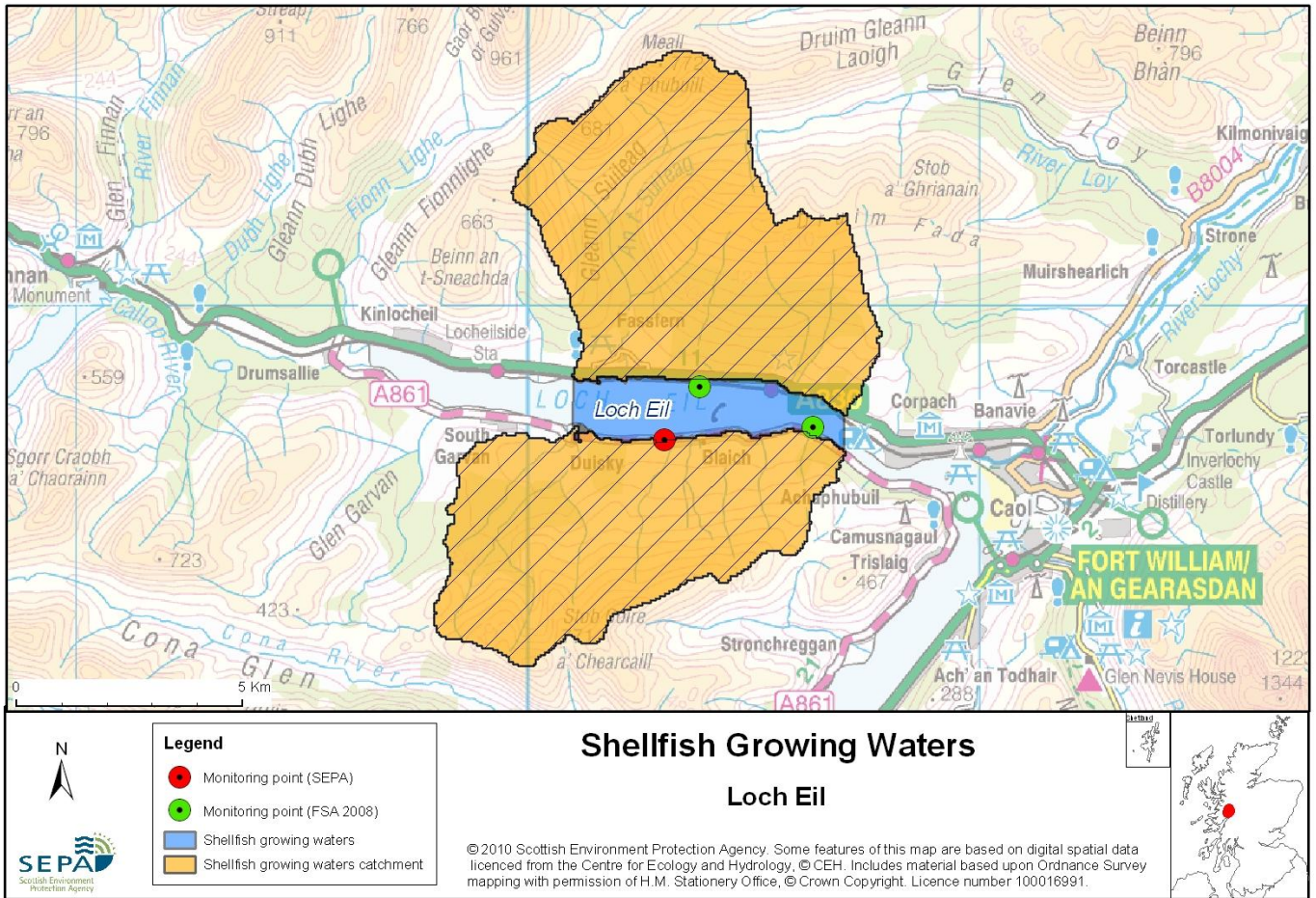


117 Loch Eil



Name	Loch Eil
Report Reference Number	117
WFD Code	UKS79923117
Local Information	Area bounded by lines drawn between NN0099778411 and NN0099477318 and between NN0699277564 and NN0700176821, extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km²)	6.76
Year of Designation	2005
Sampling Points	Loch Eil West of Blaich - NN 03030 77024
Commencement of Monitoring	2005

