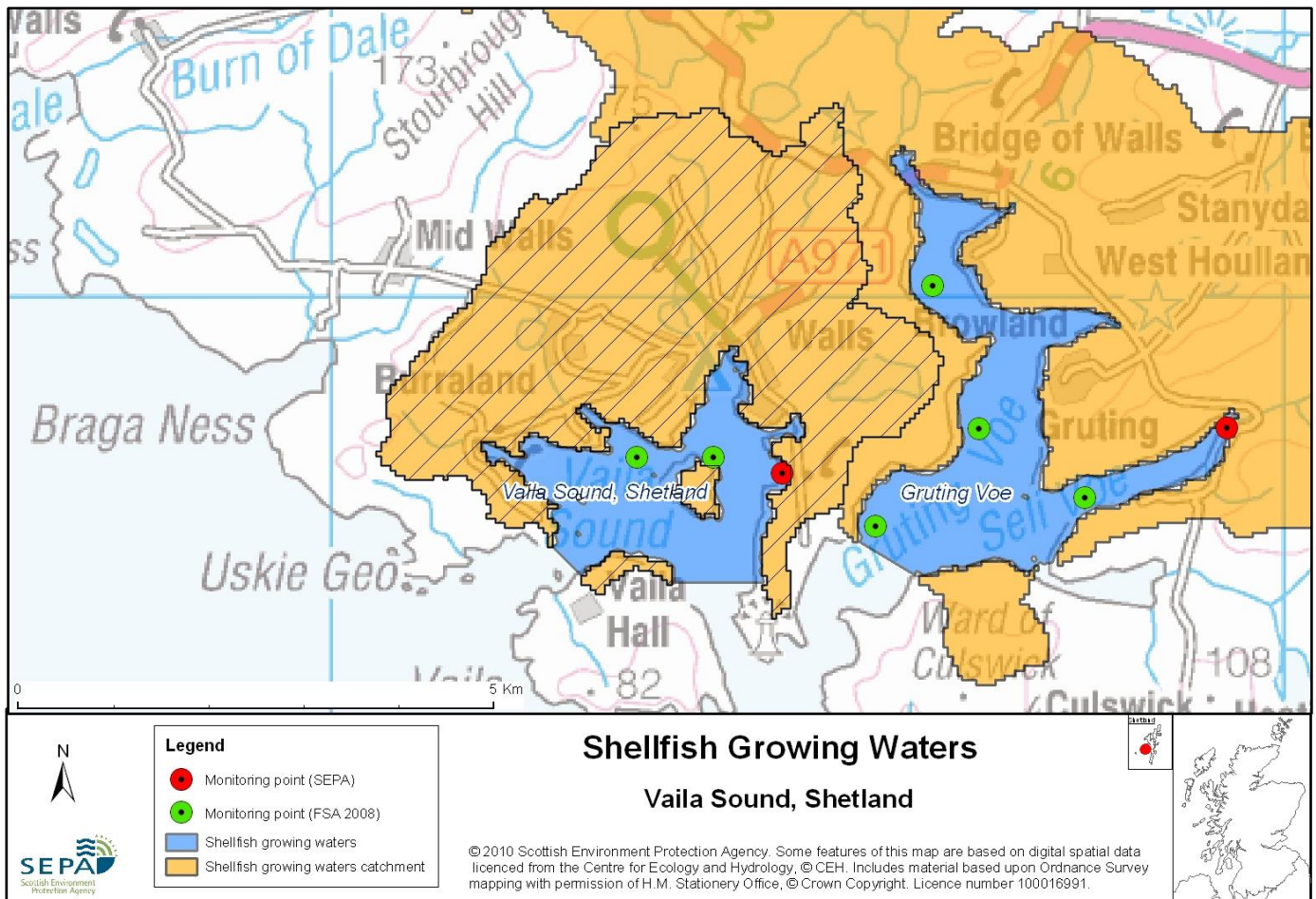


24 Vaia Sound, Shetland



Name	Vaia Sound, Shetland
Report Reference Number	24
WFD Code	UKS7992324
Local Information	An area inshore of a line drawn between the points HU2359947000 and HU2454047000 and between HU2261747083 and HU2232347377, and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km²)	3.47
Year of Designation	2000
Sampling Points	Vaia Sound Mussel Site (From July 2003) - HU 24740 48150
Commencement of Monitoring	2000

24.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Within the Vaila Sound Shellfish Within this Shellfish Water there are two designated Food Standards Agency (FSA) Shellfish Harvesting Areas for the production of Common mussels (*Mytilus edulis*).

Vaila Sound has three sites classified by FSA for common mussels (East of Linga, Whitesness and Linga)

Vaila Sound: All sites (Common mussels)
2011 = B - April to September
A - October To December
2012 = A - January to March

Vaila Sound: Riskaness has two sites classified by FSA for common mussels (Riskaness and Lera Voe)

Vaila Sound: Riskaness: All sites (Common mussels)
2011 = A - April 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 Vaila Sound.

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

24.2 Bathymetric Information

Vaila Sound is an open area of water with a total length of approximately 2 km and is about 2 km wide. It derives shelter from the SW by the island of Vaila and has a maximum water depth of 26 m. There are no sills but several islands lie within the growing water. There are no morphological pressures in the area.

24.3 Conservation Designations

Within this Shellfish Water there are two designated Food Standards Agency (FSA) Shellfish Harvesting Areas.

