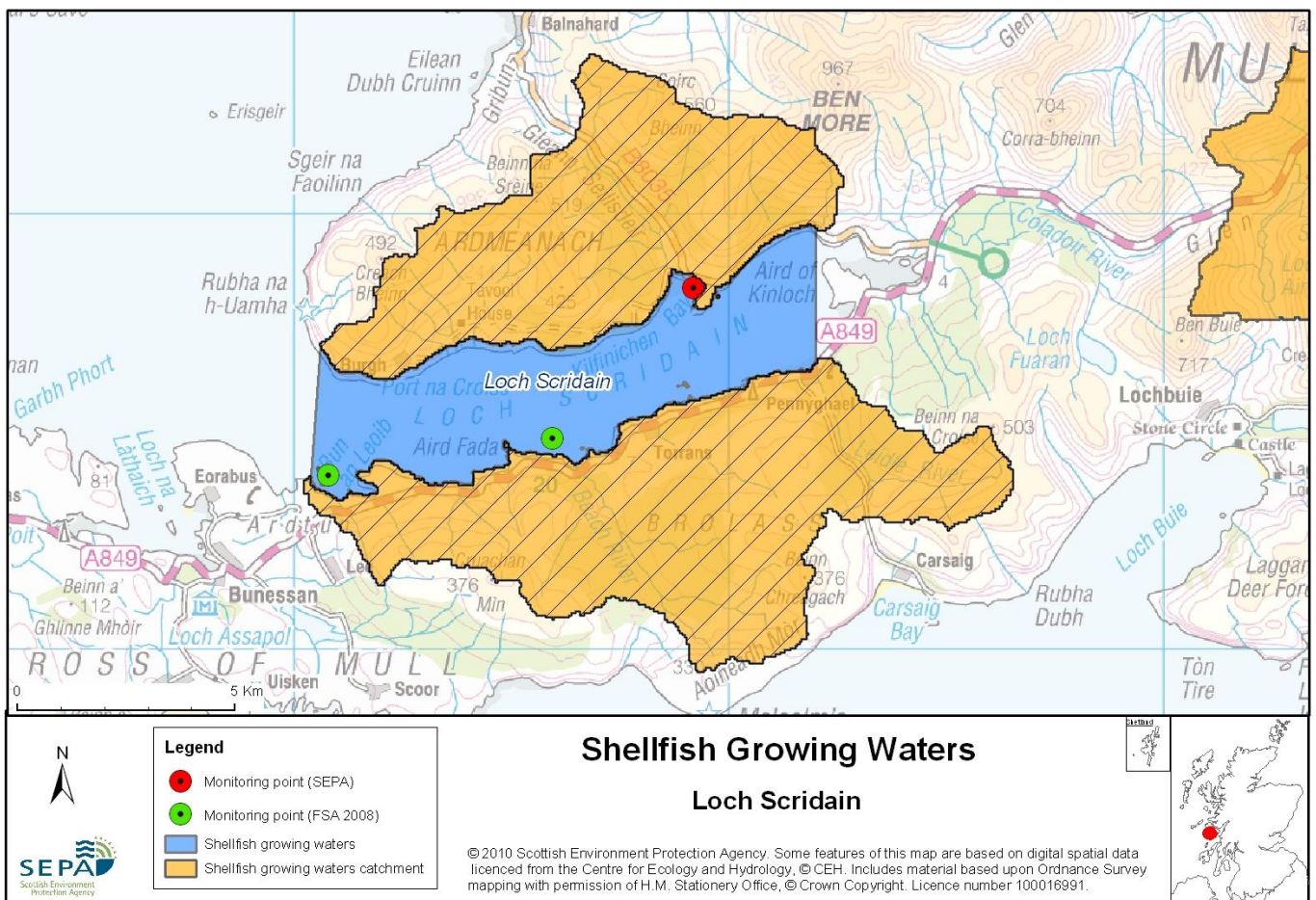


## 86 Loch Scridain



Name	Loch Scridain
Report Reference Number	86
WFD Code	UKS7992386
Local Information	An area bounded by lines drawn between NM4059726952 and NM4039524024 (Rubha Dubh) and between NM5200029672 and NM5200026629, and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	30.58
Year of Designation	2002
Sampling Points	Loch Scridain Mussel Site - NM 49200 28300
Commencement of Monitoring	2003

