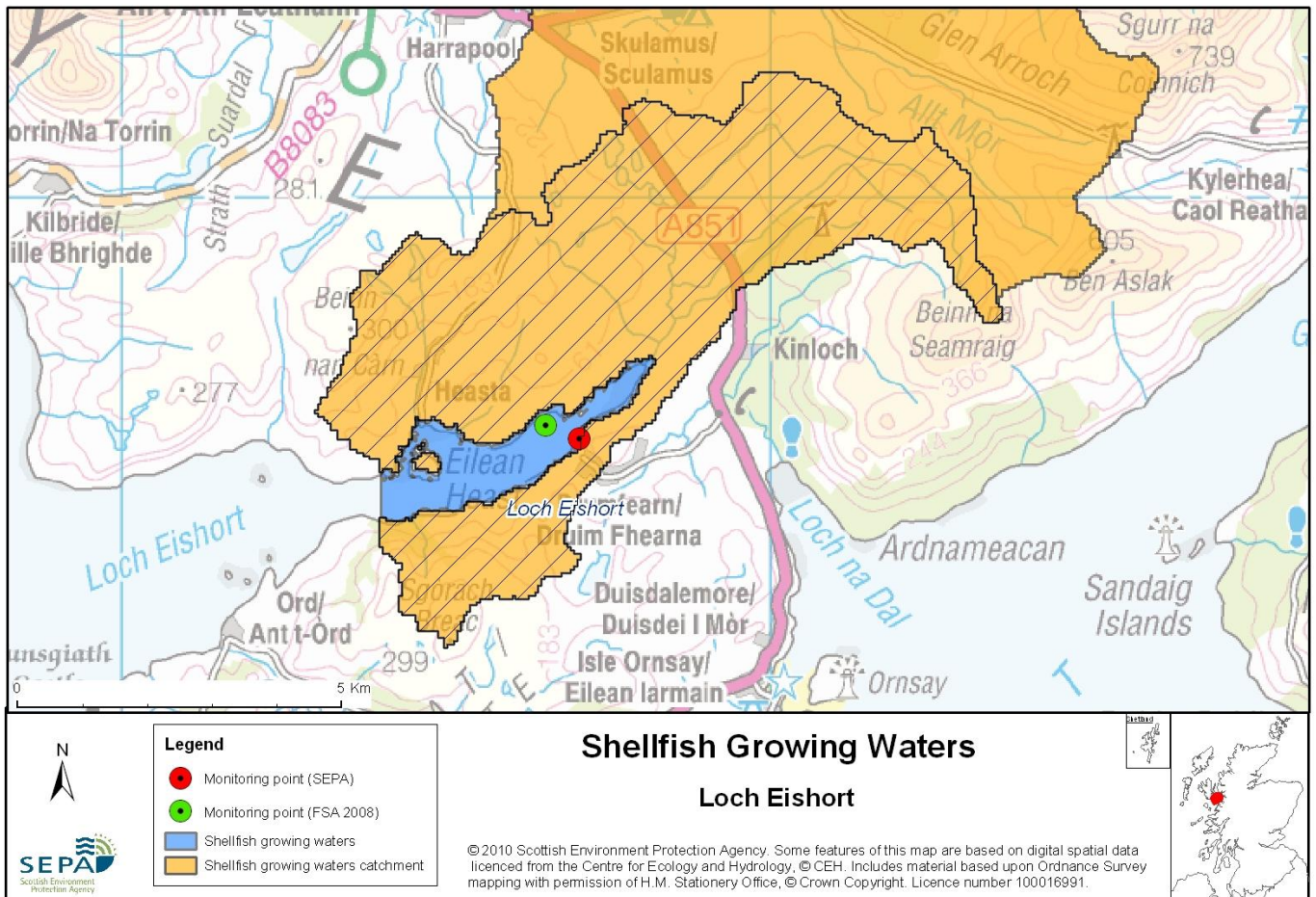


68 Loch Eishort



Name	Loch Eishort
Report Reference Number	68
WFD Code	UKS7992368
Local Information	An area east of a line drawn between NG6400015754 and NG6400015084 and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km ²)	3.22
Year of Designation	2002
Sampling Points	Loch Eishort at Drumfearn (Biota) - NG 67062 16287
Commencement of Monitoring	2003

68.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Loch Eishort is also designated by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as a Shellfish Harvesting Area, for the production of Common mussels (*Mytilus edulis*).

