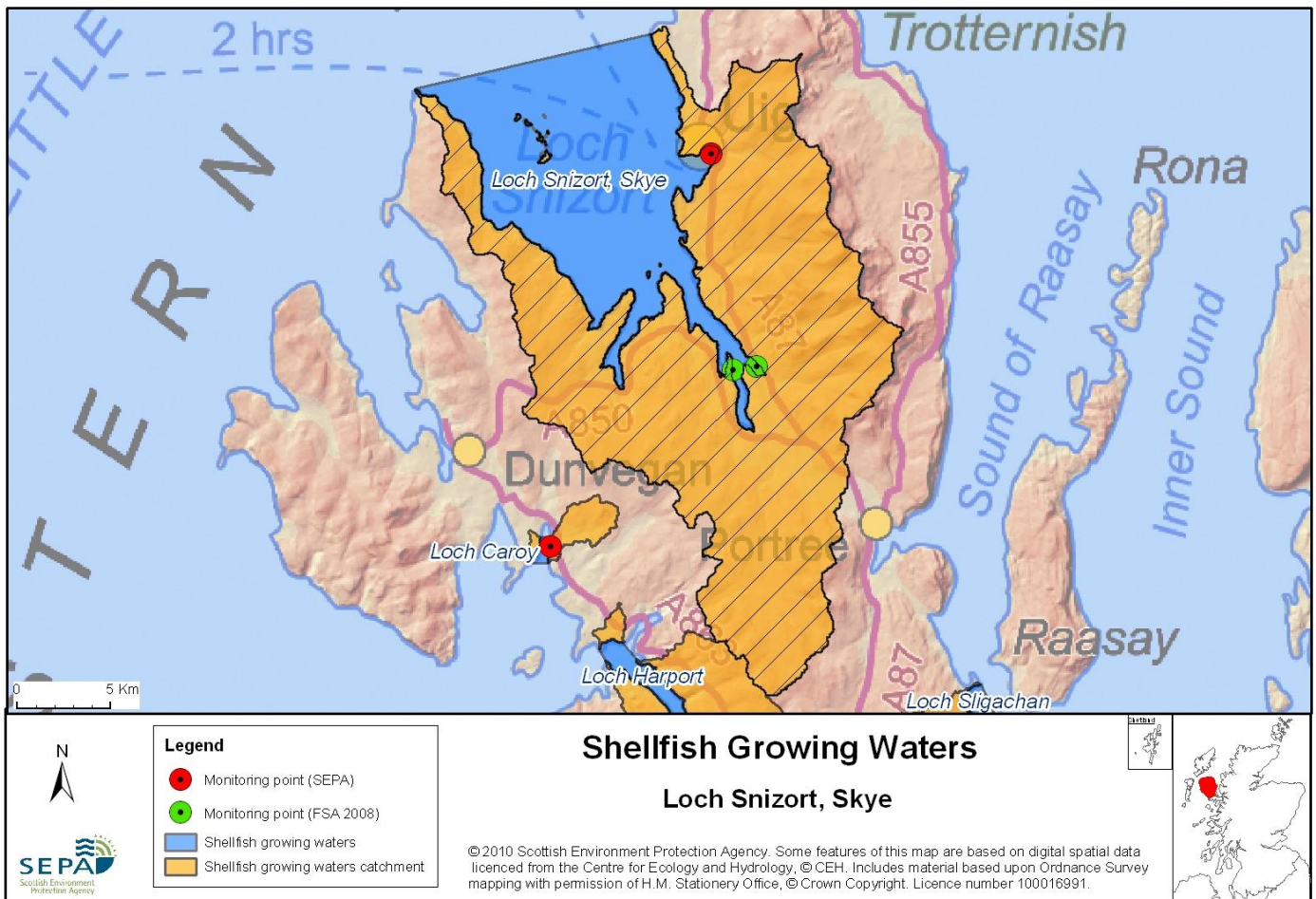


## 29 Loch Snizort, Skye



<b>Name</b>	<b>Loch Snizort, Skye</b>
<b>Report Reference Number</b>	29
<b>WFD Code</b>	UKS7992329
<b>Local Information</b>	An area inshore of a line drawn between the points NG2328867085 Waternish Point and NG3591870004, and extending to MHWS.
<b>Designated Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	145.92
<b>Year of Designation</b>	2000
<b>Sampling Points</b>	Loch Snizort Mussel Site - NG 39209 63623
<b>Commencement of Monitoring</b>	2000

## 29.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

There are two small area of Loch Snizort that were designated as Shellfish Harvesting Areas by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), for the production of Common periwinkles (*Littorina littorea*) and Common cockles (*Cerastoderma edule*), these were declassified in 2011.