To the east of this site there is Gruting Voe Shellfish Water ([UKS7992349](#)), which contains four FSA Shellfish Harvesting Areas.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Fidlar Geo to Watsness](#)

Designated 29/05/1987 for Stratigraphy - Non-marine Devonian

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Ward of Culswick](#)

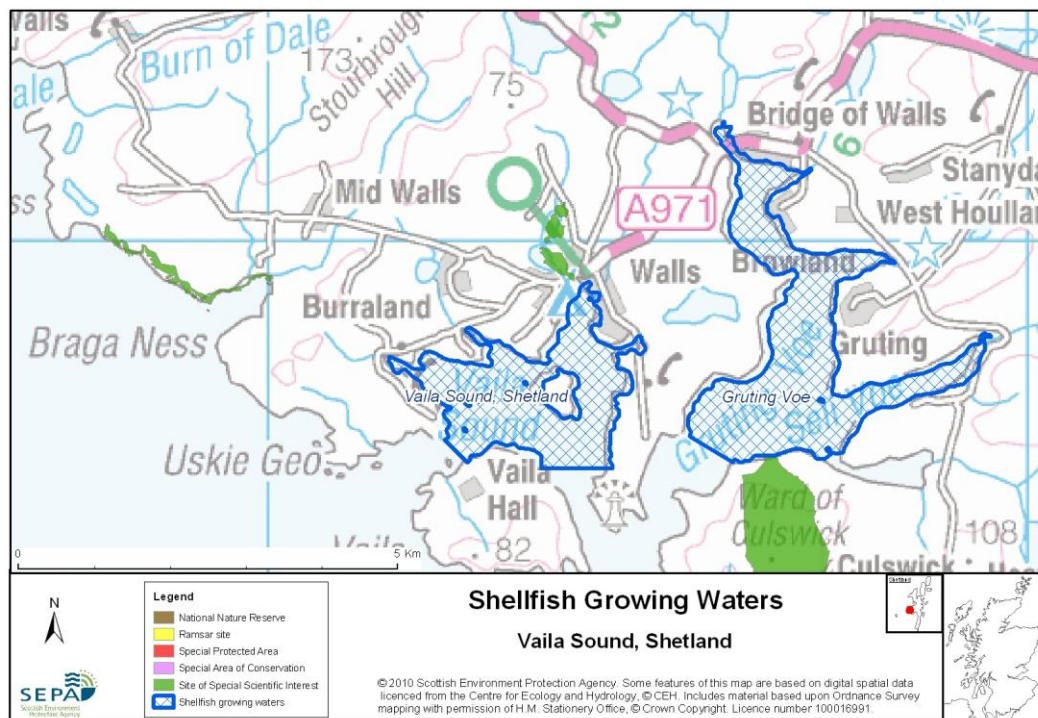
Designated 25/01/1988 for aggregations of breeding birds (Arctic skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*))

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Culswick Marsh](#)

Designated 10/05/1983 for Fen, marsh and swamp (Wetland)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Lochs of Kirkigarth and Bardister](#)

Designated 10/05/1983 for Standing open water and canals – mesotrophic loch



24.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The land surrounding Vaile Sound comprises a fairly even mix of improved pasture and semi-natural grassland. Situated at the north-eastern, upper extremity of the sound, the small village of Walls is the only significant settlement. The minor freshwater inputs, although not monitored, are assumed to be of good quality.

24.5 Point Source Discharge

There are five fish farms within the designated shellfish waters with a combined biomass of 3595 tonnes.

Type	Name	Treatment	Consent No.	NGR	PE	Additional Information
Scottish Water Asset	Walls ST	ST (discharges to below low water at all tidal stages)	CAR/L/1002294	HU 243 489	260	Installed 2000
	Foula ferry pier		SD42	HU 239 489	< 50	-
Other	Single private household ST	Septic Tank	-	-	< 100	-
Category	Name	Consent No.	NGR	Biomass (t)	Additional Information	
Fish Farm	Lera Voe, Vaila	WPC/N/62050(01)*	HU22304830	100	-	
	Whitesness	WPC/N/70181*	HU24304720	400	-	
	Cloudin, Valia Sound	CAR/L/1004036	HU23304750	1995	-	
	Burrastow, Vaila Sound	CAR/L/1005095-VN1	HU22604760	600	-	
	East of Linga	WPC/N/62010(01)*	HU24204800	500	-	

* There are no CAR authorisations for these sites at present.

24.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

Site	Current Monitoring	Comments
Vaila Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly for faecal coliforms in mussels Once every three years for metals and organohalogenes in mussels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampled by the FSA

24.7 Compliance History

UKS7992324 - Vaila Sound, Shetland				
	Compliance history for Waters and Biota, excluding faecal coliforms data			Compliance history for faecal coliforms
Year	Overall Result	Imperative	Guideline	Guideline
2000	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2001	Fail	Fail ¹	Pass	Pass
2002	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2003	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2004	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2005	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

¹ In 2001, there was a single failure to meet the Imperative standard for copper. The other results obtained between 2000 and 2005 were all within the 5 ug/l standard. The 2001 failure therefore appears to be unusual and possibly due to monitoring error. There did not appear to be any harm to local mussel populations.

This site has passed guideline faecal coliforms standards every year, with the exception of 2008.

24.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (24.6 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.

24.9 Improvement Actions

A new septic tank was installed in Walls in 2000, which has connected many separate discharges.

There are no further improvement actions currently planned for this area.

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 Shellfish Growing Water Standards, with high confidence.

The Guideline Shellfish Growing Water Standards are predicted to pass by the second River Basin Management Plan Cycle in 2021 with low confidence. This is due to the failure of guideline faecal coliform standards in 2008. Target Objectives were set in 2008 based on the data available, therefore target objectives may change as this shellfish water passed guideline faecal coliform standards in 2009 (and in all other years with the exception of 2008)

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	High	Pass by 2021	Low	Pass by 2027	Low

24.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
New septic tank installed at Walls.	2002
No improvement actions currently planned.	N/A