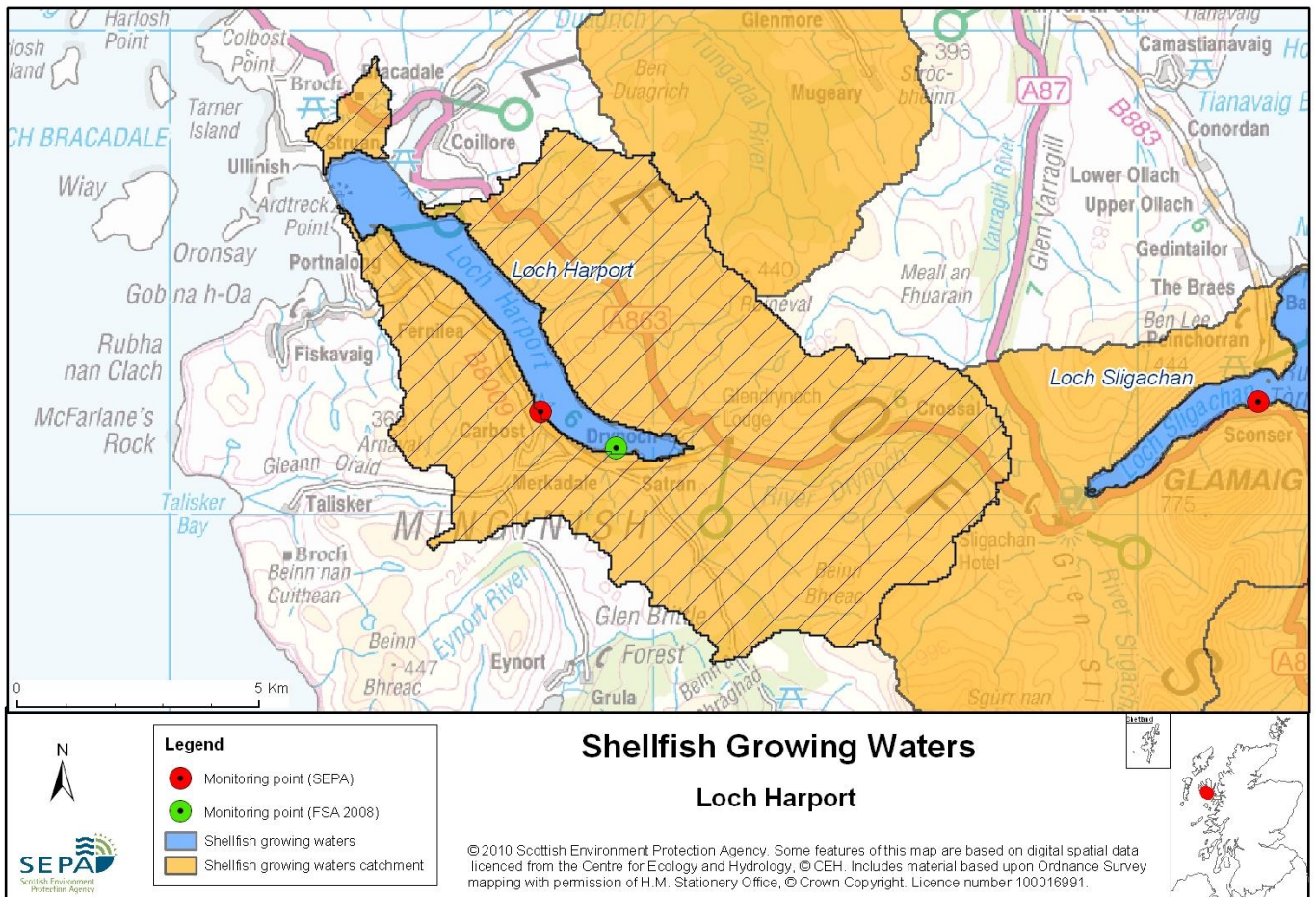


## 75 Loch Harport



Name	Loch Harport
Report Reference Number	75
WFD Code	UKS7992375
Local Information	An area bounded by lines drawn between NG3318937022 (Bracadale Point) and NG3349836404 (Ardtreck Point) and between NG3445237335 (Rubha na h-Uamha) and NG3516536444 and extending to MHWS
Designated Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	7.96
Year of Designation	2002
Sampling Points	Loch Harport Mussel Site - NG 37680 32133
Commencement of Monitoring	2003

## 75.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

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

Loch Harport: Inner: Carlost (Pacific oysters)  
2011 = A - April & May, November & December  
B - June to October  
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 Loch Harport.

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

## 75.2 Bathymetric Information

This loch is located on the Isle of Skye and would be sheltered from winds due to surrounding land. It is approximately 9km in length and has a maximum depth of about 30m. There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

## 75.3 Conservation Designations

There are two designated Shellfish Waters north of Loch Harport, Loch Caroy ([UKS7992363](#)) and Loch Snizort ([UKS792329](#)).

To the east lies Loch Sligachan designated Shellfish Water ([UKS7992387](#)) and Loch Ainort ([UKS7992362](#)). Loch Sligachan is also designated as a Shellfish Harvesting Area by the FSA.