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

## 29.2 Bathymetric Information

Loch Snizort shellfish growing water has a total length of approximately 22 km and a maximum water depth of 84 m. It is exposed and open to the north west and is approximately 10 km wide at its seaward edge. There are no morphological pressures in the area.

## 29.3 Conservation Designations

There are two other designated Shellfish Waters south of Loch Snizort, Loch Harport ([UKS7992375](#)) and Loch Caroy ([UKS7992363](#)). Part of Loch Caroy is also designated by the FSA as a Shellfish Harvesting Area.

### **Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Ascrib, Isay and Dunvegan](#)**

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important species Common seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

This is also a **Water Dependent SAC**

### **Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Trotternish Ridge](#)**

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitats (Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands, Base-rich scree, Dry heaths, High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, Montane acid grasslands, Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks, Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas, Tall herb communities

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

### **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Trotternish Ridge \(Storr to Quirang\)](#)**

Designated 12/07/1990 for Stratigraphy (Bathonian, Callovian, Kimmeridgian and Oxfordian), Igneous petrology (Tertiary Igneous), Bryophyte assemblage, Upland assemblage, Vascular plant assemblage

### **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Geary Ravine](#)**

Designated 18/09/1984 for Tall herb ledge, Upland mixed ash woodland

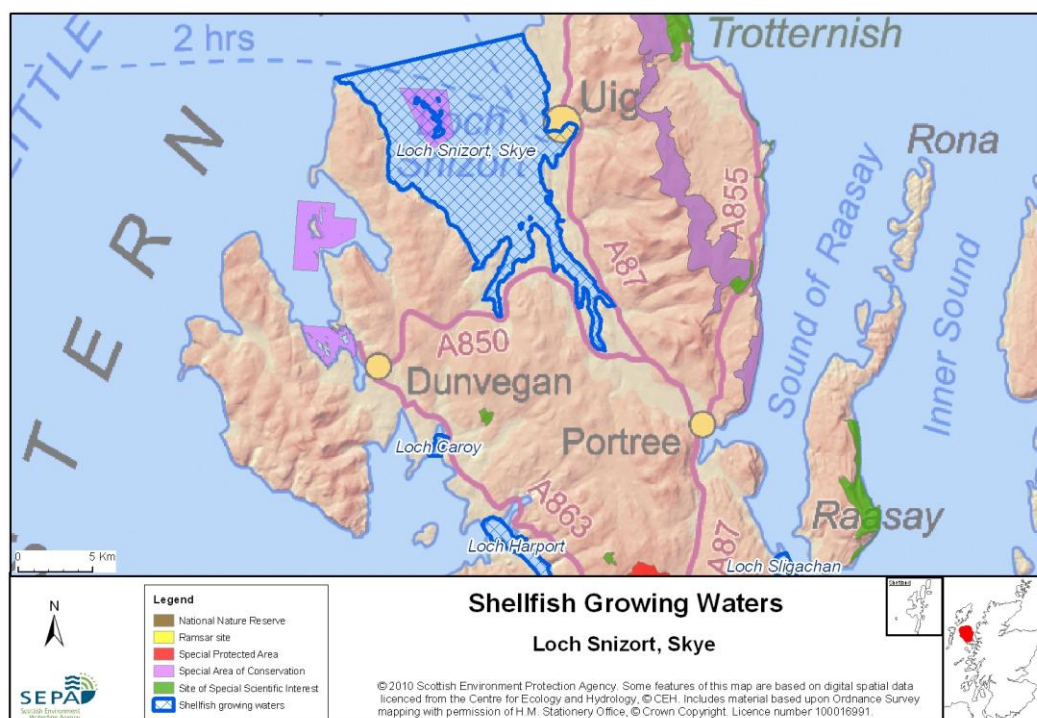
### **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Rubha Hunish](#)**

