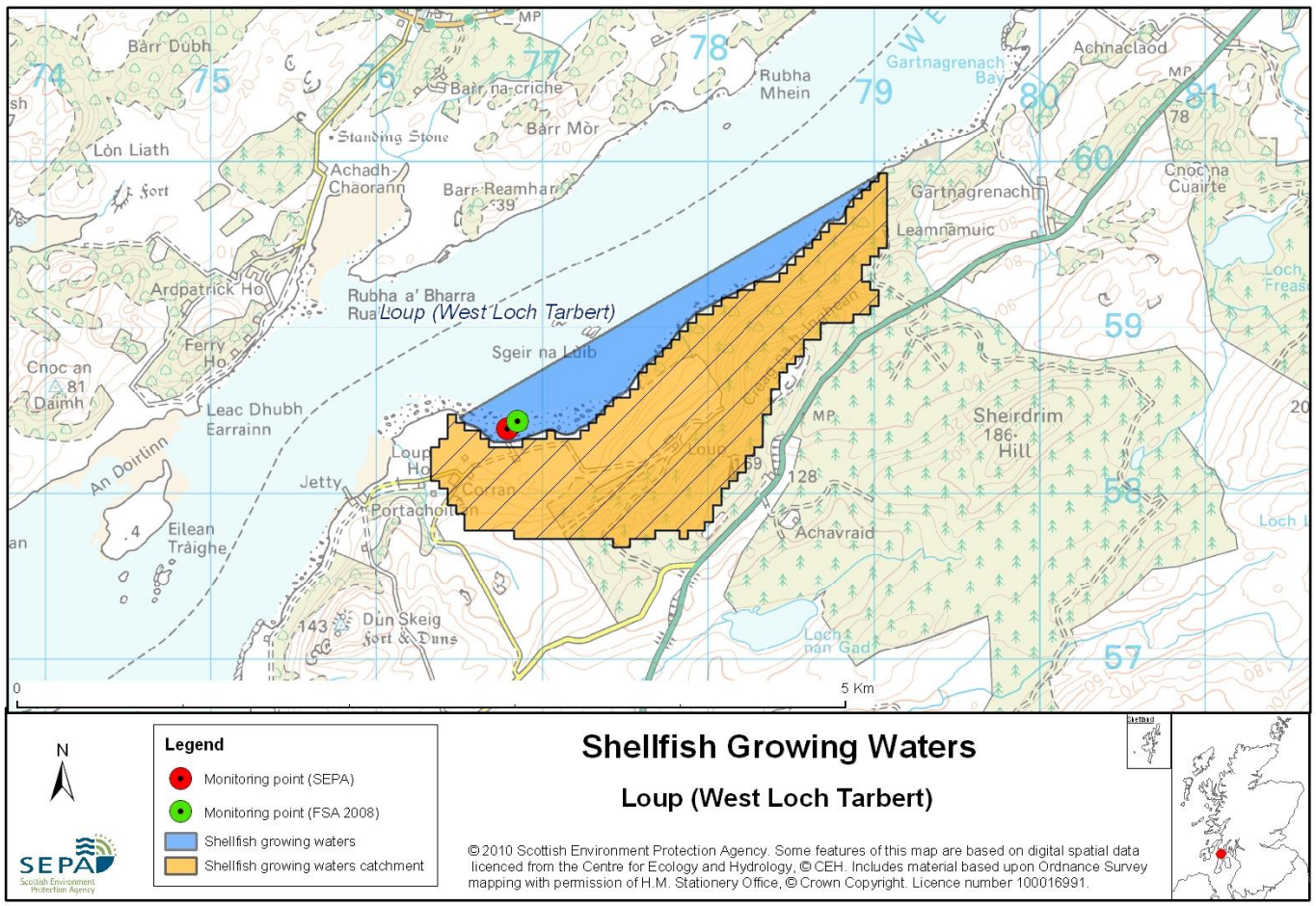
105 Loup (West Loch Tarbert)



Name	Loup (West Loch Tarbert)
Report Reference Number	105
WFD Code	UKS79923105
Local Information	An area inshore of a line drawn between NR7902959922 and NR7649558455 and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km²)	0.67
Year of Designation	2002
Sampling Points	West Loch Tarbert 38 at Corran Mussel Site - NR 76792 58388
Commencement of Monitoring	2003

105.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Loup (West Loch Tarbert) is also designated as a Shellfish Harvesting Area by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for the production of Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*).

West Loch Tarbert: Loup Bay (Pacific oysters)
2011 = A - April to June
B - July to December
2012 = A - January to March

Category A sites are of the highest standard and means that shellfish can go directly for human consumption however category B requires that shellfish must be depurated, heat-treated or re-laid prior to human consumption.

FSA have carried out a sanitary survey for West Loch Tarbert

For more information on Food Standards Agency Classification please visit:
http://www.food.gov.uk/scotland/safetyhygienescot/shellmonitorscot/shellclassesscot/