### **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) – [Sligachan Peatlands](#)**

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitats - Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, upland blanket bog, Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, Depressions on peat substrates, upland fen, marsh and swamp, Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath

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

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

Designated 20/08/1985 for Alkaline fen, upland blanket bog, Bryophyte assemblage, Beetles, Flood-plain fen, Open water transition fen, Quaternary geology and geomorphology of Scotland, Subalpine calcareous grassland, Subalpine dry heath, Tall herb ledge

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

Designated 04/07/1985 for Burnet moth (*Zygaena lonicerae jocelynae*), Calcareous scree, Rocky slopes (includes inland cliff, rocky outcrops, chasmophytic vegetation), Tall herb ledge, Igneous petrology (Tertiary Igneous)

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Allt Grillan Gorge](#)

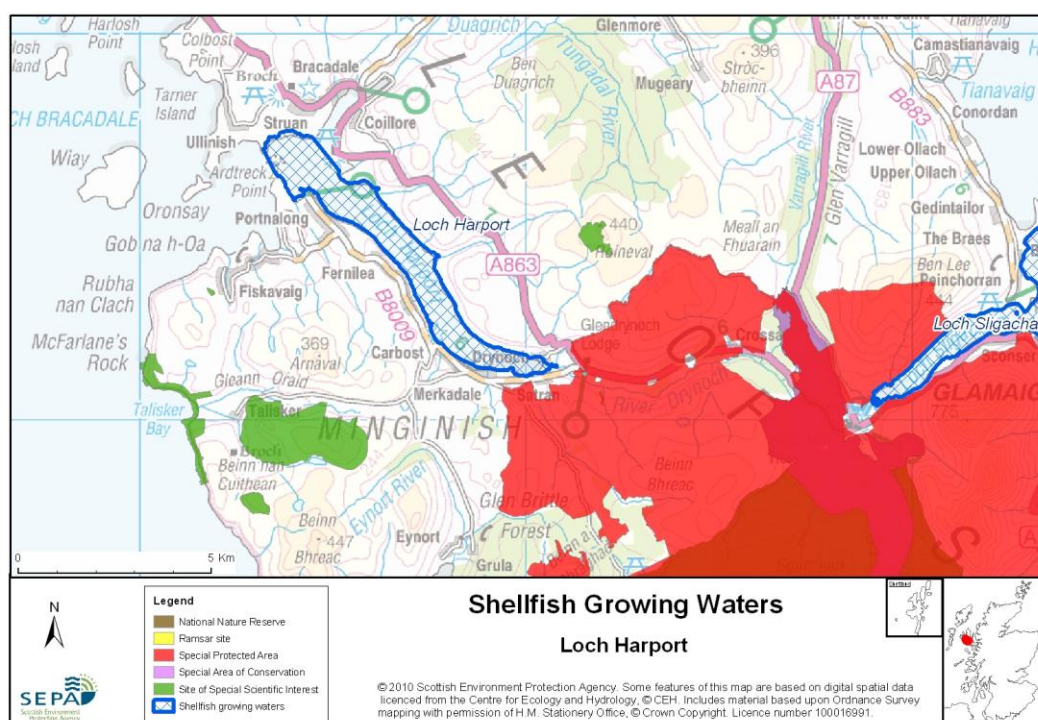
Designated 01/05/1984 for Upland mixed ash woodland

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

Designated 18/09/1984 for Igneous petrology (Tertiary Igneous)

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

Designated 31/07/1996 for upland blanket bog, Dystrophic and oligotrophic loch types present, Vascular plant assemblage



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

The land bordering the designated area is mainly of semi-natural grassland and semi-natural woodland, with pockets of improved pasture. The eastern side of Loch Harport is uninhabited, while on the western side a minor road links a number of small settlements.

River Drynoch and the Vikisgill Burn provide the main freshwater inputs to the designated area. These, along with all minor inputs, are considered to be of at least good quality by SEPA, although none of the freshwater inputs are currently monitored.

The most likely reason for guideline faecal coliform failures (see 75.7 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.

### 75.5 Point Source Discharge

Scottish Water discharges effluent into the designated area from the public septic tank serving the settlement of Carbost. There are a number of private septic tank discharges from properties at the head of Loch Harport either discharging direct to Loch Harport or to the freshwater environment.

There is a discharge from a public sewage septic tank serving a population of 18 in Loch Beag, within 2km of the designated area.

There is one fish farm within the designated area, with a consented biomass of 2000 tonnes.

Type	Name	Treatment	Consent No.	NGR	PE	Additional Information
Scottish Water Asset	Carbost Septic Tank	Septic Tank	CAR/L/1003077	NG 3788 3208	252	Monitored by SEPA
Industrial	Talisker Distillery	None	CAR/L/1002033	NG 37850 32150	-	
Category	Name		Consent No.	NGR	Biomass (t)	Additional Information
Fish Farm	Portnalong		CAR/L/1002889	NG 3400 3600	2000	-

### 75.6 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"> <li>• Quarterly for Sal, DO, pH, temperature, visible oil</li> <li>• Twice yearly for metals in water</li> <li>• Annually for metals and organohalogens in mussels</li> <li>• Quarterly for faecal coliforms in mussels</li> </ul>

## 75.7 Compliance History

UKS7992375 - Loch Harport				
	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	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass
2005	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Of the six samples analysed for Faecal Coliforms, two gave results above the Guideline standard. In 2005 two out of four samples gave results above the Guideline standard. The waters failed to comply with the guideline standard 2005 to 2009 but passed in 2010.

Zinc is a ubiquitous element with a background, or reference, concentration (B/CR) of 0.03 – 0.45 µg/L in marine water. Median concentrations measured at OSPAR sites around the UK range from 1.26 to 26.2 µg/L. The value recorded in a water sample from Loch Harport was 10.3 µg/L, just over the national Imperative value of 10 µg/L, but well below the Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) of 40 µg/L set in response to the Dangerous Substances Directive. This breach was not repeated in 2005 samples.

## 75.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (75.6 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.

## 75.9 Improvement Actions

There are currently no improvement actions planned for this designated Shellfish Water. 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 the end of the third River Basin Management Plan Cycle in 2027; this is due to repeated failures of the guideline faecal coliform standards.

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

### 75.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
No specific further improvement actions identified other than general ongoing monitoring of area in accordance with SEPA's statutory obligations	N/A