

## Argyll and Lochaber area management plan catchment summaries

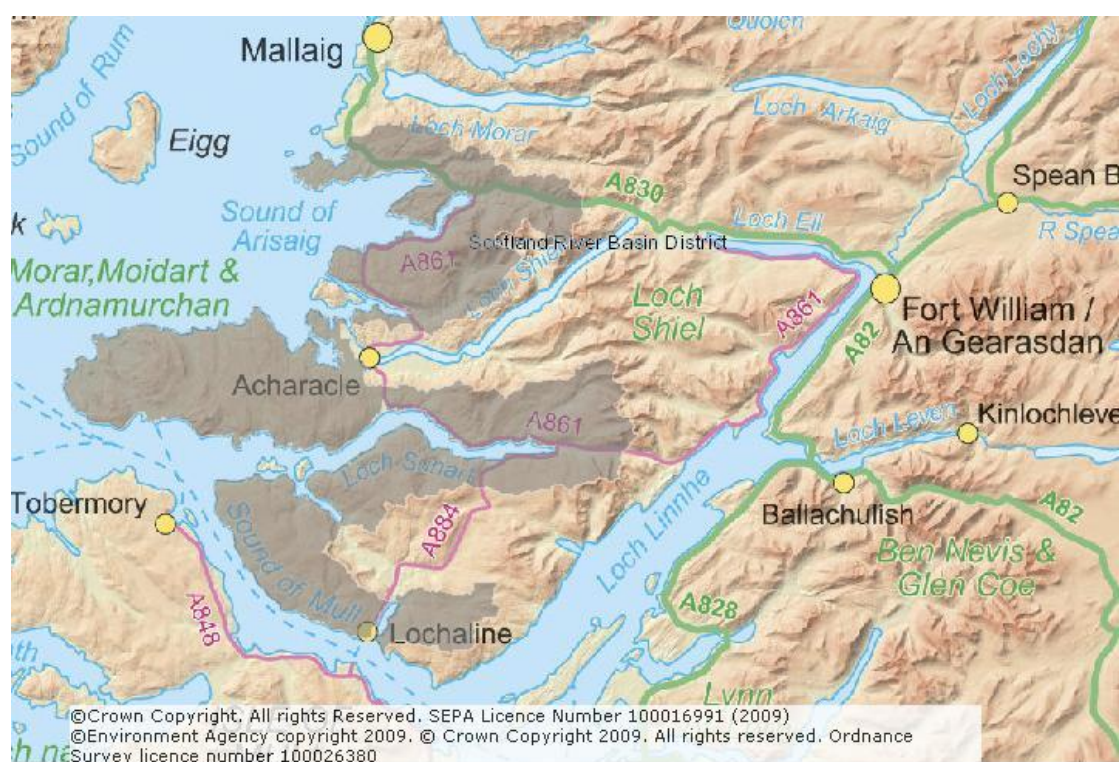
### Ardnamurchan coastal catchment

#### Introduction

Ardnamurchan coastal catchment covers 798 km<sup>2</sup> and extends round the west coast of the Ardnamurchan and Morvern Peninsulas from Arisaig in the north to just east of Loch Aline as shown by the grey shading in Map 1.

The catchment contains:

- 20 water bodies, one of which, the River Tarbert (20399), is a heavily modified water body (HMWB);
- is adjacent to nine coastal water bodies;
- contains/is adjacent to 23 protected areas.



**Map 1: Area covered by Ardnamurchan coastal catchment shown in grey**

Further information on Ardnamurchan coastal catchment can be found on the river basin planning interactive map – [www.sepa.org.uk/water/river\\_basin\\_planning.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning.aspx)

**Classification summary**

<b>Ecological status (ES) or potential (EP)</b>	<b>No. WBs</b>	<b>WB ID</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>WB category</b>
High ES	2	20393	Rannoch River	River
		20408	Allt Lon a Mhuidhe	River
Good ES	22	100206	Loch Eilt	Loch
		100207	Loch Doir a Ghearrain	Loch
		20395	Killundine River	River
		20396	Abhainn Mhungasdail	River
		20397	Barr River	River
		20398	Glencripesdale Burn	River
		20400	Strontian River	River
		20402	Allt Sanna	River
		20403	Achateny Water	River
		20404	Allt Ockle	River
		20405	Allt Beithe	River
		20406	Moidart River	River
		20407	River Ailort	River
		20409	Brunery Burn	River
		200082	Loch Sunart	Coast
		200085	Kentra Bay	Coast
		200088	Loch Moidart	Coast
		200091	Loch Ailort	Coast
		200093	Loch nan Ceall	Coast
		200355	Ardnamurchan to southern Skye	Coast
		200083	West Mull	Coast
		150065	Loch Shiel and Loch Stuart	Groundwater
Good EP	1	20399	River Tarbert	River (HMWB)
Moderate ES	3	20394	Savary River	River
		200076	Loch Aline	Coast
		200464	Sound of Mull	Coast
Bad EP	1	20401	Glenmore River	River (HMWB)

