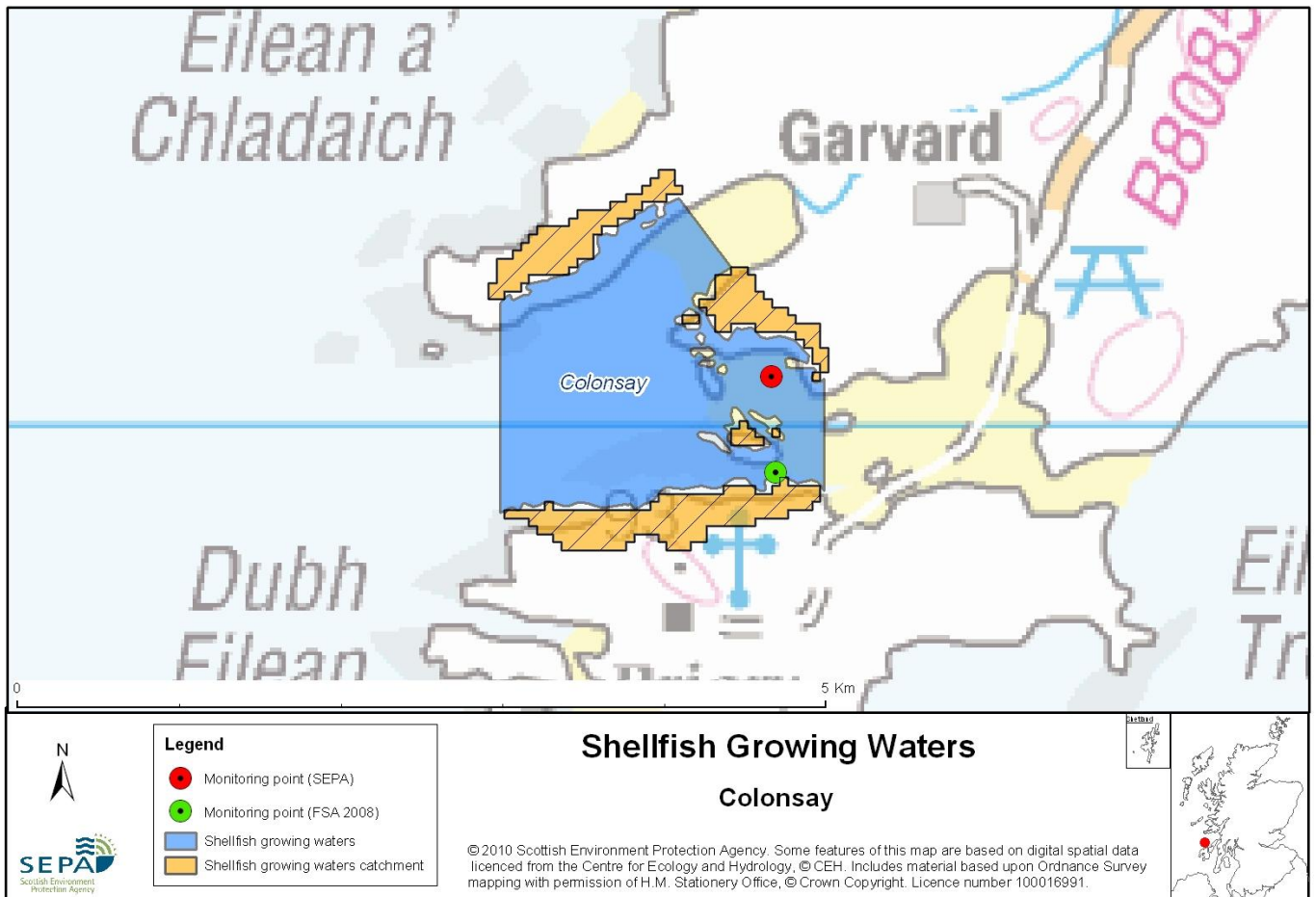


41 Colonsay



Name	Colonsay
Report Reference Number	41
WFD Code	UKS7992341
Local Information	An area bounded by lines drawn between NR3400090752 and NR3400089459 and between NR3510091400 and NR3542190972 and between NR3600090285 and NR3600089592, and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km ²)	2.55
Year of Designation	2002
Sampling Points	Colonsay Mussel Site - NR 35675 90301
Commencement of Monitoring	2003

41.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Part of Colonsay Shellfish Water is also designated by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as a Shellfish Harvesting Area, for the production of Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*).

Colonsay: The Strand (Pacific oysters)
2011 = A - April - 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 Colonsay.

For more information on Food Standards Agency Classification please visit:

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

41.2 Bathymetric Information

The Island of Colonsay lies in the Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland. The shellfish growing area comprises tidal sands and is situated on the south west of the Island. Its south west aspect exposes the waters to the prevailing south/south west winds. Maximum water depth in this area is approximately 5m. The total length of the growing waters area is approximately 2km.

There are no morphological pressures in the waters.

