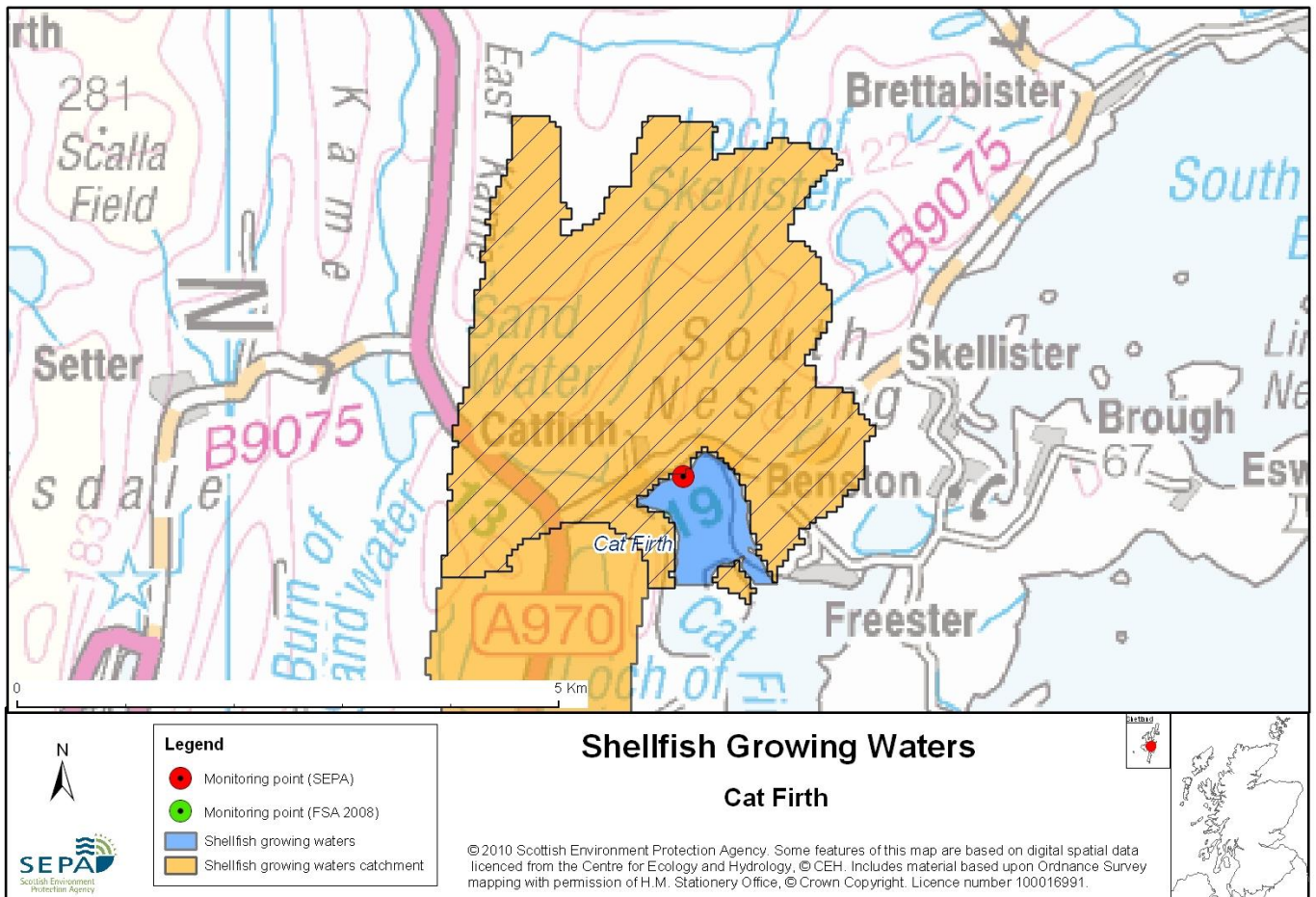


## 39 Cat Firth



Name	Cat Firth
Report Reference Number	39
WFD Code	UKS7992339
Local Information	An area north of a line drawn between HU4414053000 and HU4507253010, and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	0.77
Year of Designation	2002
Sampling Points	Cat Firth Mussel Site (From July 2003) - HU 44210 54000
Commencement of Monitoring	2003

Cat Firth – UKS7992339

Last Edited – 01/06/11

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### 39.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Cat Firth was designated as a Shellfish Harvesting Area by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for the production of Common mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) but was de-designated in 2009, there is no classification available.

FSA did not conduct a sanitary survey in Cat Firth

For more information on Food Standards Agency Classification please visit:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/scotland/safetyhygienescot/shellmonitorscot/shellclassesscot/>

### 39.2 Bathymetric Information

Cat Firth is located on the east coast of mainland Shetland. Its east aspect shelters the waters from south/south westerly winds. The Firth's total length is 3km; the shellfish growing area is approximately 1km. The Firth's catchment area is 18km<sup>2</sup>.