Loch Eishort : Drumfearn (Common mussels)

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.

FSA have not carried out a sanitary survey for Loch Eishort.

For more information on Food Standards Agency Classification please visit:

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

68.2 Bathymetric Information

Loch Eishort is situated on the south west coast of the Isle of Skye. It has a south west aspect and is exposed to the prevailing south west winds but sheltered from the northerly winds. The loch has a total length of 5.2km. The catchment area is 74km² and has a maximum water depth of 35m.

The loch has two sills which divide the loch into three water areas or basins. The first sill is located near the centre of the loch at the narrows close to Sgeir Gormul and the second sill is located at the small island of Eilean Heast. Maximum water depths in each basin are 16m and 35m respectively.

As a whole the loch takes 1 day to flush and fresh/tidal flow ratio indicates a salinity reduction of 0.7 ppt, indicating a moderate freshwater input to the loch. There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

68.3 Conservation Designations

Special Protected Area (SPA) – [Cuillins](#)

Designated 20/12/2002 for internationally important breeding bird species (Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*))

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

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitats (Alpine and subalpine heaths, Blanket bog, Dwarf shrub heath (Upland), Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, Western acidic oak woodland, Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) and internationally important species (Otter (*Lutra lutra*))

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

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

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitats (Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands, Base-rich fens, Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools, Hard-water springs depositing lime Inland rock (limestone pavements), Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks, Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)

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

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Mointeach nan Lochain Dubha](#)

Designated 17/03/2005 for Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, upland blanket bogs, Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface, Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, Depressions on peat substrates

This is also a **Water Dependent SAC**

Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – [Strath](#)

Designated 21/08/1986 for Base-rich loch, Mineralogy of Scotland, Igneous petrology (Tertiary Igneous), Upland assemblage (mosaic), Upland birch woodland, Vascular plant assemblage, Molluscs

Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – [Mointeach nan Lochain Dubha](#)

Designated 31/07/1996 for upland blanket bog, Oligotrophic loch

Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) –

[Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills \(Monadh Chaol Acainn is Cheann Loch\)](#)

Designated 27/04/2001 for Alpine heath, upland blanket bogs, Bryophyte assemblage, Lichen assemblage, Structural and metamorphic geology (Torridonian), Subalpine dry heath, Subalpine wet heath, Upland oak woodland, Otter (*Lutra lutra*).

Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – [Boirearaig - Carn Dearg](#)

Designated 02/1/1984 for Stratigraphy (Hettangian, Sinemurian, Pliensbachian)

Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – [Coille Thogabhaig](#)

Designated 02/07/1987 for Bryophyte assemblage, Stratigraphy (Cambrian - Tremadoc), Lichen assemblage, Rocky slopes (includes inland cliff, rocky outcrops, chasmophytic vegetation), Upland oak woodland, Beetles, Structural and metamorphic geology (Moine)

Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – [Loch Meodal](#)

