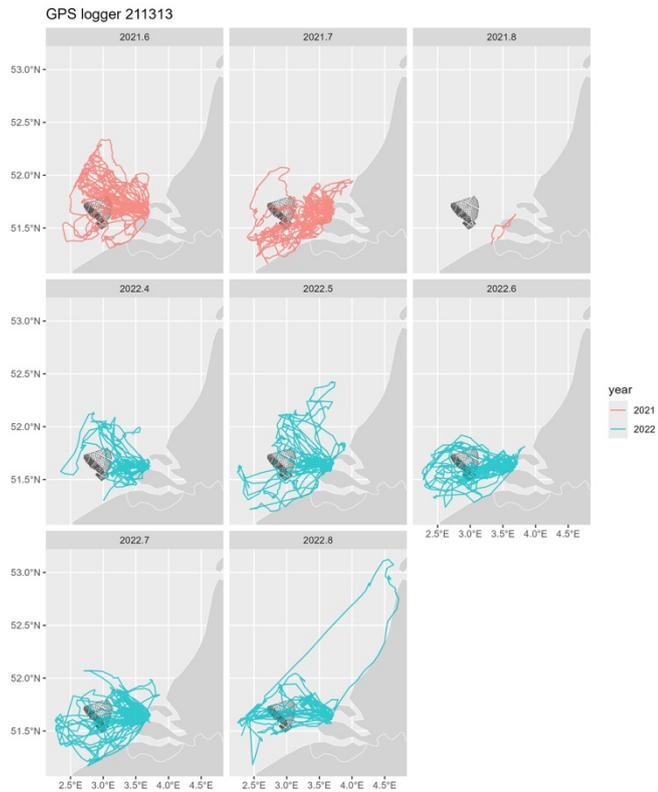
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