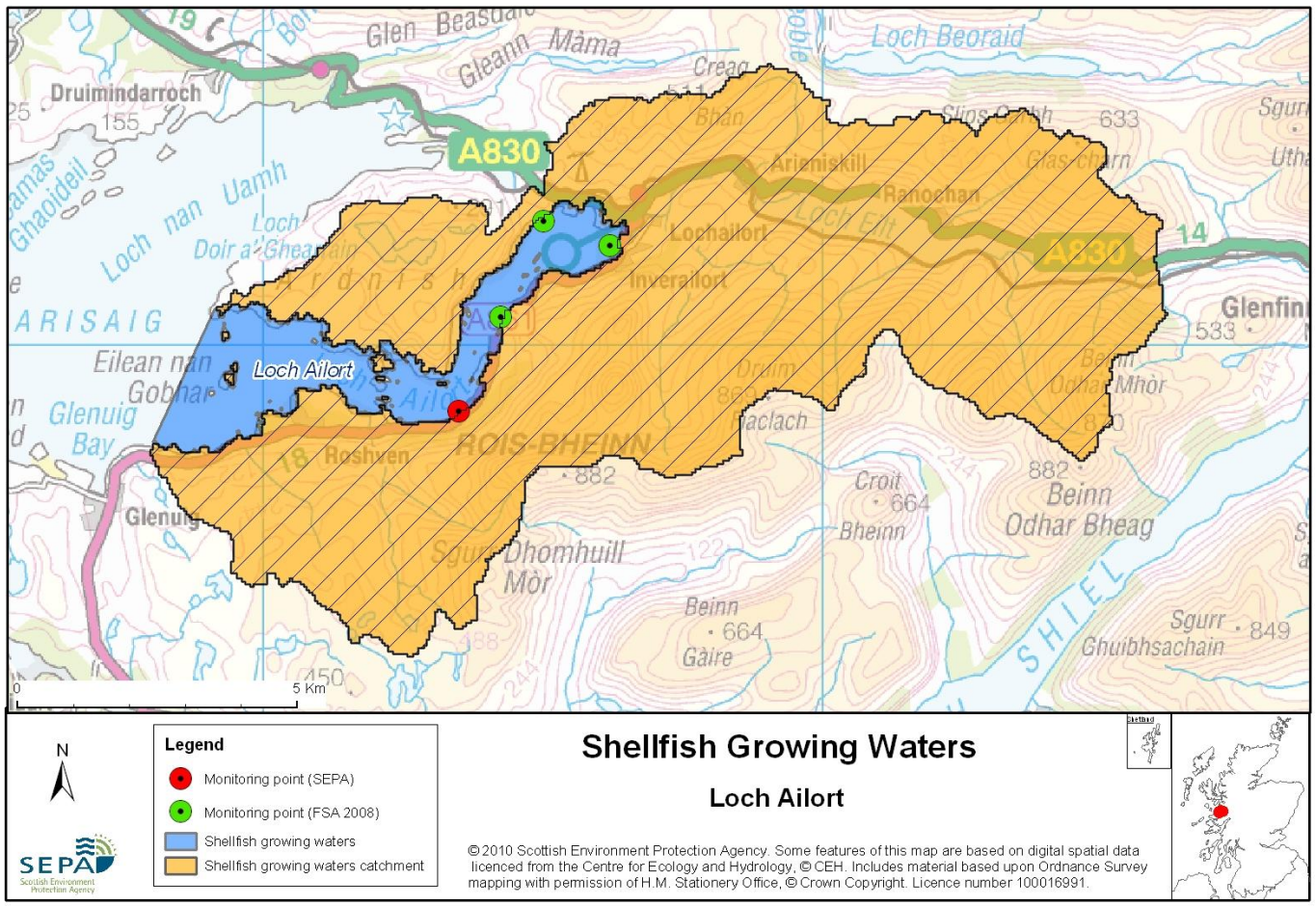
123 Loch Ailort



Name	Loch Ailort
Report Reference Number	123
WFD Code	UKS79923123
Local Information	An area bounded by lines drawn between NM6810078400 and NM6910080700, extending to the MHWS.
Designated Area (km²)	10.50
Year of Designation	2008
Sampling Points	Loch Ailort, South of An Taor-Geal - NM 73501 78811
Commencement of Monitoring	2008

123.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Part of Loch Ailort is also designated by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as a Shellfish Harvesting Area for the production of Common mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) and Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*).

Common mussels are classified at four sites within Loch Ailort (Camus Driseach, Eilean Dubh, Eilean Buidhe, Site 1 - Muckairn Mussels,). Loch Ailort: Camus Driseach is classified for Pacific oysters.

Loch Ailort: All sites (Common mussels)
2011 = A - April to December
2012 = A - January to March

Loch Ailort: Camus Driseach (Pacific oysters)
2011 = A - April to June
B - July to December
2012 = B - 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.

Loch Ailort (Camus Driseach and Eilean na Gualainn) was classified for Native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) but was declassified in 2010 by the FSA

FSA have carried out a sanitary survey for Loch Ailort.

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

123.2 Bathymetric Information

Loch Ailort Shellfish Growing Water extends the whole area of the Loch, which is 8.1km. The Loch has a maximum depth of 43m. The loch is made of 3 sills as below. The loch has a tidal range of 4.3m.