117.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

The western part of Loch Eil is designated by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as a Shellfish Harvesting Area for three different locations (Loch Eil – Duisky, Loch Eil – Garven, Loch Eil Fassferen). There are commercial interests for the harvesting of Common mussels (*Mytilus edulis*). The harvesting area overlaps the Shellfish Growing Area.

Loch Eil: Duisky and Garven (Common mussels)

2011 = A - April 7 may
B - June to December
2012 = B - January
A - February to March

Loch Eil: (Common mussels)

2011 = B - April to December
2012 = B - January to March

Loch Eil: Fassferen (Common mussels)

2011 = B - April to December
2012 = B - January to March

Category B requires that mussels have to be depurated, heat-treated or re-laid prior to human consumption.

FSA have not yet carried out a sanitary survey for this area.

For more information on Food Standards Agency Classification please visit:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/scotland/safety/hygienescot/shellmonitorscot/shellclassesscot/>

117.2 Bathymetric Information

Loch Eil is situated northwest of Fort William. It is a transitional water body that forms a dog leg at the north end of Loch Linnhe. It is very sheltered and has a total length of approximately 13kms, with a maximum water depth of 65m. A sill situated west of Rubha Dubh Uisge (near the west end of the loch), has a depth of 31m and the basin depth here is approximately 48m. The total length of the growing waters is approximately 6kms. There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

117.3 Conservation Designations

Special Protected Areas (SPA) – [Moidart and Ardgour](#)

Situated south of the loch and was designated 29/10/2010 for the internationally important breeding bird species – Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

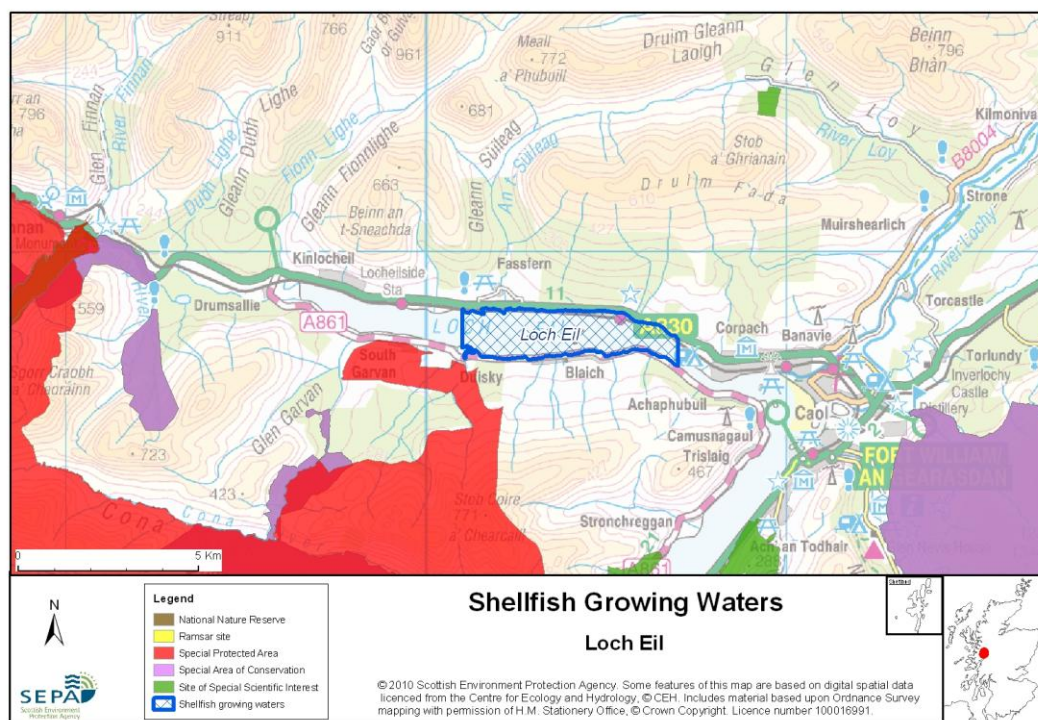
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) – [Ardgour Pinewoods](#)