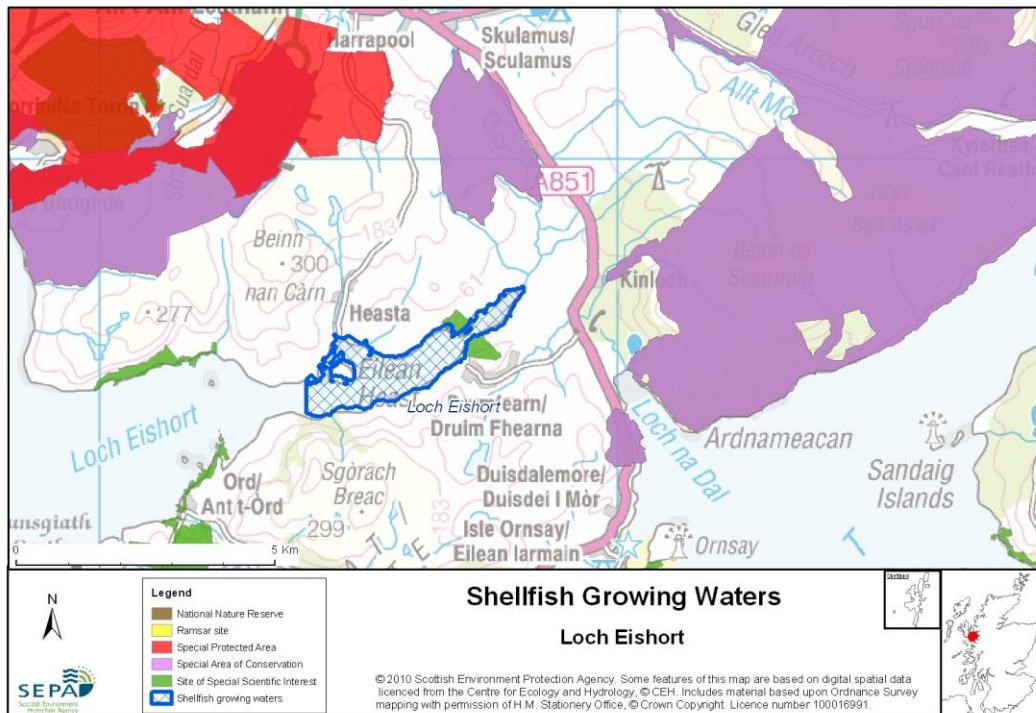
Designated 03/04/1990 for Quaternary geology and geomorphology of Scotland

Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – [Ceann Loch Eishort](#)

Designated 23/11/1988 for Structural and metamorphic geology (Torridonian)

Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) – [Airdghunail](#)

Designated 12/03/1985 for Structural and metamorphic geology (Moine)



68.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The land around the designated area is mainly of semi-natural grasslands and woodlands, semi-natural coastal habitat and improved grasslands, with blanket bog further inland. Heather moorland and coniferous plantations also lie within the catchment for the principal freshwater input, Abhainn Ceann Loch Eishort. There are two small settlements on the land above the designated area, one on each side of the Loch. Diffuse pollution comes from sheep and cattle farming associated with these settlements.

In addition to Abhainn Ceann, there are a number of other, minor, freshwater inputs to the designated area. All freshwater inputs are considered to be of at least good quality, although none are monitored by SEPA.

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

68.5 Point Source Discharge

There is no public sewage system serving the houses in the vicinity of the designated area. Consequently private septic tanks discharge either to ground or to the designated area. There are small clusters of such discharges centred around the two main settlements within the designated area, Heast and Drumfearn. There are no discharges from industrial operations within at 2km of the designated area.

There is one fish farm within the designated area with a consented biomass of 1200 tonnes.

Category	Name	Consent No.	NGR	Biomass (t)	Additional Information
Fish Farm	Loch Eishort	CAR/L/1002990	NG 652 158	1200	-

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

68.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

The following monitoring regime of the designated area 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

68.7 Compliance History

UKS7992368 - Loch Eishort				
	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	Fail ¹	Fail
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

The waters failed to comply with the Guideline standard from 2003 to 2006 but have passed from 2007 to 2010.

¹Failure relates to a single result for salinity of 0.77‰ in October 2005 which is below the Guideline minimum standard for salinity of 12-38‰. The result is almost certainly due to a combination of low tide and high run off from rainwater affecting the sampling site at the time of sampling, and is not representative of the salinity of the designated area as a whole. This being a natural phenomenon, no measures will be taken, in accordance with Article 7(3) of the Directive

68.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (68.6 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.

68.9 Improvement Actions

SEPA has worked with farmers in the catchment to encourage best practice and the minimisation of diffuse pollution from sheep farming. A cattle feeding station at Drumfearn has been relocated by the farmer after representations from SEPA over its previous location, just above the high water mark, which was resulting in contaminated surface water run-off running into the designated area.

There are currently no further improvement actions planned for this area. 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 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

85.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
Relocation of cattle feeding station. No specific further improvement actions identified other than general ongoing monitoring of area in accordance with SEPA's statutory obligations	Done