	Sill		
	1	**2**	**3**
Length (m)	2400	400	200
Area (m²)	400	600	2000
Depth (m)	4	15	11
Basin Depth (m)	14	23	43

123.3 Conservation Designations

Special Protection Area (SPA) – Moidart and Ardgour
Designated 28/10/2010 for internationally important aggregations of breeding birds - Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) –
Sound of Arisaig (Loch Ailort to Loch Ceann Traigh)
Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitat - Inshore sublittoral marine sediment
This is also designated as a **Water Dependent SAC**

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – Glen Beasdale
Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important species (Freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and Otter (*Lutra lutra*)) and habitat (Western acidic oak woodland)
This is also designated as a **Water Dependent SAC** and a **Groundwater Dependent SAC**

Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – Glen Beasdale
Designated 29/09/1986 for Upland oak woodland

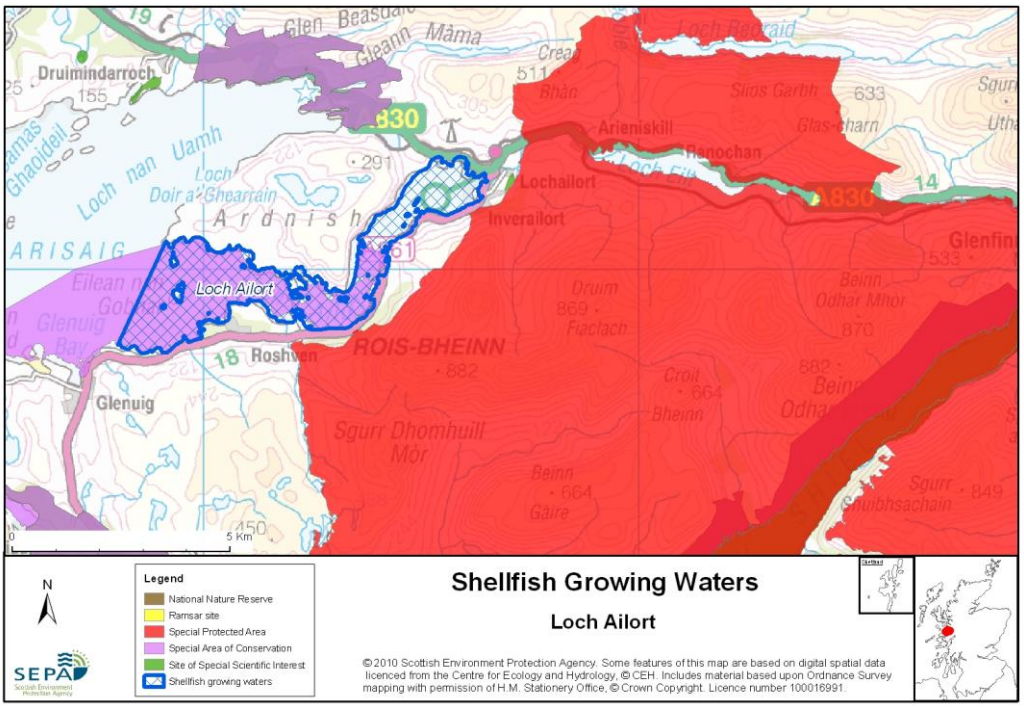
Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – Loch Dubh
Designated 29/09/1986 for Vascular plants - Club sedge (*Carex buxbaumii*)

Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – Druimindarroch
Designated 10/11/1986 for Structural and metamorphic geology (Moine)

Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – Lochailort
Designated 18/03/1987 for Structural and metamorphic geology (Moine)

Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – Loch Moidart
Designated for 10/11/1986 for Structural and metamorphic geology (Moine), Upland oak woodland, mudflat, saltmarsh, Beetle (*Schizotus pectinicornis*)

Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – River Moidart
Designated 19/03/1998 for Freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)



123.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The land around the designated shellfish water is mostly a mixture of heather moorland and semi-natural woodland. There is also some improved pasture land and blanket bog in the surrounding area.

The most likely reason for guideline faecal coliform failures (see 123.7 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.

123.5 Point Source Discharge

There is one fish farm within the designated shellfish water with a biomass of 300 tonnes.

Category	Name	Consent No.	NGR	Biomass (t)	Additional Information
Fish Farm	Ardnish	CAR/L/1002887	NM 7550 8150	300	-

There are no Scottish Water assets discharging to the designated area although there are private discharges of sewage effluent from housing development with small clusters of such discharges centred at Roshven and at Inverailort. There is a commercial fish hatchery operation at Inverailort with a discharge of trade effluent made to Loch Ailort.

123.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

Year	Monitoring Regime
2005 -	• Quarterly for Sal, DO, pH, temperature, visible oil • Twice yearly for metals in water • Annually for metals and organohalogens in mussels • Quarterly for faecal coliforms in mussels

123.7 Compliance History

UKS79923123 - Loch Ailort				
	Compliance history for Waters and Biota, excluding faecal coliforms data			Compliance history for faecal coliforms
Year	Overall Result	Imperative	Guideline	Guideline
2008	Pass	No Data	No Data	Fail
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Loch Ailort was designated as a Shellfish Water in 2008. It failed the guideline standards for faecal coliforms in 2008 and 2009 but passed in 2010.

123.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (123.6 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.

123.9 Improvement Actions

There are currently no improvement actions planned for this designated Shellfish Water. However as this is a relatively new designated Shellfish Water (designated in 2008), improvement actions may be required if it continues to fail standards. SEPA will investigate any environmental complaint that may have an impact on water quality and will ensure appropriate corrective or remedial action is implemented

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.

The Guideline Shellfish Growing Water Standards are not predicted to pass until 2027 (third River Basin Management Plan Cycle). This is due to past failures of the Guideline faecal coliform standards.

Loch Ailort lies within the Ardnamurchan Coastal catchment, which is a third cycle priority catchment, this means measures will be in place and the protected area will pass by 2027. Target objectives may be revised after the first River Basin Management Plan Cycle.

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

123.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
No specific improvement actions required other than general ongoing monitoring of area in accordance with SEPA's statutory obligations	N/A