There are no basins in the Cat Firth, the maximum water depth is 29 m and the flushing time is 4 days. Fresh/tidal flow ratio indicates a salinity reduction of 0.3, indicating a low freshwater input to the loch. There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

### 39.3 Conservation Designations

South of this Shellfish Water is Wadbister Voe ([UKS79923103](#)) designated Shellfish Water.

#### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Loch of Girsta](#)**

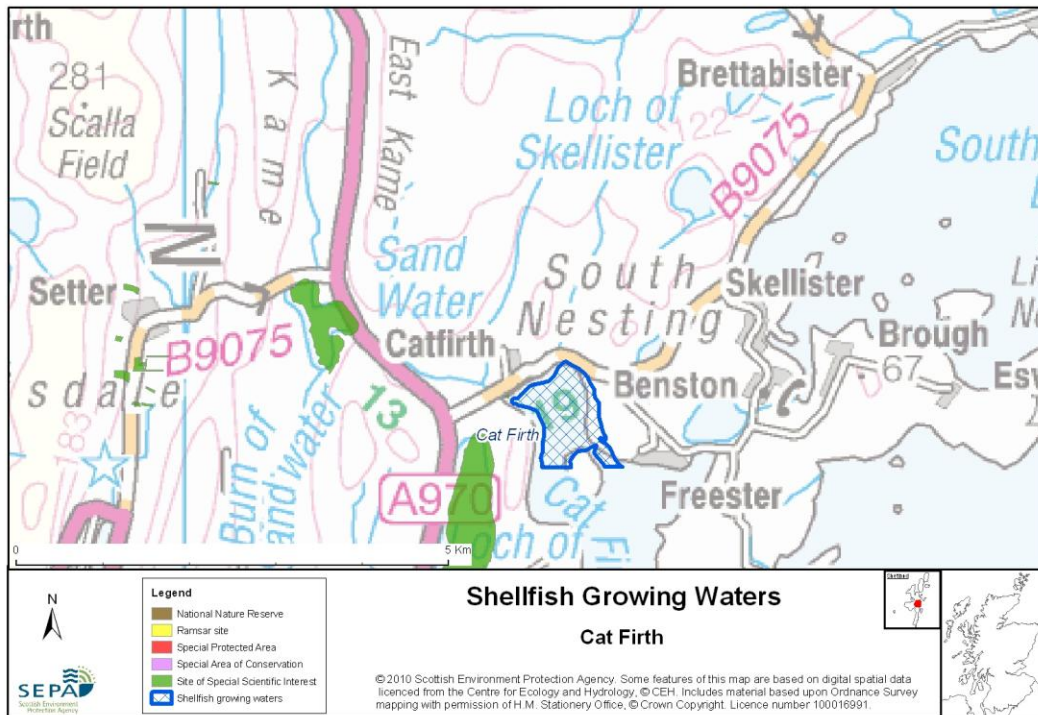
Designated 10/05/1983 for fish species (Arctic charr (*Salvelinus alpinus*)) and Standing open water and canals – mesotrophic loch

#### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Sandwater](#)**

Designated 01/12/1983 for Fen, marsh and swamp (Wetland) and Standing open water and canals – mesotrophic loch

#### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Catfirth](#)**

Designated 27/06/1984 for Broad-leaved, mixed and yew woodland



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

The land surrounding the designated area is predominantly of blanket bog or of rough and rocky ground, with patches of heather moorland. Little Holm Island, which is partially inside the designated area, is of semi-natural grassland. There are a small number of houses, but no settlements in the vicinity of the designated area.

There are minor freshwater inputs to the designated area. Although these waters are not monitored by SEPA, they are considered to be of at least good quality.

### 39.5 Point Source Discharge

There are no consented point source discharges to the designated area. Scottish Water is consented to discharge raw sewage from a population equivalent of up to 250, at a point approximately 1km from the designated area. There is planning permission approved for a small whisky distillery adjacent to the area but the discharge will be made out with the area.

There are no fish farms within the designated area, but there are two in Cat Firth (Taing of Railsborough and SE of Little Holm (Freester)) within 2km of the designated area. These have a combined consented biomass of 2300 tonnes.

### 39.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

Site	Current Monitoring	Comments
Cat Firth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly for Sal, DO, pH, temperature</li> <li>Quarterly for faecal coliforms in mussels</li> <li>Twice a year for metals in water</li> <li>Annually for metals and organohalogenes in mussels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sampled by SEPA</li> <li>Sampled by SEPA</li> <li>Sampling will be reduced to once every three years in 2011</li> </ul>

### 39.7 Compliance History

UKS7992339 - Cat Firth				
	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	Pass
2005	Pass	Pass	Fail <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	No Data
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

The waters failed to comply with the guideline standards for faecal coliforms in 2003 and 2006. There was no data available in 2008, but passed in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

<sup>1</sup>Failure relates to a single result for HCH-G in February 2005 of 27.79 ng/g wet weight which breaches the Guideline standard of 10 ng/g wet weight but complies with the Imperative standard of 30 ng/g wet weight.

### 39.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (85.6 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.

### 39.9 Improvement Actions

There are no improvement actions planned 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

### 39.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
No improvement actions currently planned	N/A