## 86.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Loch Scridain has two separate areas (Loch Scridain East and West) designated by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as Shellfish Harvesting Areas for the production of Common mussels (*Mytilus edulis*).

Loch Scridain: All sites (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 completed a sanitary survey for Loch Scridain.

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

## 86.2 Bathymetric Information

Loch Scridain has a total length of 12kms. One sill lies at the entrance of the loch and maximum water depth 121m. The loch has a west- south west aspect and is exposed to prevailing winds. However, the loch is relatively slow to flush taking 6 days. The catchment area is 175km<sup>2</sup> and fresh/tidal flow ratio is 0.2, indicative of a low fresh water influence on the loch. There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

## 86.3 Conservation Designations

North of Loch Scridain is Isle of Ulva, Mull (Loch Tuath) designated Shellfish Waters ([UKS79923114](#)), parts of which are also designated as Shellfish Harvesting Areas by FSA,

To the east is Loch Spelve designated Shellfish Water ([UKS7992314](#)). Parts of Loch Spelve are also designated by FSA as Shellfish Harvesting Areas.

### **Special Protected Area (SPA) – [Cnuic agus Cladach Mhuile \(Mull Coast and Hills\)](#)**

Designated 20/12/2002 for aggregations of internationally important breeding birds (Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*))

This is also a **Groundwater Dependent SPA**

### **Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Ardmeanach](#)**

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitat - Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas, Tall herb communities, Vegetated sea cliffs

This is also a **Water Dependent SAC**

### **Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – [Coladoir Bog](#)**

Designated 17/03/2005 for internationally important habitat – upland blanket bog and upland depressions on peat substrates

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

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

Designated 27/08/1996 for upland blanket bog

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

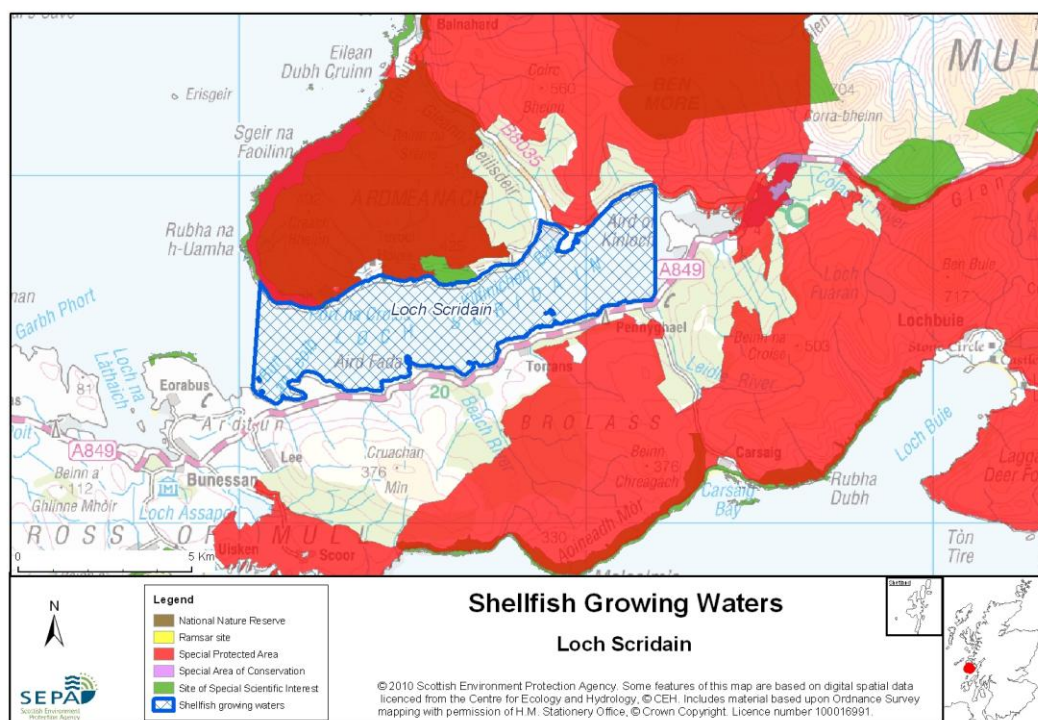
Designated 29/02/1986 for Stratigraphy (Cenomanian – Maastrichtian and Hettangian, Sinemurian, Pliensbachian), Quaternary geology and geomorphology of Scotland, Maritime cliff, Montane assemblage, Subalpine calcareous grassland, Igneous petrology (Tertiary Igneous), Vascular plant assemblage and Slender Scotch burnet moth (*Zygaena loti*)

