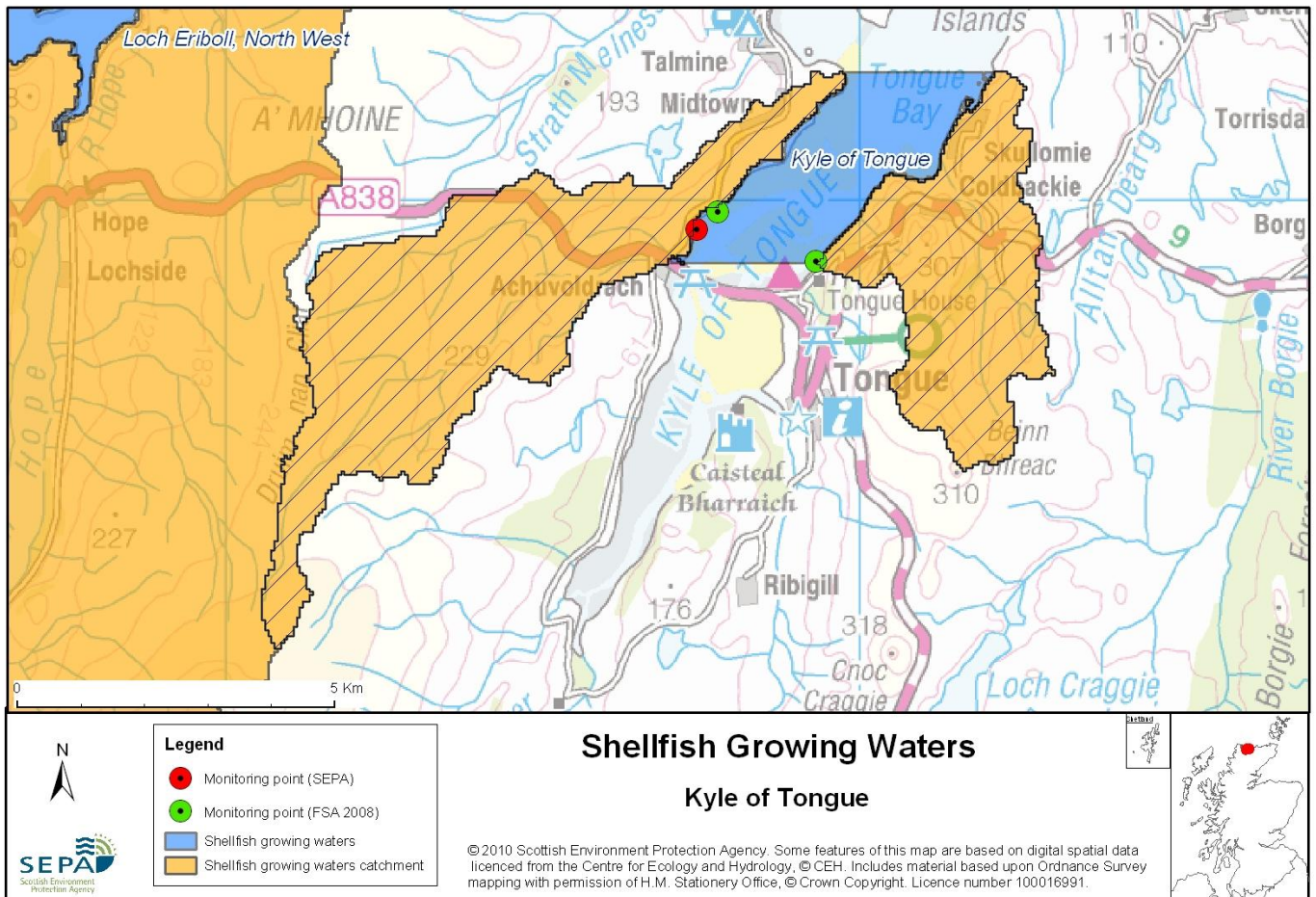


56 Kyle of Tongue



Name	Kyle of Tongue
Report Reference Number	56
WFD Code	UKS7992356
Local Information	An area bounded by lines drawn between NC5977062000 and NC6210662000 and between NC5702259000 and NC5932359000, and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km ²)	7.08
Year of Designation	2002
Sampling Points	Kyle of Tongue Mussel Site - NC 57439 59526
Commencement of Monitoring	2003

56.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Kyle of Tongue is also designated by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as a Shellfish Harvesting Area, for the production of Pacific Oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*).

Kyle of Tongue (Pacific Oysters)
2011 = A - April to December
2012 = A - January to March

Rabbit Islands FSA Shellfish Harvesting Area, is just north and is classified by FSA for Razors (*Ensis arcuatus*) from two areas (Rabbit Islands and Tongue Bay) both of which were class A as below.

Rabbit Islands (razors)
2011 = A - April to 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 not conducted sanitary surveys for Kyle of Tongue or Rabbit Islands

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

56.2 Bathymetric Information

The growing water at Kyle of Tongue is situated on the north coast at Tongue Bay. It is exposed to northerly winds and the growing water is approximately 3km in length. There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

56.3 Conservation Designations

Kyle of Tongue is also designated by FSA as a Shellfish Harvesting area.

Rabbit Islands FSA Shellfish Harvesting Area is just north of Kyle of tongue.

West of Kyle of Tongue is Loch Eriboll, North West ([UKS7992326](#)) Shellfish Water, which is also designated by FSA as a Shellfish Harvesting Area.