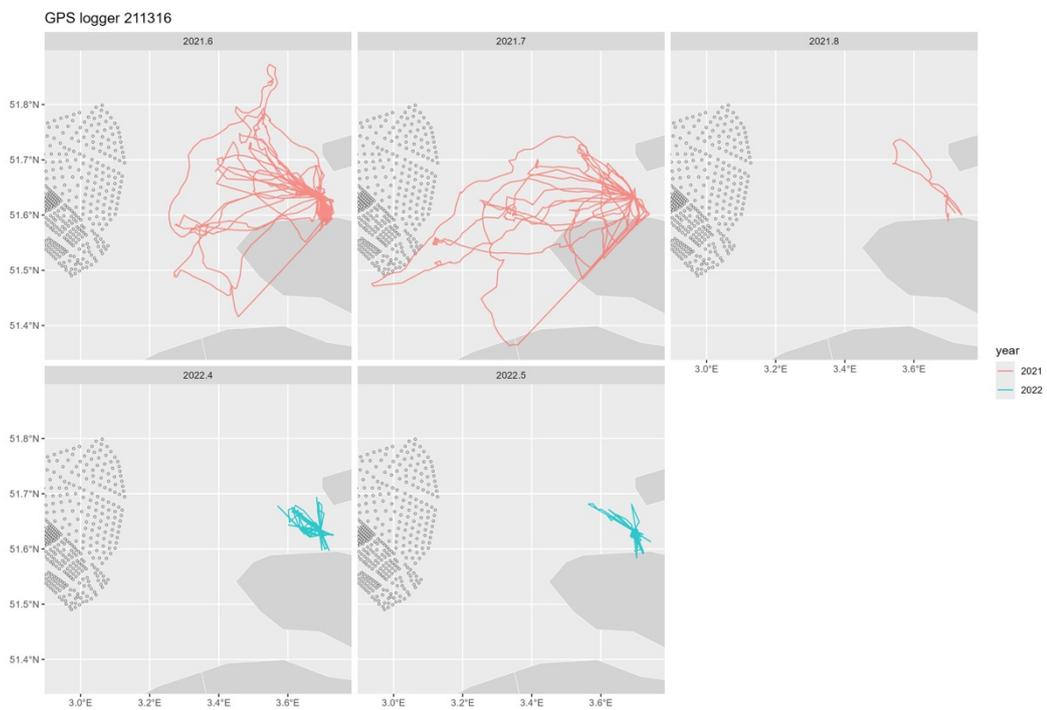
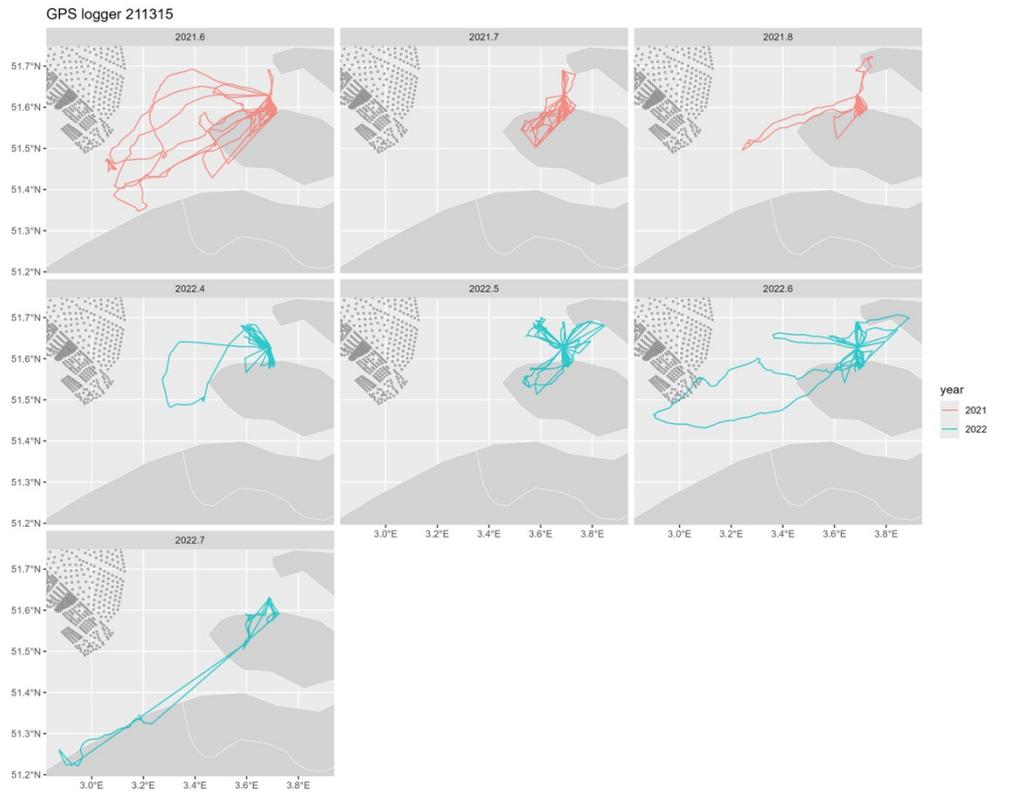


