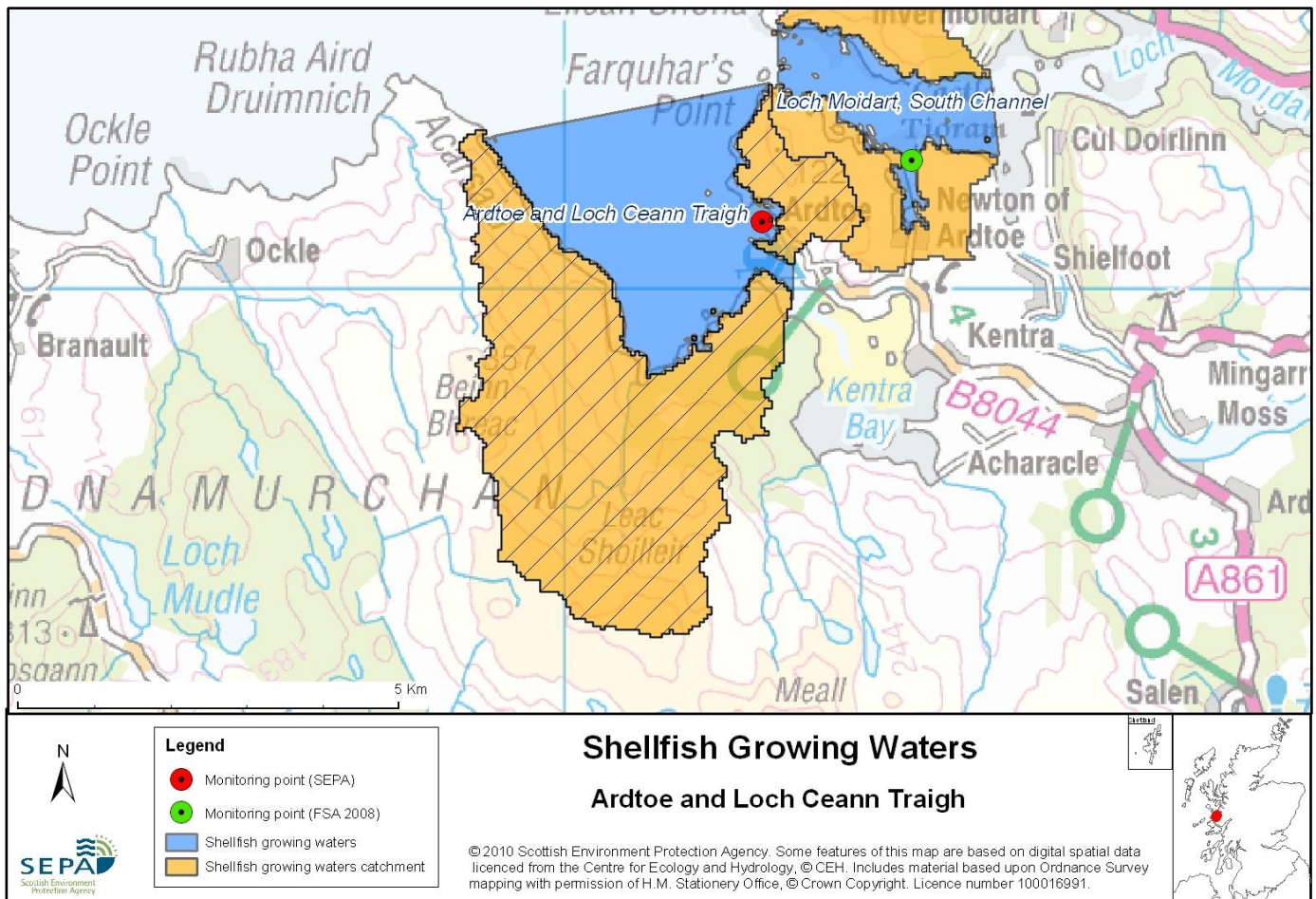


34 Ardtoe and Loch Ceann Traigh



Name	Ardtoe and Loch Ceann Traigh
Report Reference Number	34
WFD Code	UKS7992334
Local Information	An area bounded by lines drawn between NM5896071973 (Rubha na h-Acairseid) and NM6280072702 and between NM6300070299 and NM6300069862, and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km²)	7.93
Year of Designation	2002
Sampling Points	Ardtoe Mussel Site - NM 62598 70875
Commencement of Monitoring	2003

34.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

This area is not designated by the Food Standards Agency and therefore no classification is available.

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

34.2 Bathymetric Information

Ardtoe and Loch Ceann Traigh is situated on the north side of the Ardnamurchan peninsula and comprises part of the Sound of Arisaig. It is sheltered from south/south westerly winds but is exposed to northerly winds. It has a low turbidity.

Maximum water depth around this area is approximately 44m. The total length of the growing waters area is approximately 3km.