RAMSAR – [Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands](#)

Designated 02/02/1999 for internationally important breeding birds (including Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) and Greylag goose (*Anser anser*)) and internationally important habitat (upland blanket bog).

Special Protected Area (SPA) – [Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands](#)

Designated 02/02/1999 for internationally important aggregations of breeding birds - Black-throated diver (*Gavia arctica*), Common scoter (*Melanitta nigra*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*), Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*), Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)

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

Special Protected Area (SPA) – [North Sutherland Coastal Islands](#)

Designated 02/02/1999 for aggregations of non-breeding birds - Greenland Barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

This is also a **Water Dependent SPA**

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitat (Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, upland blanket bog, Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, bogs - Depressions on peat substrates, Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) and important species (Marsh saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*))

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

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [A' Mhoine](#)

Designated 12/12/1995 for breeding birds (including Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*), Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)) and upland blanket bog

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

Designated 07/11/1986 for Structural and metamorphic geology (Moine) and Upland birch woodland

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Ben Hutig](#)

Designated 22/02/1990 for Alpine heath, upland blanket bog and Structural and metamorphic geology (Moine)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Eilean nan Ron](#)

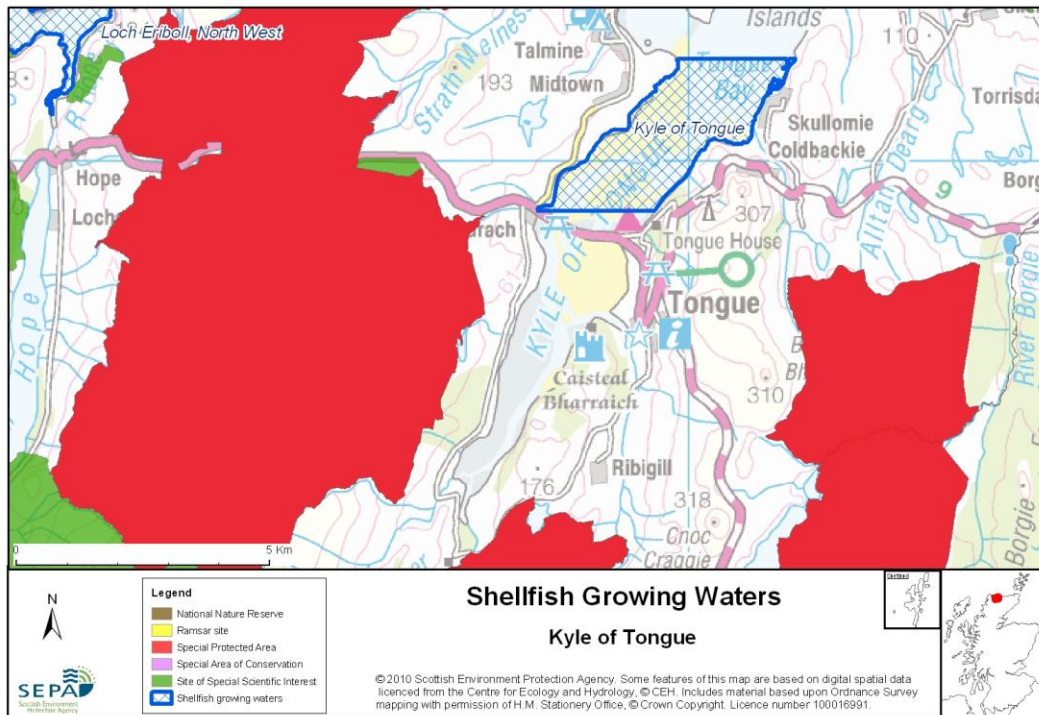
Designated 22/08/1986 for Greenland Barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and supralittoral coastal rock (maritime cliff)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [West Borgie](#)

Designated 16/12/1993 for upland blanket bog, Igneous petrology (Caledonian Igneous) and Breeding bird assemblage

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Druim na Coibe](#)

Designated 21/09/1995 for upland blanket bog



56.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The designated area encompasses the outer half of the Kyle of Tongue. Both sides of the area are flanked by a strip of improved pasture, of up to 1km wide, with smaller areas of semi-natural woodland and of semi-natural grasslands. Beyond the improved strip the catchment is dominated by blanket bog, heather moorland and mountain terrain.

All freshwater inputs to the Kyle of Tongue are classified by SEPA as being of at least good quality.

The impact from diffuse pollution is expected to be low, with the principal source being run off from non-intensive hill farming.

SEPA does not have diffuse source pollution pressures recorded as causing downgrades recorded for this shellfish water.

56.5 Point Source Discharge

There are no point sources of pollution into the designated area. Tongue sewage treatment works (CAR/L/1001895) discharges ca 2km up loch of the area, with a consented maximum population equivalent of 394. Scottish Water also discharges from the Melness septic tank (CAR/L/1002137), within 1km of the designated area.

There are no fish farms in the Kyle of Tongue.

SEPA does not have point source pollution pressures recorded as causing downgrades recorded for this shellfish water.

56.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

This monitoring regime of the designated area was not fully implemented until the second half of 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

56.7 Compliance History

UKS7992356 - Kyle of Tongue				
	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	Pass
2005	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

The waters have consistently passed all imperative and Guideline standards including for faecal coliforms since 2003.

56.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (56.6 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.

56.9 Improvement Actions

In the absence of any significant potential pollution sources, compliance with the requirements of the Shellfish Waters Directive is expected to continue without further action having to be taken. Any new controlled inputs to these waters will be licensed so as to ensure that high quality is maintained.

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

56.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
No improvement actions currently required	N/A