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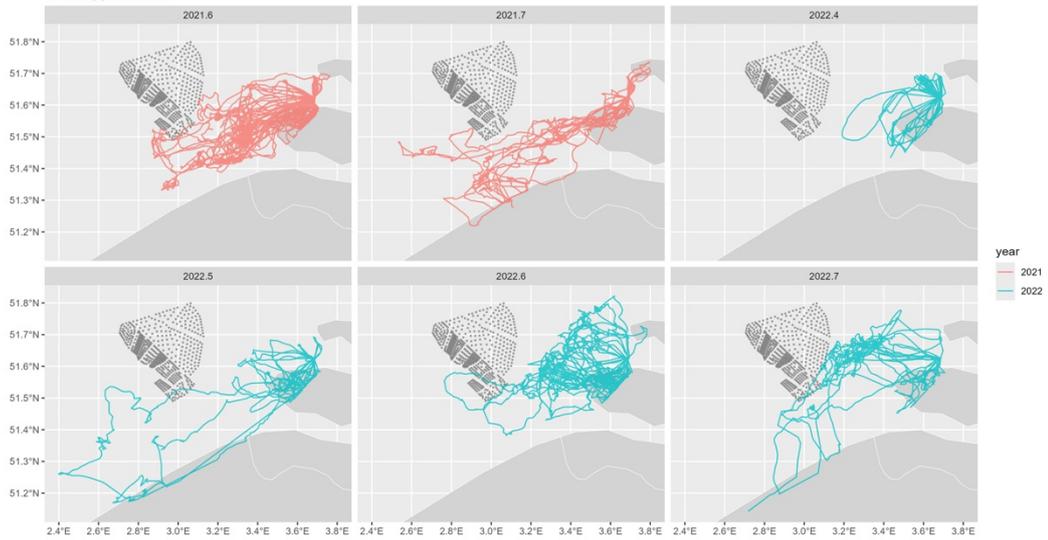


