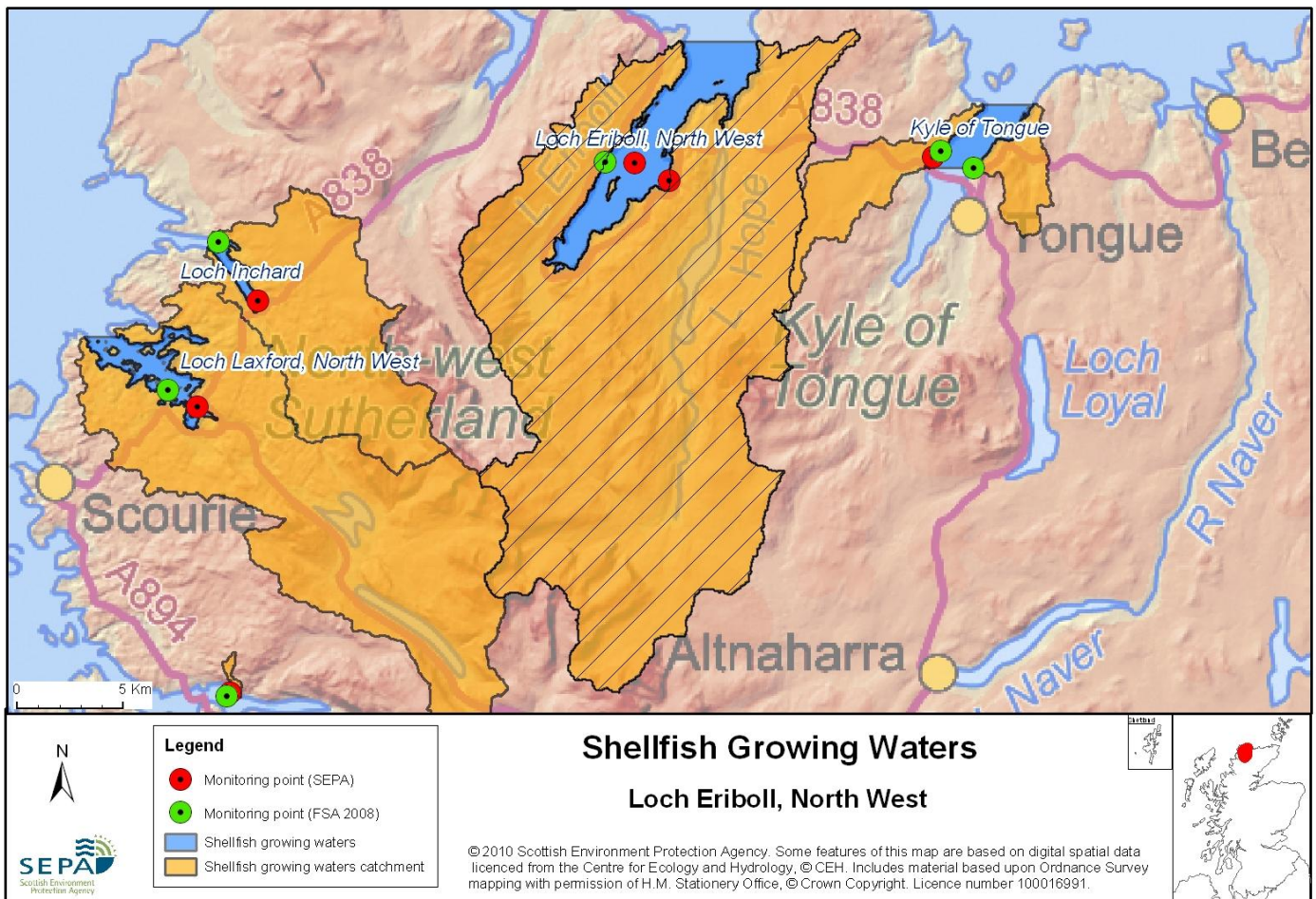


26 Loch Eriboll, North West



Name	Loch Eriboll, North West
Report Reference Number	26
WFD Code	UKS7992326
Local Information	An area inshore of a line drawn between the points NC4904465000 and NC4544965000, and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km²)	27.03
Year of Designation	2000
Sampling Points	Loch Eriboll Mussel Site - NC 44911 58396
Commencement of Monitoring	2000

26.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Loch Eriboll 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 areas (Loch Eriboll, Loch Eriboll – MacLennan, Loch Eriboll – Mathers, Loch Eriboll – McGowan) all of which are class A as below.

Pacific oysters are classified from two areas (Loch Eriboll, Loch Eriboll – MacLennan) and are both Class B.

Loch Eriboll – (Common Mussels)
2011 = A - April to December
2012 = A - January to March

Loch Eriboll – (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 not conducted sanitary surveys for Loch Eriboll

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

26.2 Bathymetric Information

Loch Eriboll lies on the north coast of Scotland. Its north east aspect and narrow profile provide shelter from prevailing westerly winds. The loch has a total length of 15.5 km. The growing water is located in the inner area of the loch. One sill is located near the entrance of the loch, south of Rispond Bay. Maximum water depth is 68 m. The average flushing time for the loch is 4 days. Loch Eriboll catchment area is estimated at 107 km². The fresh/tidal flow ratio, which reflects the degree of possible influence of freshwater on the overall salinity is low (0.1) for the size of the loch. There are no morphological pressures on the area.