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Ben More - Scarisdale](#)

Designated 28/02/1990 for Mineralogy of Scotland, Quaternary geology and geomorphology of Scotland, Igneous petrology (Tertiary Igneous), Upland oak woodland

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Ardtun Leaf Beds](#)

Designated 04/08/1986 for Palaeoentomology, Igneous petrology (Tertiary Igneous), Tertiary Palaeobotany



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

Loch Scridain has a catchment area of approximately 87 square kilometres, 23 km<sup>2</sup> of which is in managed forestry. The remainder of the land is predominantly heather moorland interspersed with rocky outcrops and lochans and rising to 500 metres. Land-use on the three known farms and a number of working crofts is restricted to extensive beef and sheep production. There are no significant communities within the catchment and the population of the area is less than 200.

There are four major freshwater inputs to the designated area; Abhainn Bail a Mhuillin, River Leidle and Beach River. While these three rivers are not monitored by SEPA, they are considered to be of at least good quality. River Coladoir flows into the head of Loch Scridain, and hence up-loch of the designated area, is classified by SEPA as being of good quality. The many minor freshwater inputs to the designated area are all considered to be of at least good quality.

### 86.5 Point Source Discharge

There are no consented discharges from public sewage systems or from private septic tanks into the designated area, although there are a number of consented discharges from private septic tanks within the catchment area. There may be unconsented private discharges of septic tank effluent or raw sewage to watercourses within the catchment of the designated area.

There are no discharges from industrial operation to the designated area.

There is one marine cage fish farm within the designated water, with a consented biomass of 300 tonnes.

Category	Name	Consent No.	NGR	Biomass (t)	Additional Information
Marine Cage Fish Farm	Pennycross	CAR/L/1003491	NM 497 260	300	-

### 86.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

This monitoring regime of the designated area was implemented in July 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>

## 86.7 Compliance History

UKS7992386 - Loch Scridain				
	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	Fail	Fail <sup>1</sup>	Pass	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

Of the six samples analysed for Faecal Coliforms in 2003 and 2004, five gave results above the Guideline standard. In 2005, only one result complied with the Guideline standard. The waters complied with the guideline standard in 2006. The waters have passed since 2007.

<sup>1</sup>Failure relates to a single sample for zinc in July 2005 of 11.3 µg/l which breaches the Imperative standard of 10µg/l.

## 86.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (86.6 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.

## 86.9 Improvement Actions

There are currently no improvement actions planned for this designated Shellfish Water.

## 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.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>First Cycle 2015</b>	<b>Confidence</b>	<b>Second Cycle 2021</b>	<b>Confidence</b>	<b>Third Cycle 2027</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
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

#### **86.10 Summary of Actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
No improvement actions currently planned	N/A