**Protected areas**

<b>Protected area (PA) designation</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>No. WBs</b>	<b>PA ID</b>	<b>Name</b>
Shellfish growing water	Not meeting guideline standards	1	UKS7992334	Ardtoe and Loch Ceann Traigh
	Meeting guideline standards	1	UKS7992383	Loch Moidart, South Channel
	Newly designated, data not yet available	1	UKS79923123	Loch Ailort
Drinking water protected areas	Meeting current standards	12	100580	Loch Bealach na Gaoithe
			10102	South Medwin
			150065	Loch Sheil and Loch Stuart
			20396	Abhainn Mhungasdail
			20402	Allt Sanna
			20405	Allt Beithe
			23547	Allt an t Sailean
			23548	Allt Achadh Forsa
			23604	Allt Achadh Forsa
			23608	Abhainn Chro Bheinn
			23611	Allt an t'Sailean
23621	Allt nan Cailleach			
Freshwater fish	Meeting current standards	1	UKS786592	River Ailort
SAC for subtidal sandbanks	Favourable maintained <sup>1</sup>	1	UK0019802	Sound of Arisaig (Loch Ailort to Loch Ceann Traigh)
SAC for, among other non-water dependent features, mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes and	Favourable for water dependent features <sup>1</sup>	1	UK0030217	Morvern Woods

<sup>1</sup> In some cases, other non-water dependent features are in unfavourable condition, but these are not discussed further here. If a water-dependent feature is unfavourable due to a non-water related pressure it is also not discussed further here.

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SAC for bog habitats	Favourable	2	UK0019771	Claish Moss & Kentra Moss
SAC for, among other non-water dependent features, mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, reefs and otters.	Favourable		UK0019803	Sunart
Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for freshwater pearl mussels	Unfavourable	2	UK0012994	River Moidart
SAC for freshwater pearl mussels	Unfavourable		UK0030079	Ardnamurchan Burns
SAC for alder woodland on flood plans, intertidal habitats, mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, otter and western acidic oak	Unfavourable/no change due to the presence of invasive non-native species. Intertidal habitats and otters favourable	1	UK0030209	Loch Moidart and Loch Shiel Woods

## **Pressures, measures and objectives summary**

### **No pressures – no deterioration objectives**

No pressures exist on Allt Lon a Mhuidhe (20408) and West Mull (200083) which are at high status (see below for Rannoch River (20393) and the 19 which are at good status. The objective for these is no deterioration in status by 2015.

### **Water resources pressures**

Glenmore River (20401) is classified as bad ecological status due to abstraction and flow regulation pressures from hydropower generation. At present these are not due to be fixed until 2026. Further work is required by SEPA to consider the scale of the pressure and the relative impacts and benefits of the hydro scheme, in order to establish whether further mitigation measures are required to improve the water body or if an alternative, less stringent objective would be more appropriate.

### **Water resources pressures - derogations**

Although Rannoch River (20393) is currently at high ecological status, its objective has been set to bad ecological status. This deterioration in status has been permitted because of the benefits which will be provided by the two new Rannoch hydropower schemes in terms of renewable energy. As these benefits are judged to outweigh the environmental impacts caused by allowing the schemes to go ahead, and all the appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place, it is possible to set a less stringent objective.

### **Morphology**

The forestry adjacent to the Savary River (20394) is scheduled to be restructured by the Forestry Commission by 2020 which will alleviate the morphology pressures on it that are resulting in moderate ecological status. The objective is therefore to achieve good ecological status by 2021.

### **Heavily modified water bodies (HMWB)**

River Tarbert (20399) is at good ecological potential with an objective of no deterioration by 2015 because all the appropriate measures have been put in place by RWE nPower to mitigate for the flow regulation and abstraction pressures caused by hydropower generation.

### **Protected areas**

For the protected areas meeting their required standards the objective is no deterioration by 2015.

### **Shellfish Waters**

Please see the Argyll and Lochaber Area Management Plan for further information on planning source tracking and measures for shellfish waters including the use of Food Standards Agency Sanitary Survey Reports.

Ardtoe and Loch Ceann Traigh (UKS7992334) (technically in West Highland Area but covered also here as it is affected by drainage from the Ardnamurchan catchment) is not scheduled to meet the guideline value for faecal coliforms until 2027 but bacterial source tracking studies will be required as soon as possible to determine the main sources of diffuse pollution.

Loch Moidart South Channel (UKS7992383) currently meets the guideline value for faecal coliforms and is expected to continue doing so.

Loch Ailort (UKS79923123) was newly designated at the end of 2008. Monitoring data therefore need to be gathered before compliance with the requirements of the shellfish waters directive can be determined.

### **Special Areas of Conservation**

The Mingarry Burn (UK0030206) is in unfavourable condition for freshwater pearl mussels. Restructuring of conifer forests and the provision of fish passage through a dam at Loch Toor should bring this site into favourable condition by 2015, providing work with the owner of the dam can be facilitated.

On the River Moidart (UK0012994) research is required to identify the causes of decline in freshwater pearl mussels and develop mitigation measures. The site is not expected to be in favourable condition until 2021.

Freshwater pearl mussels are in unfavourable condition on all four of the burns that make up the Ardnamurchan Burns SAC (UK0030079). This is due to insufficient juvenile salmonids, a fish barrier at Loch Grigadale and other morphological alterations. Measures need to be developed and are not scheduled to be effective until 2026. The Lochaber District Salmon Fisheries Board has been provisionally identified as the owner of a measure to remove the fish barrier using the restoration fund.