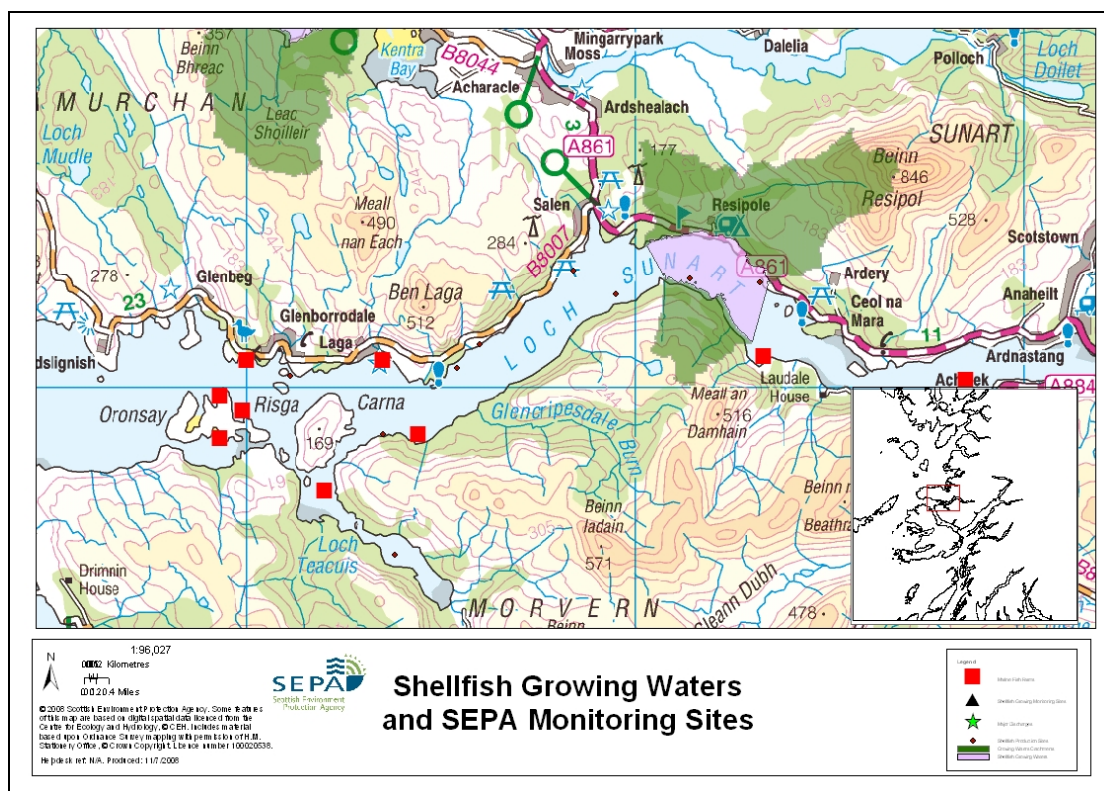


90 Loch Sunart



Name	Loch Sunart	
Report Reference No.	90	
WFD Code	UKS7992390	
Location Information	An area bounded by lines drawn between NM 703 636 (Rubha Aird Beithe) and NM 707 629 (Rubha Aird Earnaich) and NM 730 612 and NM 734 626.	
Designated Area (Km²)	4.3	
Year of Designation	2002	
Sampling Points	Loch Sunart	NM 72385 63797
Commencement of Monitoring	2003	

90.1 Commercial Shellfish Interests

The loch is extensively used for commercial shellfish growing although there is no official classification from FSAS. There are production sites for shellfish within the growing water.

90.2 Bathymetric Information

Loch Sunart has a total length of 30.7km and a maximum depth of 124m. Although the loch is relatively sheltered, it would be exposed to west winds. The catchment area is 299km² and the fresh/tidal flow ratio is 5 with salinity reduction of 0.2ppt,

suggesting low freshwater input. The loch takes 7 days to flush. There are six sills in the loch:

Sill Number	Length (m)	Depth (m)
1	450	31
2	520	70
3	4270	69
4	1250	45
5	420	15
6	600	6

There are no morphological pressures on the waters.

90.3 Conservation Designations

Glencripesdale National Nature Reserve, an area of ancient, semi-natural woodlands, extends to the southern shore of the designated area. The whole of Loch Sunart, and the land on both sides of the designated area, forms the Sunart SAC.

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0019803>

This area contains the richest complex of Atlantic bryophyte-rich old sessile oak woods in the UK as well as a rare UK example of uninterrupted transitions to marine habitats, found along the Loch shore. Both these areas come within the Sunart SSSI http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/portal/page?_pageid=53,854555,53_854604&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&PA_CODE=8174

The shores around the settlement of Resipole are designated a Recreational Water, for access and water contact activity.

90.4 Topography And Land Use – Potential Diffuse Pollution Sources

The land around the designated area is of semi-natural woodland, coniferous plantation and heather moorland. The A861 single-track road runs along the northern side of the designated area linking the settlements of Strontian (8km east) and Salen (2km west of the designated area). There are very few houses along the shores of the designated area itself.

There are only minor freshwater inputs to the designated area, all of which are considered to be of at least good quality on account of their remote nature and the landuse. Further up the Loch, the Strontian River is classified as good quality by SEPA.

90.5 Point Source Discharges

Point source discharges to the designated area are limited to private septic tank outlets from housing and a caravan / camping park complex. Up loch from the designated area, the Strontian STW (sewage settlement only) discharges from a population of 945 into Loch Sunart.

There are no fish farms within the designated area. There are three operational fish farms in Loch Sunart but all greater than 2km distant from the designated area.

90.6 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.

90.7 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	Pass	Fail
2004	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
2005	Fail	Fail ¹	Pass	Pass
2006	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
2007	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail

Of the six samples analysed for Faecal Coliforms in 2003 and 2004, three gave results above the Guideline standard. The waters failed to comply with the guideline standard in 2006 and 2007.

¹Failure relates to a result for zinc in August 2005 of 15.6 µg/l which breaches the Imperative standard of 10 µg/l.

90.8 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.

90.9 Improvement Actions

There are currently no improvement actions planned for this area.

90.10 Summary of Actions

Action	Deadline
No improvement actions currently planned.	Ongoing