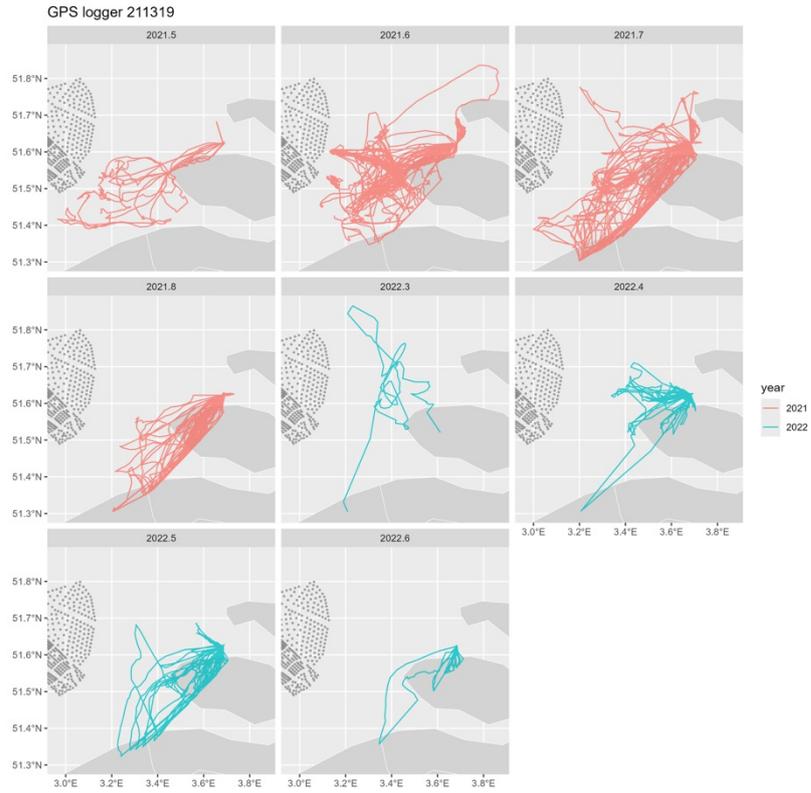


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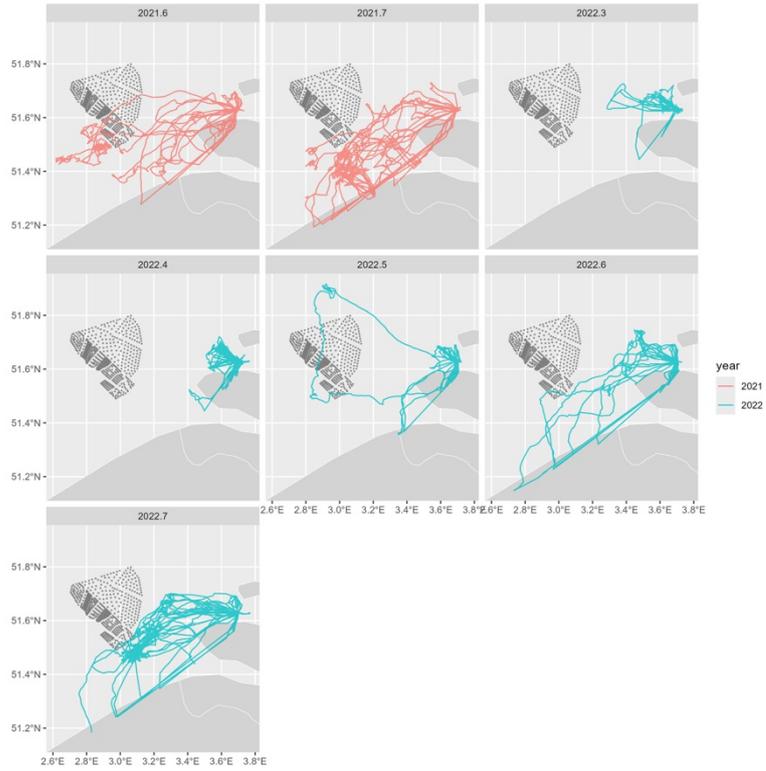
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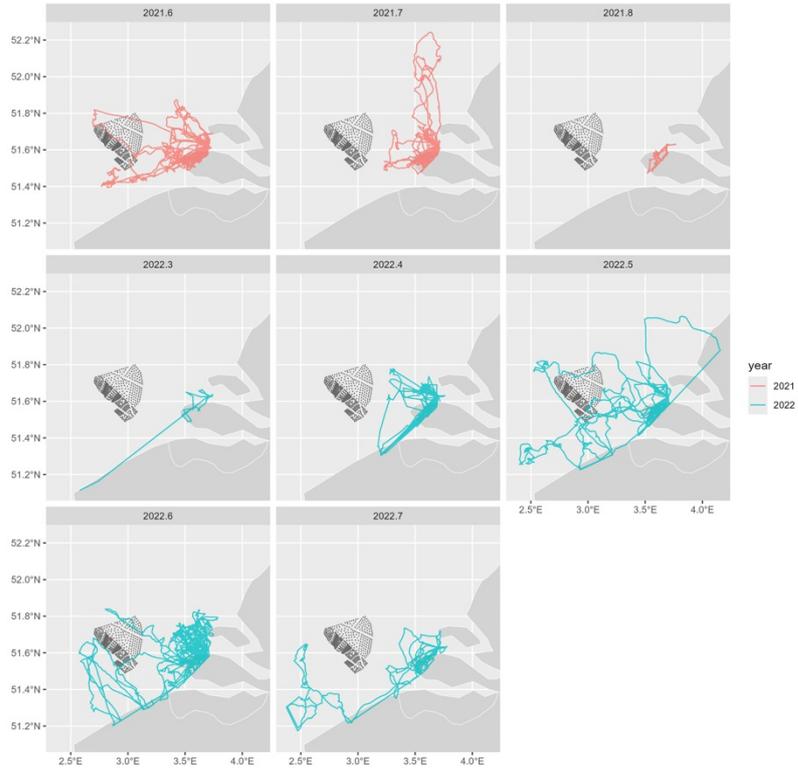