Designated 07/12/1984 for Igneous petrology (Tertiary Igneous), Maritime cliff

### **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Loch Cleat](#)**

Designated 02/04/1990 for Quaternary geology and geomorphology of Scotland

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – An Cleireach**  
Designated 18/09/1984 for Igneous petrology (Tertiary Igneous)



#### 29.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The catchment area bordering the loch comprises a fairly even mix of heather moorland, rough ground, and improved pasture, although there is a small amount of coniferous forestry along approximately 25% of the western shoreline. There are numerous small settlements by the shores of the loch, including Skeabost, Bernisdale, Kensaleyre, and Clachamish with larger settlements at Edinbane and Uig served by public sewerage systems. The A87 to Uig runs close to the east of the loch, and the A850 skirts parts of the southern shore. The Snizort River, flowing into Loch Snizort Beag in the south-east, is the most significant freshwater input. It is classified by SEPA as being of excellent quality.

The most likely reason for guideline faecal coliform failures (see 29.7 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.

## 29.5 Point Source Discharge

Three marine cage fish (salmon) farms are located within this shellfish water, one in Uig Bay, one in Loch Snizort Beag and one in Loch Greshornish although only the Loch Greshornish unit is operational at this time.

Type	Name	Treatment	Consent No.	NGR	PE	Additional Information
Scottish Water Assets	Edinbane	Septic Tank	I/B10/007/83[01]*	NG 3432 5082	40	New housing development for the village of Edinbane is planned
	Uig Pier	Septic Tank	WPC/N/72651 *	NG 3869 6363	450 (estimated)	-
	Uig STW	Sewage Treatment Works	WPC/N/72652 *	NG 3945 6405		-
Other	Numerous single houses in un-sewered areas in small coastal settlements along Loch side					
Category	Name	Consent No.	NGR	Biomass (t)	Additional Information	
Fish Farm	Greshornish	CAR/L/1002890	NG 3500 5530	1875	-	
	Snizort/Seal rock	WPC/N/70168	NG 3790 5550	500	not operational	
	Uig Bay, Isle of Skye	WPC/N/70215	NG 3850 6250	1000	not operational	

\* no CAR number yet

## 29.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

The following monitoring regime was implemented in the second half of 2005.

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

## 29.7 Compliance History

UKS7992329 - Loch Snizort, Skye				
	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	Fail
2001	Fail	Fail <sup>1</sup>	Fail <sup>1</sup>	Fail
2002	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2003	Pass	Pass	Fail <sup>2</sup>	Fail
2004	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2005	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail

<sup>1</sup>In 2001, there was a failure to meet the Imperative standard for copper. Two results were obtained for this parameter, 1.54 µg l<sup>-1</sup> and 12.6 µg l<sup>-1</sup> respectively (the maximum allowable concentration in this instance being 5 µg l<sup>-1</sup>). Although copper is used in antifouling chemicals at some fish farms, the high concentration is not thought to be significant.

<sup>2</sup>There was a marginal Guideline fail for nickel in 2003 in shellfish tissue of 5.34 µg/l, the Guideline standard being 5 µg/l.

The shellfish waters have mainly failed to comply with the Guideline standard for faecal coliforms, with only one pass in 2005.

## 29.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (29.6 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.

## 29.9 Improvement Actions

Uig septic tank was replaced in order to provide a treatment facility under Scottish Water's Q&SII programme. There are no further sewerage improvements planned. The marine cage fish farm sited within Loch Greshornish is subject to monitoring by SEPA to ensure compliance with the terms of the sites environmental authorisation.

## 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 not predicted to pass until 2027 (third River Basin Management Plan Cycle). This is due to past failures of the Guideline faecal coliform standards. 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

## 29.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
Uig septic tank replaced to provide treatment facility under Q&SII. There are currently no improvement actions planned for this 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	Done