34.3 Conservation Designations

To the east of this Shellfish Water is Loch Moidart, South Channel designated Shellfish Water ([UKS7992383](#)). Most of Loch Moidart, South Channel is also designated as a Shellfish Harvesting Area by the FSA

National Nature Reserve (NNR) – [Claish Moss](#)

Designated 21/09/1978

RAMSAR – [Claish Moss](#)

Designated 24/07/1981 for internationally important habitat (upland blanket bog)

Special Protected Area (SPA) – [Loch Shiel](#)

Designated 02/02/2000 for internationally important aggregations of breeding birds - Black-throated diver (*Gavia arctica*)

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

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Claish Moss and Kentra Moss](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitat (upland blanket bog, upland Depressions on peat substrates)

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

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Loch Moidart and Loch Shiel Woods](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important species (Otter (*Lutra lutra*)) and habitat (Alder woodland on floodplains, Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, Western acidic oak woodland)

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

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [River Moidart](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important species - Freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)

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

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) –
[Sound of Arisaig \(Loch Ailort to Loch Ceann Traigh\)](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitat - Subtidal sandbanks
This is also a **Water Dependent SAC**

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Kentra Bay and Moss](#)

Designated 30/03/1990 for upland blanket bog, Bryophyte assemblage, Lichen assemblage, Vascular plant assemblage, Upland oak woodland, Saltmarsh, Mudflat, Maritime cliffs.

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

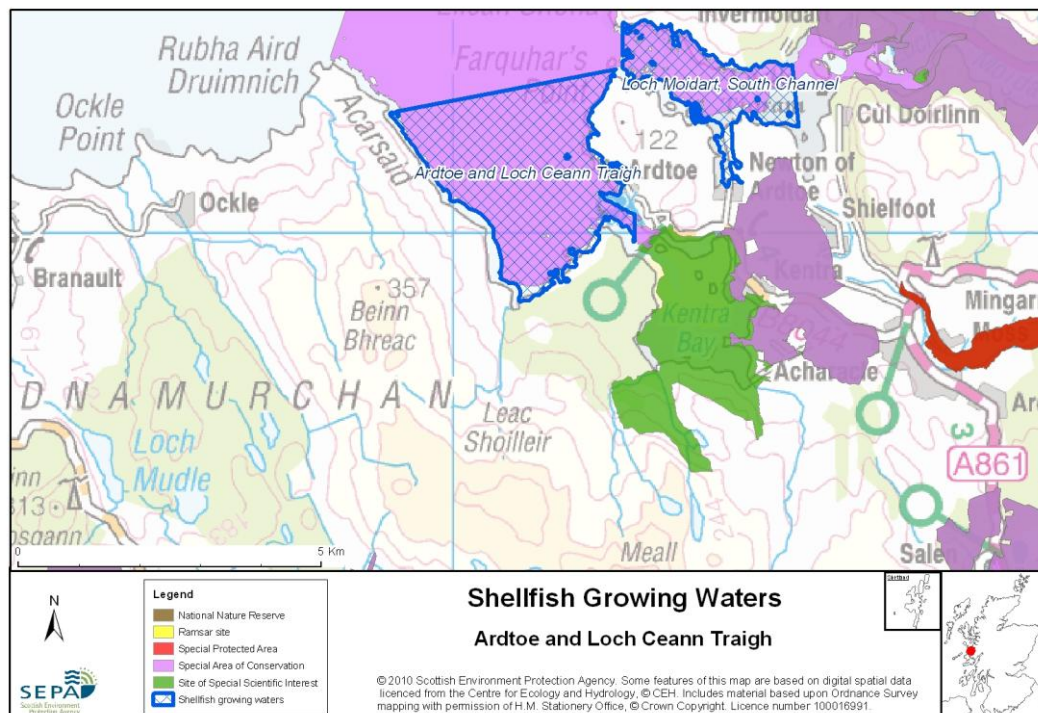
Designated 10/11/1986 for Structural and metamorphic geology (moine), Mudflat, Saltmarsh, Upland oak woodland, Beetle species (*Schizotus pectinicornis*)

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

Designated 18/03/1991 for habitats (Oligotrophic loch, Upland oak woodland, Native pinewood), Bryophyte assemblage and species – butterflies (Chequered skipper (*Carterocephalus palaemon*)) and aggregations of breeding birds (Black-throated diver (*Gavia arctica*))

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Claish Moss](#)

Designated 05/06/1985 for assemblages of breeding birds, Dragonfly assemblage, Upland blanket Bog



34.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The land around the designated area is mainly of heather moorland and conifer plantation. A minor road runs around Kentra Bay, linking the few houses between Kentra and Ardtoe, on the shore of the designated area.

Freshwater inputs directly to the designated area are limited to minor streams. Further inputs reach the designated area via Kentra Bay. None of these are monitored by SEPA but are considered to be of at least good quality since there are minimal stresses on them.

The most likely reason for guideline faecal coliform failures (see 34.7 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.

34.5 Point Source Discharge

There are no fish farms within at least 2km of the designated area. Historically, a cage fish farm trial unit for halibut existed in Loch Moidart.

There is a small septic tank discharge to the designated area from the Marine Farming Unit at Ardtoe. This installation is also permitted to discharge effluent from a small shore based fish hatchery operation however this is of low polluting potential. It is likely that there are additional isolated septic tank discharges from houses, or groupings of houses, along the coastline of the designated area extending into Loch Ceann Traigh.

34.6 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">• 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

34.7 Compliance History

UKS7992334 - Ardtoe and Loch Ceann Traigh				
	Compliance history for Waters and Biota, excluding faecal coliforms data			Compliance history for faecal coliforms
Year	Overall Result	Imperative	Guideline	Guideline
2003	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2004	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2005	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
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

The shellfish waters have consistently failed to comply with the guideline standard for faecal coliforms since 2003. Sampling for organics in water has been suspended since 2005.

34.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (34.6 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.

34.9 Improvement Actions

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

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

34.10 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