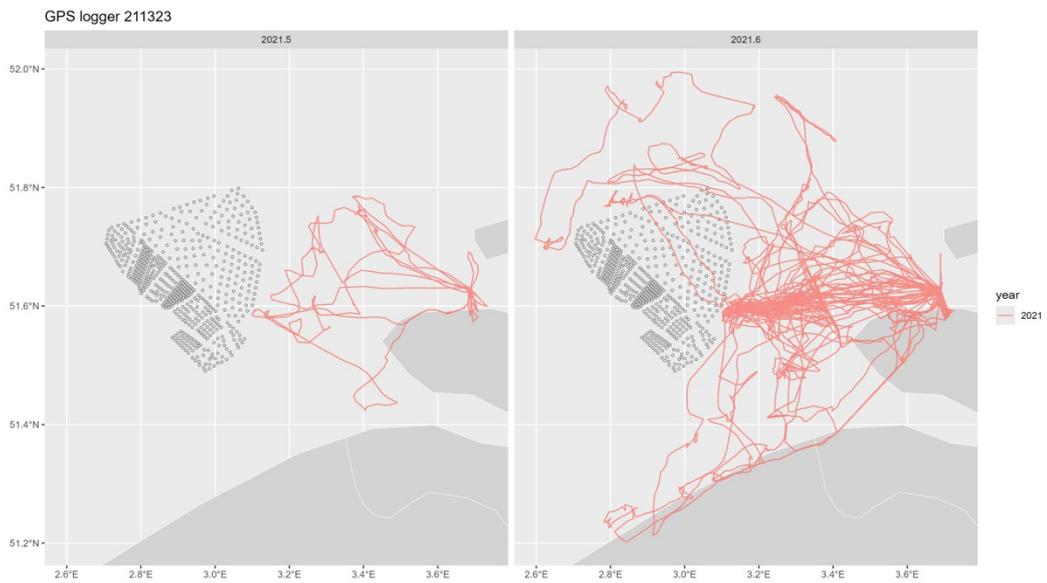
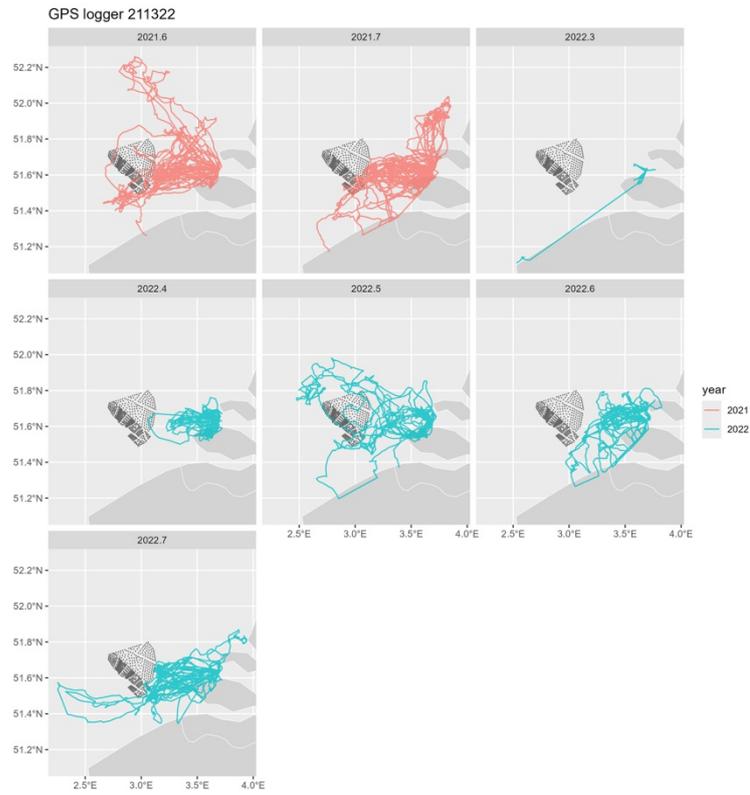


GPS logger 211320



GPS logger 211321









## Appendix IV – Number of data points of Lesser Black-backed Gulls per year, month and individual



Number of locations in North Sea per year, month and individual

GPS ID	Year: 2021												2021 Total
	Month	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
201089		101	1824	361									2286
201090				1		4	41						46
201093			105	386	1477	65							2033
201095		181	772	371	265	237							1826
201096		1292	2083	999	8534	5697	243						18848
201097			361	637	4880	539							6417
201098		57	115	43	254	172	208						849
201100			308	39									347
201103			228	817	2839	246							4130
201105			479	263	1302								2044
201107		99	820	858	3895	235							5907
201109		2874	1935	830	5277	480							11396
201110			258	306	235	191	11						1001
201112		135	940	637	1197	1593	1214						5716
201113			288	271	428								987
211275				110	171								281
211276					12439	517							12956
211277				1085	7462	1888							10435
211278					15697	2845	794						19336
211279				143	2186	683	299						3311
211280					7735	4673	1						12409
211281					15798	8168							23966
211282					6996								6996
211283					5603	7889	9973	5451					28916
211284				1623	12190	1811							15624
211285				325	185								510
211286					4870	5017	3095				13		12995
211287				12									12
211288					537								537
211289				21	9727	1656					1		11405
211290					8444	66							8510
211291				67	1294	2085							3446
211292					4835	4077	43						8955
211293					473	347							820
211294				163	2087	1516	314						4080
211295					4410	4275							8685
211296				40	439	1001	7						1487
211297				113	3278	2513	1132	1733					8769
211298					79	119							198
211299					727	761							1488
211300				245	735								980
211301					2349	4037	615						7001
211302				3097	12605	623							16325
211303					277	213							490
211304				130	2268	2017	131						4546
211305					601	1396	202	5					2204
211306				51	376	129							556
211307					481	892							1373
211308				1975	2651	717		978	901	608			7830
211309				426	2271								2697
211310					5807	2486	2245						10538
211311					17874	1421							19295
211312					4030	2784							6814
211313					15603	12709	41						28353
211314				1	4125	164		265					4555
211315					966	183	152						1301
211316					1198	913	83	27					2221
211317					12259	4521							16780
211318					3236	2922							6158
211319				1676	4810	2406	765						9657
211320					2066	4209							6275
211321					2036	1326	150						3512
211322					14565	10347	13						24925
211323				886	8895								9781
211324					52620	34455	1512						88587
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4739</b>	<b>10516</b>	<b>19008</b>	<b>332953</b>	<b>152273</b>	<b>23243</b>	<b>8459</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>552714</b>