26.3 Conservation Designations

Loch Eriboll is designated by FSA as a Shellfish Harvesting area.

East of Loch Eriboll is Kyle of Tongue (designated as Shellfish Water – [UKS7992356](#), and also designated by FSA as a Shellfish Harvesting Area) and Rabbit Island FSA Shellfish Harvesting Area.

RAMSAR – [Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands](#)

Designated 02/02/1999 for internationally important breeding birds (including Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) and Greylag goose (*Anser anser*)) and internationally important habitat (upland blanket bog).

Special Protected Area (SPA) – [Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands](#)

Designated 02/02/1999 for internationally important aggregations of breeding birds - Black-throated diver (*Gavia arctica*), Common scoter (*Melanitta nigra*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*), Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*), Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)

This is also a **Water Dependent SPA** and **Groundwater Dependent SPA**

Special Protected Area (SPA) - [North Sutherland Coastal Islands](#)

Designated 02/02/1999 for aggregations of non-breeding birds - Greenland Barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

This is also a **Water Dependent SPA**

Special Protected Area (SPA) – [Cape Wrath](#)

Designated 25/09/2009 for aggregations of breeding birds - Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), Guillemot (*Uria aalge*), Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

This is also a **Water Dependent SPA**

Special Protected Area (SPA) – [Foinaven](#)

Designated 28/10/2010 for aggregations of internationally important breeding bird species - Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitat (Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, upland blanket bog, Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, bogs - Depressions on peat substrates, Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) and important species (Marsh saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*))

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

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Foinaven](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitats (Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, Acidic scree, Alpine and subalpine heaths, upland blanket bog, Depressions on peat substrates, Dwarf shrub heath (Upland), Montane acid grasslands) and internationally important species (Freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*))

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

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Durness](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for habitats (Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands, Base-rich fens, Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools, Dry heaths, Dune grassland, Humid dune slacks, Limestone pavements, Shifting dunes with marram, Tall herb communities) and species (Otter (*Lutra lutra*))

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

26.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The land bordering Loch Eriboll comprises a mixture of blanket bog and heather moorland. Very little is used for agriculture or forestry. The A838 circuits the loch, but there are no settlements of any significant size.

The main freshwater input to Loch Eriboll is the River Hope, which drains a catchment area of 214 km² characterised by open moorland and mountain. The quality of the river as it enters the loch is monitored and classified by SEPA as good. Another significant freshwater input is the River Polla, which is also classified as good.

SEPA does not have diffuse source pollution pressures recorded as causing downgrades recorded for this shellfish water.

26.5 Point Source Discharge

Type	Name	Treatment	Consent No.	NGR	PE	Additional Information
Scottish Water Asset	Port na Con	Septic Tank	WPC/N/60855*	NC 4270 6040	11	B& B house sleeps 11 consent issued to Mrs L Black not a SW asset
Category	Name		Consent No.	NGR	Biomass (t)	Additional Information
Fish Farm	Sian Bay		CAR/L/1003109-	NC 4457 6247	938	Both of these have been varied so think we should either put VN01 for both or neither-
	Kempie bay		CAR/L/1003110	NC 4462 5809	400	-

* There is no CAR consent number for this site at present.

There are two marine cage fish farms located within the designated water. These farms have a total consented salmon biomass of 1338 tonnes.

SEPA does not have point source pollution pressures recorded as causing downgrades recorded for this shellfish water.

26.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

This monitoring regime of the designated area was not fully implemented until the second half of 2005.

Year	Monitoring Regime
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly for Sal, DO, pH, temperature, visible oil • Every three years for metals and organohalogens in mussels, next collection scheduled for 2011 • Quarterly for faecal coliforms in mussels

26.7 Compliance History

UKS7992326 - Loch Eriboll, North West				
	Compliance history for Waters and Biota, excluding faecal coliforms data			Compliance history for faecal coliforms
Year	Overall Result	Imperative	Guideline	Guideline
2000	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass
2001	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass
2002	Pass	Pass	Fail ¹	Pass
2003	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2004	Fail	Fail ²	Pass	Pass
2005	Pass	Pass	Fail ³	Pass
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

¹In 2002, two measurements failed to reach G value of 80% dissolved oxygen saturation. However, average values were above 70%, so the I value was met. This indicates that low values were unusual. No harmful consequences for the development of shellfish colonies were observed.

²Failure relates to a zinc result of 17.7 µg/l in January 2004 which fails the Imperative standard of 10.0 µg/l.

³Failure relates to two single fails of arsenic (33.81 and 37.92 mg/kg) found in biota taken in December 2005 which breaches the guideline standard of 30 mg/kg.

The waters have consistently complied with the Guideline standard for faecal coliforms since monitoring began in 2000.

26.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (26.6 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.

26.9 Improvement Actions

There are currently no actions required 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

26.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
No improvement actions currently required	N/A