105.2 Bathymetric Information

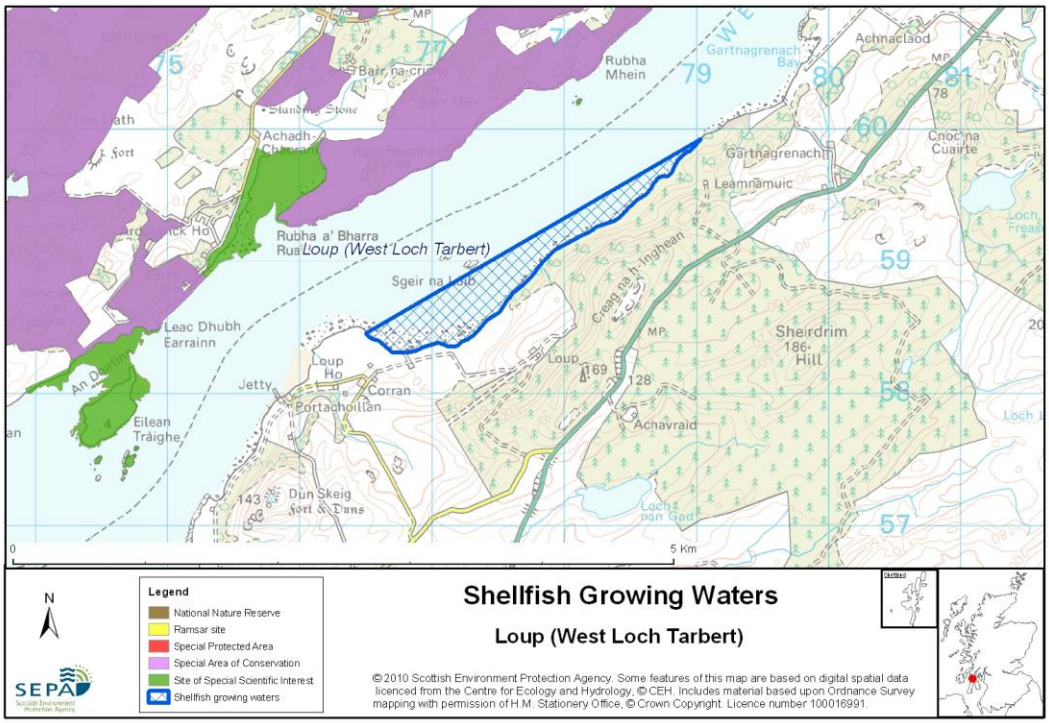
The loch is subject to south and south-easterly winds and has a length of 16km and a maximum depth of 32m. The catchment area is 110km2 and it has a salinity reduction of 0.7ppt. West Loch Tarbert has one sill, located adjacent to Eilean Tràighe, with a length of 900m and a maximum depth of 8m. The Corran designated area has an approximate length of 3km. There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

105.3 Conservation Designations

North east of Loup Bay is Inner West Loch Tarbert designated Shellfish Water (UKS79923104) this is also designated by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as a Shellfish Harvesting Area

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – Tarbert Woods
Designated 17/03/2005 for Western acidic oak woodland
This is also a **Groundwater Dependent SAC**

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Ardpatrick and Dunmore Woods
Designated 21/03/1986 for Quaternary geology and geomorphology of Scotland and Upland oak woodland



105.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The land around the designated area is of semi-natural woodland, improved pasture, semi-natural grassland and coniferous plantation. There are only very minor freshwater inputs, none of which are monitored by SEPA. The A83 runs parallel to the shore at a distance of approximately 1km. This is the main trunk road to the Kintyre peninsular and is busy with tourists during the summer.

The most likely reason for guideline faecal coliform failures (see 105.7 Compliance History below) is diffuse source pollution from either Livestock farming and/or sewage disposal. If this shellfish water continues to fail it may be necessary to carry out bacterial source tracking studies to verify the origin of the diffuse pollution.

105.5 Point Source Discharge

There are no consented discharges to the designated area from public sewage systems, industrial operations or private septic tanks. There may be unconsented discharges from private septic tanks to West Loch Tarbert within 2km of the designated area.

There are no fish farms within at least 2km of the designated area.

105.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

The following monitoring regime for the designated area was implemented in July 2005.

Year	Monitoring Regime
2005 -	• Quarterly for Sal, DO, pH, temperature, visible oil • Every three years for metals and organohalogens in mussels, next scheduled collection 2011 • Quarterly for faecal coliforms in mussels

105.7 Compliance History

UKS79923105 - Loup (West Loch Tarbert)				
	Compliance history for Waters and Biota, excluding faecal coliforms data			Compliance history for faecal coliforms
Year	Overall Result	Imperative	Guideline	Guideline
2003	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2004	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
2005	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

With the exception of 2007 and 2010, these waters have failed to comply with the Guideline standard for faecal coliforms since 2003.

The concentration of arsenic in a sample of mussel flesh from 2004 exceeded the Guideline value

105.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (105.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime) will be followed. In the event of any chemistry parameter failing to meet any EQS, the site will be revisited and resampled for the failed parameter.

Samplers are asked to identify any evidence of visible harm to the shellfish population at the site.

Faecal coliform data is collected by SEPA from many of the shellfish waters to comply with Guideline Standards (≤ 300/100ml of shellfish flesh and intervalvular

fluid). However many shellfish sites are also by FSA, which can often be more frequent. When this occurs FSA data (≤ 230 *E.coli*/100g flesh) can be used to infer pass/fail of Guideline Standards for faecal coliforms. See appendix 1.

105.9 Improvement Actions

There are currently no improvement actions planned for this designated Shellfish Water.

WFD Objectives

Under the Water Framework Directive, the target objectives expect this shellfish water to Pass by 2015 (first River Basin Management Plan Cycle) for Imperative and Guideline Shellfish Growing Water Standards, with high confidence.

Objective	First Cycle 2015	Confidence	Second Cycle 2021	Confidence	Third Cycle 2027	Confidence
Imperative Shellfish Growing Waters Standard	Pass by 2015	High	Pass by 2021	High	Pass by 2027	High
Guideline Shellfish Growing Waters Standard	Pass by 2015	High	Pass by 2021	High	Pass by 2027	High

105.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
No improvement actions currently planned	N/A