41.3 Conservation Designations

Special Protected Area (SPA) – [Oronsay and South Colonsay](#)

Designated 17/12/2007 for internationally important aggregations of breeding birds - Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*), Corncrake (*Crex crex*)

Special Protected Area (SPA) – [North Colonsay and Western Cliffs](#)

Designated 25/09/2009 for internationally important aggregations of breeding birds - Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*), Guillemot (*Uria aalge*), Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) and aggregations of non-breeding birds - Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)

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

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

Designated 17/03/2005 for Supralittoral coastal sediment (Machair)

This is also a **Water Dependent SAC**

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Loch Fada](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important species (Otter (*Lutra lutra*)), Vascular plants (Slender naiad (*Najas flexilis*)), Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels

This is also a **Water Dependent SAC**

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Oronsay and South Colonsay](#)

Designated 22/01/2007 for aggregations of breeding birds - Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*), Corncrake (*Crex crex*) Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), Supralittoral coastal sediment (Sand dunes and Machair)

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

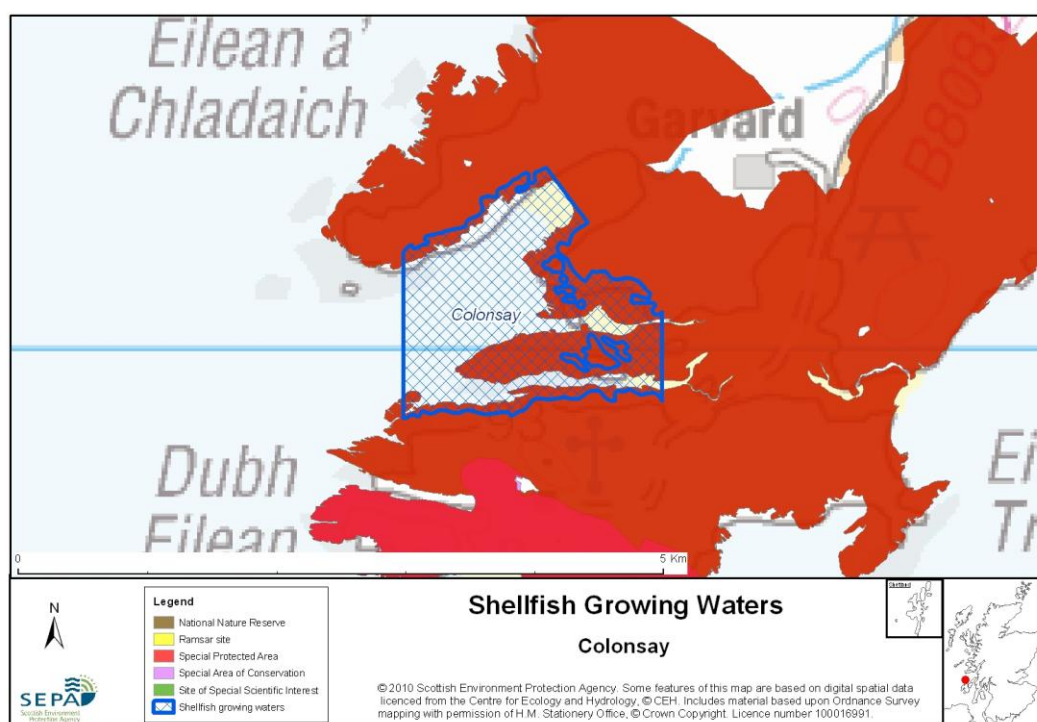
Designated 23/02/1984 for Vascular plant assemblage, Open water transition fen, Oligotrophic loch

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [North Colonsay](#)

Designated 19/07/1996 for aggregations of breeding birds (Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)), Lowland dry and wet heath, Supralittoral coastal sediment (Machair and Sand dunes), Vascular plant assemblage, Upland oak woodland

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [West Colonsay Seabird Cliffs](#)

Designated 15/06/1984 for aggregations of breeding birds (Guillemot (*Uria aalge*), Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), Razorbill (*Alca torda*), Seabird colony), Maritime cliff



41.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The land around the designated area contains semi-natural coastal habitat and non intensive agriculture, primarily beef and sheep production.

Colonsay is remote from centres of population and the island is very sparsely populated. There are two houses within 1km of the designated area, and are both accessed by track. The only road in the vicinity ends 1km from the designated area.

The most likely reason for past guideline faecal coliform failures (see 41.7 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.

41.5 Point Source Discharges

There are no known or consented discharges from public sewage systems to the designated area or to the watercourses within the catchment. There are no known private septic tank discharges from individual households to the designated water.

There are no industrial discharges to the designated area, and there are no fish farming activities within 2km of the designated area.

41.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

The following monitoring regime of the designated area was implemented in July 2005.

Year	Monitoring Regime
2005 -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every third year for metals and organohalogens in mussels, next collection scheduled for 2011 • Quarterly for faecal coliforms in mussels

41.7 Compliance History

UKS7992341 - Colonsay				
	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	Pass
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail

The shellfish water consistently failed to comply with the guideline standard for faecal coliforms from 2003-2007 and also failed in 2010

41.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (41.6 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.

41.9 Improvement Actions

There are currently 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 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

41.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
No improvement actions currently planned	N/A