Number of locations in North Sea per year, month and individual

GPS ID	Year: 2022									2022 Total	
	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9
201089											
201090											
201093				546	1747	272	443				3008
201095			288	509	719	878	432				2826
201096			1466	1460	2845	6895	14474				27140
201097				56	1847	2653	4785				9341
201098			85	122	38	275	298				818
201100											
201103				22	1671						1693
201105			254	721	444	3217	3846	91			8573
201107											
201109			1101	45	7						1153
201110				1598	1041	269					2908
201112			451	1045	1054	636	2109	377			5672
201113			866	526	521	506	97				2516
211275											
211276				672	870	1086	2518				5146
211277			2264	971	2963	1932	631				8761
211278				1072	1419	1854	2293	452			7090
211279				299	719	1338	1				2357
211280				1644	563						2207
211281			1313	3156	2141	1223	6368				14201
211282			343	2318	6838	5099	2054				16652
211283				2993	5812	4884	6139	8412	3770		32010
211284			1106	2603	8260	5440	165				17574
211285											
211286	14	713	874	912	2828						5341
211287											
211288											
211289			1369	637	7337	7798	880				18021
211290				1108	3094	4027	1765				9994
211291			539	769	1839	2910	4775				10832
211292	1160	2789	664	3227	4575	13817	1024				27256
211293				530	542	264	122				1458
211294				725	1684	864	1864				5137
211295											
211296			481	419	1212	2637	835				5584
211297			2385	1490	2686	6469	7907	5182	1203		27322
211298				446	518	81	1593				2638
211299					1062	20	929	22			2033
211300					81	12	76				169
211301			441	837	2070	1918					5266
211302											
211303				188	1847	723	7				2765
211304					2749	1571	1170	62			5552
211305				63	387	765	1118				2333
211306			772	632	642	555	446				3047
211307			1878	1166	527	901	1067				5539
211308											
211309											
211310			256								256
211311				1023	1532	613	222				3390
211312											
211313				4040	4320	8837	5249	8582	626		31654
211314			1534	585	1455	5734	10560	2358	1240		23466
211315				157	451	407	65				1080
211316				189	110						299
211317			357	809	2380	3770	360				7676
211318				491	1733	3846	3278				9348
211319			169	456	778	297					1700
211320			362	616	1235	1238	4496				7947
211321			82	649	3780	5951	1413				11875
211322			72	1628	7732	4297	10253				23982
211323											
211324			369	6474	5496	13476	7245				33060
Grand Total	14	1873	23825	49685	105620	123165	130083	26562	6839		467666



Number of locations on land (north of 51 degrees latitude) per year, month and individual

