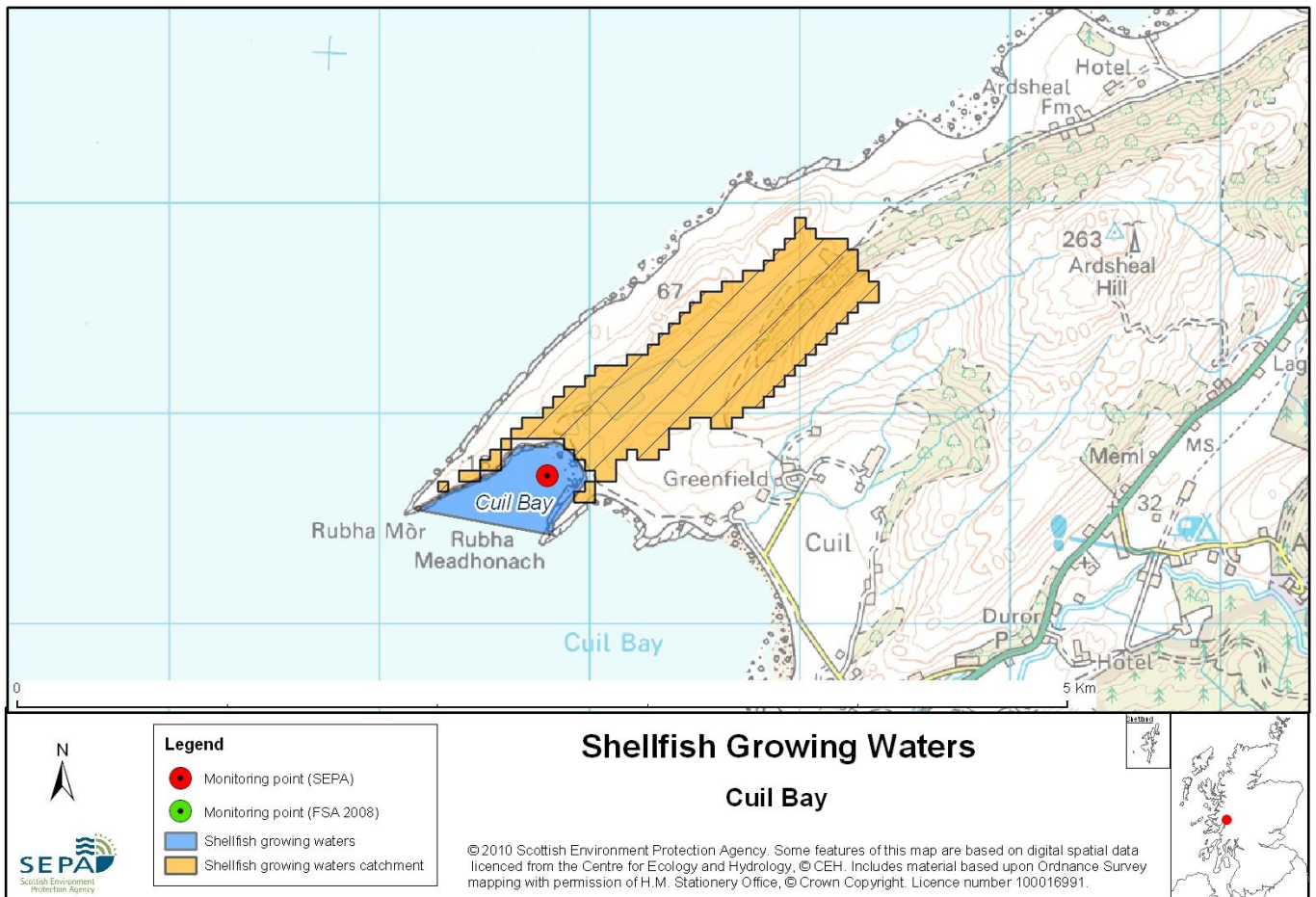


42 Cuil Bay



Name	Cuil Bay
Report Reference Number	42
WFD Code	UKS7992342
Local Information	An area north of a line drawn between NM961665540 (Rubha Mor) and NM9683355418 (Rubha Meadhonach), and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km²)	0.19
Year of Designation	2002
Sampling Points	Cuil Bay Mussel Site - NM 96800 55700
Commencement of Monitoring	2003

42.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Loch Linnhe: Cuil Bay was designated by the Food Standards Agency for the production of Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*), but was declassified in 2008

FSA have not carried out a sanitary survey for Cuil Bay

For more information on Food Standards Agency Classification please visit:

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

42.2 Bathymetric Information

Cuil Bay is situated on the west coast of Scotland, south of Ballachulish, and lies within Loch Linnhe. Maximum water depth in Cuil Bay is approximately 32m and is approximately 2km in length. The shellfish growing area is positioned in a small inlet within Cuil Bay. The Bay's waters are exposed to the prevailing south/southwest winds. Maximum water depth of the growing area is approximately 12m and its total length is approximately 0.9km. There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

