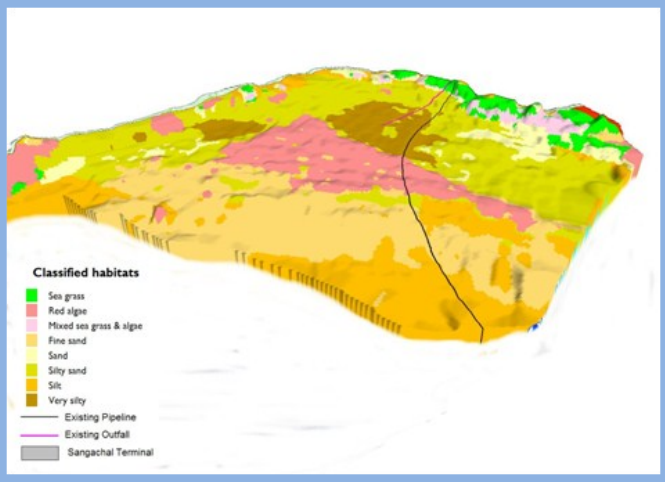
ENVISION MAPPING

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Planning Pipeline Routes: Development of offshore oil exploration and production required additional pipelines to the Sangachal Bay oil terminal in Azerbaijan. The authorities needed high quality spatial information to monitor the effects on the local ecosystem as well as that of the Caspian Sea as a whole. Envision:

- Identified the abundance and distribution of seagrass communities in Sangachal Bay.
- Improved understanding of the ecological importance of the sublittoral flora & fauna.
- Detected changes which may have occurred between this and previous surveys and provided data suitable for future monitoring.



Example of a habitat map to determine the optimum route for a new pipeline at Bacu, Azerbaijan

The sculpture, known as "Couple", stands on top of a protective breakwater in Newbiggin, UK.

Protecting Sensitive Habitats: At Newbiggin by the Sea (Northumberland, UK) a new coastal protection scheme was developed to defend the town, including recreation of the beach and an offshore protective breakwater. However, the important reef building worm *Sabelleria* (which is protected), had been detected at the breakwater site in a previous study, and would impact any construction in the area. **Envision**:

- Carried out a marine video survey of the seabed and found the species to be absent, therefore allowing development of the sea defence to go ahead.

Offshore Wind Farms: Envision has undertaken benthic habitat assessments as part of the EIA associated with applications for wind farms and cable corridors that require information on seafloor sediments, seabed morphology, habitats (particularly those of high conservation interest) and wrecks. **Envision**:

- Undertook a comprehensive range of environmental surveys.
- Provided an overview of the importance of the seafloor habitats in a local and national context.
- Provided advice to the client on likely locations of sensitive habitats.

Wind farm off the Norfolk coast, UK.

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