Situated south of Loch Eil and was designated 17/03/2005. This SAC qualifies for international qualifying habitat (Alder woodlands on floodplains and Caledonian forest)

This is also designated as a **Water Dependent SAC** and **Groundwater Dependent SAC**

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Ardgour Pinewoods](#)

This area was designated 28/03/1996. Designated for species. (Beetles, Chequered skipper Butterfly (*Carterocephalus palaemon*), Native pinewood and reptiles.



117.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

Loch Eil lies to the west of Fort William, forming an arm of Loch Linnhe within hilly terrain. There are several small settlements around its shores, including the fairly large settlement of Corpach. There is a large amount of forestry within the catchment and many freshwater inputs.

SEPA currently has two Diffuse Source Pollution pressures assigned to this Shellfish Water. These precautionary pressures are attributed to livestock farming and sewage disposal, which represent the most likely source of this pollution. However bacterial source tracking is required to ascertain the source.

117.5 Point Source Discharge

There are a number of private point source discharges to the designated area from ribbon housing development along both sides of Loch Eil. There are two Scottish Water discharges of sewage effluent to the designated area from septic tanks serving small catchments at Fassfern and Camas-na-h-a. There are no marine cage fish farms within the designated waters or within 2 km of it. Corpach Sewage treatment Works discharges to Loch Eil approximately 1.5km to the East of the designated site.

Fort William Sewage Treatment works discharges to Loch Linnhe approximately 3.5 km to the South East of the designated site.

117.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

Year	Monitoring Regime
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly for DO, Salinity, pH and Temperature • Biannually for metals, Mercury, Arsenic, suspended solids, colour and organohalogenes in water • Annually for metals and organohalogenes in mussels • Quarterly for faecal coliforms in mussels

117.7 Compliance History

UKS79923117 - Loch Eil				
	Compliance history for Waters and Biota, excluding faecal coliforms data			Compliance history for faecal coliforms
Year	Overall Result	Imperative	Guideline	Guideline
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2007	Pass	Pass	Fail ¹	Pass
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail

¹ Failure relates to a non-compliance of dissolved oxygen with the Guideline standard. This does not affect the overall result.

The waters failed to comply with the Guideline standard for faecal coliforms in 2006 but there were no results for 2007 so defaulted to pass. The waters then failed again from 2008 to 2010.

117.8 Future Monitoring

Bacterial source tracking is recommended to ascertain the source of diffuse pollution that is likely causing the downgrade of this shellfish water.

The monitoring regime (117.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime) will continue but is reviewed annually.

117.9 Improvement Actions

Loch Eil is in a 3rd cycle priority catchment, which means measures should be in place to make this shellfish water achieve good status by 2027.

There are currently no improvement actions planned for the designated Shellfish Water associated with any point source discharges. SEPA will investigate any environmental complaint that may have an impact on water quality and will ensure appropriate corrective or remedial action is implemented

The discharge from Corpach and Fort william Sewage Treatment Works are monitored by SEPA to audit compliance with the terms of the respective environmental authorisations permitting each discharge.

WFD Objectives

Under the Water Framework Directive, the target objectives expect Loch Eil Shellfish Water to pass Imperative Shellfish Growing Waters Standards by 2105, with high confidence.

It is predicted that this shellfish water will not pass Guideline Shellfish Growing Waters Standards until the third river basin cycle in 2027 due to past failures for the faecal coliform standard.

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	Fail by 2015	Low	Fail by 2021	Low	Pass by 2027	Low

117.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
Identify and Reduce Diffuse Source Inputs. General ongoing monitoring of area in accordance with SEPA's statutory obligations	2027