GPS ID	Year: 2021												2021 Total
	Month	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
201089		145	1453	2090									3688
201090				10	57	468							535
201093			800	2130	2554	1337							6821
201095		1135	4256	5196	8633	9476	5092	1697	170	7			35662
201096		622	5748	7519	6368	5809	9255	2439					37760
201097			1779	5991	5493	4511							17774
201098		571	1815	2163	3115	1922	2669	2210	817				15282
201100			4965	2418	6023	1669							15075
201103			705	5569	3804	1134							11212
201105			3704	6712	3732	965							15113
201107		181	3488	6089	5265	2045							17068
201109		1720	7069	5434	6187	11861	11321	5918	1705	766	383		52364
201110			3027	9101	7080	9989	747						29944
201112		425	5300	6250	6241	7491	3293						29000
201113			1998	5978	6884								14860
211275			40	2093	3554								5687
211276			50		2807	655							3512
211277			50	608	3712	2759							7129
211278			50		2052	6431	847						9380
211279			40	1275	6602	10550	7281						25748
211280			40		4648	9725	101						14514
211281			40		6272	8877	10802	4792	1705	899	256		33643
211282			50		3072								3122
211283			40		1801	1391	735	217					4184
211284			40	773	2559	8214	10374	1947	2065	187			26159
211285			49	307	325								681
211286			50		7034	6851	5315	4439	1481	95	3		25268
211287			40	2314	892								3246
211288			50		7988								8038
211289			40	1145	5374	11437	11381	6683	2162	1061	201		39484
211290			50		1347	669							2066
211291			49	1143	6028	5762							12982
211292			50		1059	784	54						1947
211293			50		5351	5650							11051
211294			40	1053	5653	8134	2663						17543
211295			50		7815	3984							11849
211296			50	1287	6507	7674	433						15951
211297			50	1061	4242	7142	9844	5938	2232	938			31447
211298			40		3549	878	142						4609
211299			50		9724	8408							18182
211300			50	1585	3492								5127
211301			40		6626	7224	3258						17148
211302			40	664	2820	1312							4836
211303			50		5777	590							6417
211304			50	2117	8283	10554	3923						24927
211305			50	12	3224	4142	2196	322	2144	110			12200
211306			50	1575	7163	2484							11272
211307			49		9803	2200							12052
211308			40	1329	6937	11735	11276	3460	1331	527			36635
211309			50	1268	1231								2549
211310			50		6252	7199	4373						17874
211311			50		3496	1557							5103
211312			50		7877	1828							9755
211313			50		1349	2302	760						4461
211314			48	54	5533	1526							7161
211315			40		6410	8511	6121						21082
211316			40		8576	4666	2346	27					15655
211317			50		1530	8136	10876	2973	1953	196			25714
211318			50		8978	6189							15217
211319			40	813	4401	7150	6461						18865
211320			50		7448	3802							11300
211321			40		10189	9172	2230						21631
211322			40		2085	4326	1						6452
211323			40	913	3340	179							4472
211324				150		5685	9015	32160	17031	5325	1020		70386
Grand Total		4799	48512	96039	319908	290451	178330	60093	23090	5806	843	1027871	



Number of locations on land (north of 51 degrees latitude) per year, month and individual

GPS ID	Year: 2022										2022 Total	
	Month	3	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10
201089												
201090												
201093				2041	3704	927	199					6871
201095	1	92	905	1462	4517	8222	9979	4096	1315	245		30834
201096			441	2540	5466	6185	3252	18				17902
201097				1524	6697	5880	3962					18063
201098			597	1128	1513	2915	4836	4589	1022	999		17599
201100												
201103				648	4258							4906
201105			373	2745	4531	5278	2300	82				15309
201107												
201109	434	1351	1767	272	70							3894
201110				2713	9059	5755						17527
201112			809	2295	5044	4496	3635	641				16920
201113			314	2445	6393	6249	1291					16692
211275												
211276				1860	4605	5934	3235					15634
211277			607	2521	4363	5035	4597					17123
211278				1755	5911	5071	7094	1608				21439
211279				2420	6305	5472	147					14344
211280				2286	3128	2921	5852	1014	44			15245
211281	566	1490	1852	4159	10816	11567	11458	12196	4515	1532		60151
211282			353	3525	7746	7571	2775					21970
211283				744	1908	1832	1679	552	167			6882
211284			308	1236	2559	7810	13592	9326	2684	834		38349
211285												
211286	1	109	1012	1792	3357							6271
211287												
211288												
211289	7		730	2270	4542	7878	13735	10026	4771	1944		45903
211290				1715	8207	7789	2108					19819
211291			827	2533	7228	7878	2942					21408
211292		13	645	1995	5380	5025	1775	35				14868
211293				1650	4886	5564	1367					13467
211294				1292	7771	7493	3337					19893
211295												
211296			836	2656	6132	6622	5456					21702
211297			459	1914	5099	6848	5911	8778	6267	3461		38737
211298				860	4223	2777	1914					9774
211299				2694	3429	2745	189					9057
211300					198	365	228					791
211301				1841	11238	10679	8882					32640
211302												
211303				276	6937	4688	612					12513
211304					7437	11448	10803	1446				31134
211305				451	4779	5080	6253	8432	3426	1361		29782
211306			719	2219	5755	6023	1772					16488
211307			441	1783	3068	3860	1851					11003
211308												
211309												
211310			56									56
211311				983	5442	8127	2332					16884
211312												
211313				800	1129	1214	1053	584	762			5542
211314			208	1516	5735	5315	3801	1318	631			18524
211315				1378	5550	6174	6269					19371
211316				786	1330	76						2192
211317			321	1360	4175	2692	3863	2231	435	319		15396
211318				1710	5502	8715	1944					17871
211319			101	3339	8308	6816						18564
211320			407	1353	2466	2405	1534					8165
211321			173	2280	7777	6963	3154					20347
211322			90	2181	4318	7428	2391					16408
211323												
211324				1254	6873	16047	12972	26979	28812	9309	3117	105363
Grand Total	1009	3055	16605	90125	265303	271463	204894	95973	35348	13812		997587



