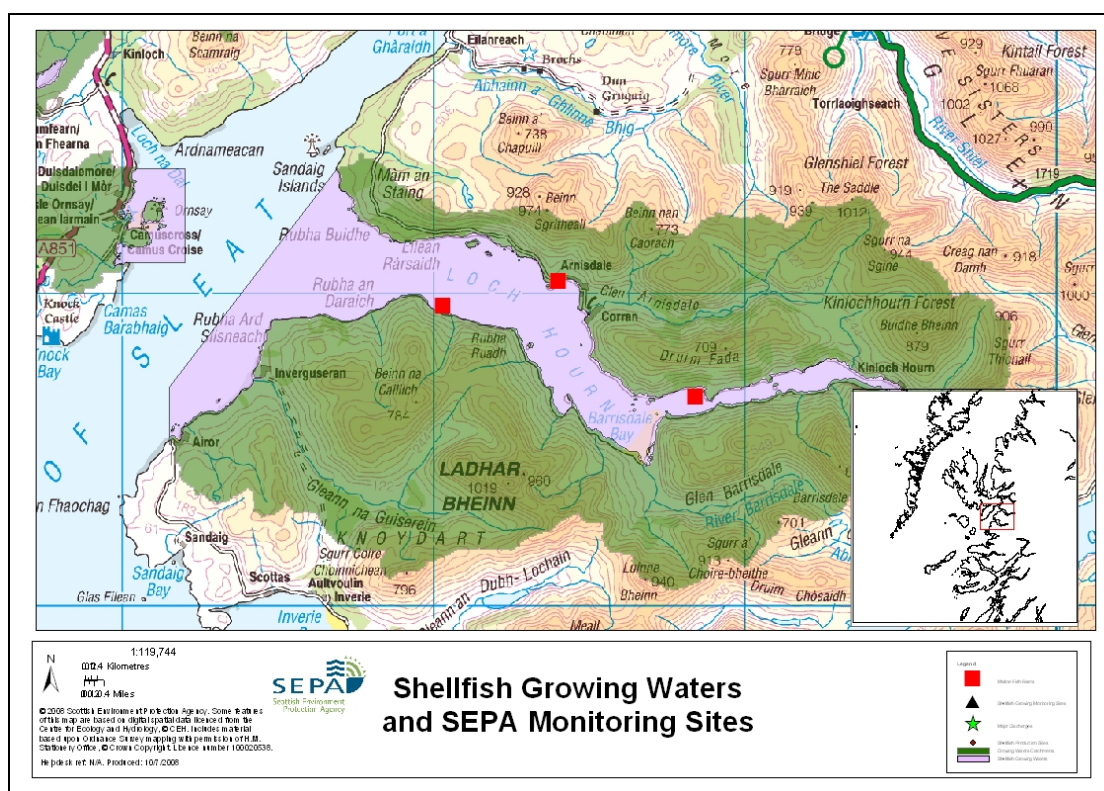


76 Loch Hourn



Name	Loch Hourn	
Report Reference No.	76	
WFD Code	UKS7992376	
Location Information	An area inshore of lines drawn between NG 715 044 and NG 715 070 and between NG 715 070 and NG 768 140 (Rubha Mor).	
Designated Area (Km²)	48.0	
Year of Designation	2002	
Sampling Points	Loch Hourn	NG 84624 10156
Commencement of Monitoring	2003	

76.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

The growing waters are not currently classified for commercial shellfish production.

76.2 Bathymetric Information

Loch Hourn, Knoydart branches off from the Sound of Sleat and is exposed to west and northwest winds. It has a length of 21.3km and a maximum depth of 185m. The catchment area is 165km² and the fresh/tidal flow ratio is 5, with a salinity reduction of 0.2ppt indicating low freshwater input. The flushing time for the loch is slow at 11 days. There are 5 sills:

Sill Number	Length (m)	Max Depth (m)
1	6150	88
2	270	9
3	170	6
4	350	9

There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

76.3 Conservation Designations

Rubha camus na Cailinn and Eilean Chlamail – Camus nan Ceann are two geological SSSIs along the shores of Loch Hourn, within the designated area. Coille Mhialairidh biological SSSI lies on the northern shore of the designated area. Glen Barrisdale biological SSSI and Beinn a Chapuill geological SSSI lie on hill tops above the designated area. The entire designated area forms part of the Knoydart National Scenic Area. Arnsdale Bay, within the designated area is a Recreational Water for access and water contact activities.

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http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/portal/page?_pageid=53,854555,53_854604&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&PA_CODE=381

http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/portal/page?_pageid=53,854555,53_854604&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&PA_CODE=1391

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http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/portal/page?_pageid=53,854555,53_854604&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&PA_CODE=699

76.4 Topography And Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

Most of the land around the designated area is of rough and rocky ground, within which there are areas of semi-natural woodland and coniferous plantation. A minor road runs along the western part of the north shore of the Loch, serving the small settlement of Corran, but otherwise the area is notable for its remoteness.

There are four major inputs of freshwater to the loch as well as many minor inputs. River Arnisdale is classified as excellent quality, Allt a Bhoidach is classified as good quality by SEPA, while River Barrisdale and Abhainn Inverguseran are considered to be of at least good quality, although they are not monitored by SEPA.

76.5 Point Source Discharges

There are no consented discharges from public sewage systems to the designated area. Point source discharges are limited to outflows from a small number of private septic tanks in Arnisdale.

There are three fishfarms within the designated area with a combined consent of 2075 tonnes although the only operational unit at present is located at the mouth of Loch Hourn at NGR NG 803095 for a maximum consented biomass of 1200 tonnes.

The Arnisdale and Camas nan Gall fish farms are undergoing long term fallowing and have not been used for 5-10 years.

76.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

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

This monitoring regime of the designated area was implemented in the second half of 2005.

76.7 Compliance History

Year	Compliance History for Waters and Biota, Excluding Faecal Coliforms Data			Compliance History for Faecal Coliforms
	Overall Result	Imperative	Guideline	Guideline
2003	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
2004	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2005	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

The Guideline standard for Arsenic in mussel flesh was breached in one sample in 2003. All further samples from 2004 onwards have complied with the Imperative and Guideline standards.

Of the six samples analysed for Faecal Coliforms in 2003 and 2004, two gave results above the Guideline standard. All four samples in 2005 complied with the Guideline standard. The waters failed to comply with the guideline standard in 2006 but passed in 2007.

76.8 Future Monitoring Recommendations

The monitoring regime as described in section 6 will be followed. In the event of any chemistry parameter failing to meet any EQS, the site will be revisited and re-sampled for the failed parameter.

76.9 Improvement Actions

There are currently no improvement actions planned for this area.

76.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
No improvement actions currently planned.	