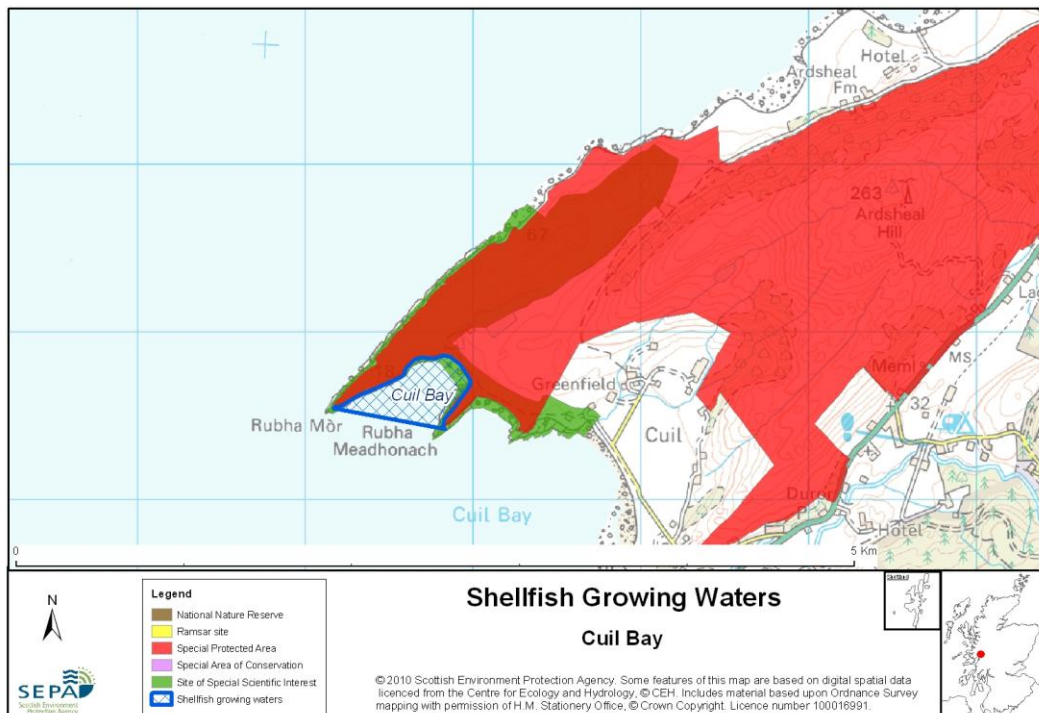
42.3 Conservation Designations

Special Protected Area (SPA) – [Glen Etive and Glen Fyne](#)

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

Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – [Ardsheal Peninsula](#)

Designated 01/02/1981 for Igneous petrology (Caledonian Igneous) and Structural and metamorphic geology (Dalradian)



42.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The land around the designated area is of blanket bog and semi-natural grassland, with heather moorland and semi-natural woodland dominating the catchment, while areas of improved pasture extend within 1km of the shellfish growing water. The main source of diffuse pollution is from sheep farming. There is a single minor input of freshwater that is considered to be of at least good quality, although it is not monitored by SEPA. There are no roads or houses within 500m of the designated area.

The most likely reason for guideline faecal coliform failures (see 42.7 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.

42.5 Point Source Discharge

There are no point source discharges directly into the designated area. Septic tank serving houses bordering Cuil Bay are known to discharge effluent into watercourses which in turn flow into the sea. There is one public sewer discharge within 2 km of the designated area – Duror STW which discharges treated (biological treatment) to the River Duror which in turn flows into Loch Linnhe at Cuil Bay at a point approximately 1km from the designated area. The River Duror is classified by SEPA as being of good quality.

There are no fish farms within at least 2km of the designated area.

42.6 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">• Quarterly for Sal, DO, pH, temperature, visible oil• Annually for metals and organohalogens in mussels• Quarterly for faecal coliforms in mussels

42.7 Compliance History

UKS7992342 - Cuil Bay				
	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	Pass
2004	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2005	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail

Of the six samples analysed for Faecal Coliforms in 2003 and 2004, three gave results above the Guideline standard. There were no breaches of the Guideline standard for Faecal Coliforms in 2005. The waters failed to comply with the guideline standard in 2006 but passed in 2007. The waters have failed again from 2008 to 2010.

42.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (42.6 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.

42.9 Improvement Actions

There is ongoing monitoring of Duror sewage treatment works highlighted in section 42.5 by SEPA to audit compliance against the requirements of the environmental authorisation. There are no planned improvement actions associated with any of the point source discharge pressures. 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	Low by 2021	Low	Pass by 2027	Low

42.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
No specific improvement actions currently planned. Ongoing monitoring of area in accordance with SEPA's statutory obligations	N/A