**Number of locations in OWF (north of 51 degrees latitude) per year, month and individual**

GPS id	Year: 2021						2021 Total
	Month 3	4	5	6	7	8	
201089	2	1	14				17
201093				147			147
201095					136		136
201096	3			1232	474		1709
201097				2447			2447
201098				11		53	64
201103				698			698
201105				160			160
201107				167			167
201109	573	67	27	396	73		1136
201113							
211276				5114			5114
211277			36	820	41		897
211278				2929	138		3067
211279				172			172
211280				2121	852		2973
211281				1193	501		1694
211282				1454			1454
211283							
211284			1085	874			1959
211286							
211289				640	583		1223
211290				1789			1789
211291				96	48		144
211292				322	577		899
211295				130	105		235
211297				22	23		45
211299					219		219
211301					21		21
211302			1140	5851			6991
211304				106	184		290
211305					145		145
211307				3	30		33
211308			114	355	109		578
211309				407			407
211310				1538	147	647	2332
211311				3579	328		3907
211312					8		8
211313				4181	3315		7496
211314				866			866
211315							
211316					16		16
211317				2447	500		2947
211318				18	46		64
211320				116	64		180
211321				101			101
211322				1643	3037		4680
211323				330			330
211324				20808	3882	312	25002
Grand Total	578	68	2416	65283	15602	1012	84959



**Number of locations in OWF (north of 51 degrees latitude) per year, month and individual**

GPS id	Year: 2022							2022 Total
	Month	2	3	4	5	6	7	
201089								
201093				24				24
201095						266		266
201096	122			19	519	1536		2196
201097				56	370	224		650
201098					41	106		147
201103				5				5
201105					579	1052		1631
201107								
201109	438							438
201113	62							62
211276				11				11
211277	108	505		342	106			1061
211278							85	85
211279					69			69
211280		982						982
211281	494	507		381		659		2041
211282		116		433	35	9		593
211283			36					36
211284	234	682		364	2070			3350
211286	49							49
211289				664	1553	263		2480
211290				665	567	94		1326
211291					621	1100		1721
211292	371	716			107	549	37	1780
211295								
211297		612	408	106	69	501	178	1874
211299								
211301					240	36		276
211302								
211304					81	54		135
211305						231		231
211307	281	95				125		501
211308								
211309								
211310	84							84
211311				172				172
211312								
211313		772	1014	3307	1996	5687		12776
211314	700				1956	2660	29	5345
211315					87			87
211316								
211317				152	231	121		504
211318				37	160	161		358
211320				202	87	148		437
211321				784	722			1506
211322		504	1027			491		2022
211323								
211324		2220	99	2736	666			5721
Grand Total	371	3900	6827	6557	16313	13133	5931	53032

