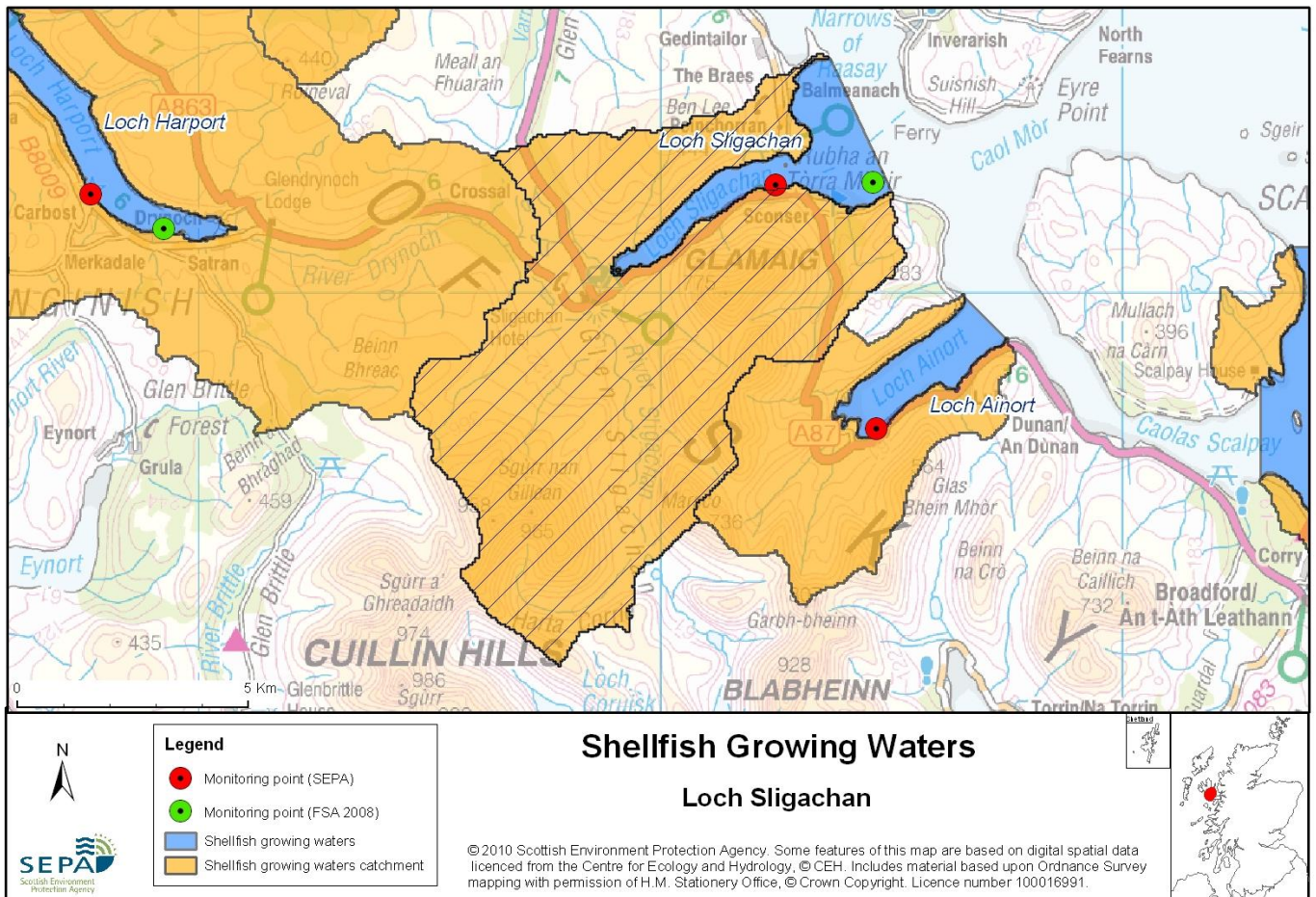


87 Loch Sligachan



Name	Loch Sligachan
Report Reference Number	87
WFD Code	UKS7992387
Local Information	An area bounded by lines drawn between NG5365935087 and NG5499832205 and extending to MHWS.
Designated Area (km²)	6.56
Year of Designation	2002
Sampling Points	Loch Sligachan Mussel Site - NG 52510 32337
Commencement of Monitoring	2003

87.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

Loch Sligachan is designated by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as a Shellfish Harvesting Area for the production of King scallops (*Pecten maximus*) at two sites.

Loch Sligachan: All sites (King scallops)
2011 = A - April to June, September, November & December
B - July & August, October
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 Sligachan.

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

87.2 Bathymetric Information

Situated on the Isle of Skye, just north of the Cuillin Hills, this loch would be exposed in the presence of easterly winds. The length of the loch is 4.4km with a maximum depth of 25m. The catchment area covers 59km² and the flushing time is rapid at 1 day. Having a fresh/tidal flow ratio of 34 with a salinity reduction of 1.2ppt indicates moderately high freshwater influence. There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

87.3 Conservation Designations

East of Loch Sligachan is Loch Harport designated Shellfish Water ([UKS7992375](#)), a small area of which is designated by FSA as a Shellfish Harvesting Area.

To the south is Loch Ainort designated Shellfish Water ([UKS7992362](#))

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) – [Sligachan](#)

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

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – [Meall a' Mhaoil](#)

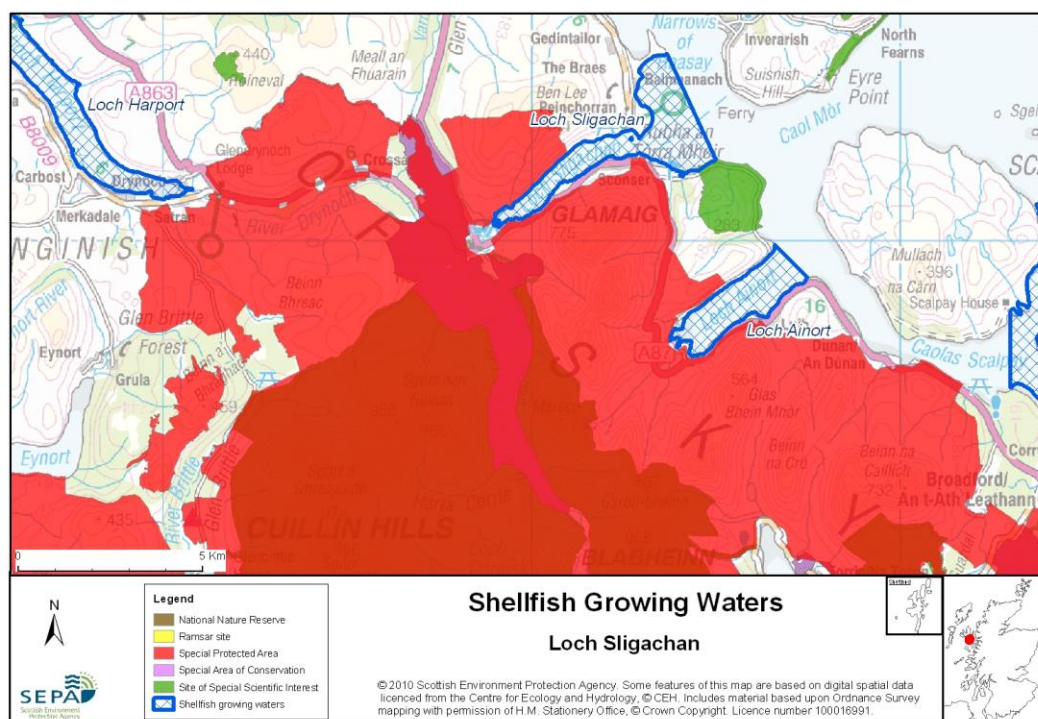
Designated 20/07/1984 for Igneous petrology (Tertiary Igneous)

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

Designated 18/08/1987 for Stratigraphy (Permian Triassic (red beds))

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

Designated 04/02/1987 for Stratigraphy (Aalenian – Bajocian, Hettangian, Sinemurian, Pliensbachian), Dystrophic and oligotrophic loch types present, Geomorphology (Mass movement), Rocky slopes (includes inland cliff, rocky outcrops, chasmophytic vegetation). Upland mosaic assemblage, Upland oak woodland, Vascular plant assemblage



87.4 Topography and Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

Much of the land around the designated area is of heather moorland, with blanket bog, coniferous plantation and rough, rocky ground beyond. Along the mouth of the loch, surrounding the designated area, the land is of improved pasture, with pockets of semi-natural grassland.

The A87 road runs along much of the south-eastern shore of the designated area, passing through the settlement of Sconser. The B883 road links settlements on the northern side of the designated area.

The River Sligachan is the principal freshwater input, and is classified as good quality by SEPA. Other, minor inputs to the designated area are considered to be of at least good quality, although none are monitored by SEPA. The main source of diffuse pollution is from sheep farming.

87.5 Point Source Discharge

There are no public sewage related discharges to the designated area, although there are a number of private septic tanks serving the population around the shores.

There are also commercial discharges of sewage effluent from Sligachan Hotel and the adjacent caravan and camp site which are made to the River Sligachan just above the tidal influence.

There are two fish farms within the designated area with a combined consented biomass of 2300 tonnes. However, the Loch Sligachan farm is undergoing long term fallowing and has not been used for 15-20 years.

Category	Name	Consent No.	NGR	Biomass (t)	Additional Information
Fish Farm	Balmeanach Bay	CAR/L/1002346	NG 531 53405	1500	-
	Loch Sligachan	WPC/N/0055676 * no CAR number as yet	NG 5100 3220	800	-

87.6 Compliance Monitoring Regime

This 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

87.7 Compliance History

UKS7992387 - Loch Sligachan				
	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	Fail
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2008	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2009	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2010	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail

The waters have only failed to comply with the Guideline standard for faecal coliforms in 2006 and 2010.

87.8 Future Monitoring

The monitoring regime (87.6 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.

87.9 Improvement Actions

There are currently no improvement actions planned for this designated Shellfish Water associated with any point source discharges. 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

87.10 Summary of Actions

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