Published October 2010

Argyll and Lochaber area management plan catchment summaries

Loch Fyne coastal catchment

Introduction

Loch Fyne coastal catchment covers 718 km^2 around the shores of Loch Fyne from the Kyles of Bute around to almost Claonaig at the mouth of the loch as shown by the grey shading in Map 1.

The catchment:

- contains 26 water bodies, nine of which are heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs) and one is artificial;
- is adjacent to 4 coastal water bodies;
- contains/is adjacent to 11 water dependent protected areas.

The main land-uses and water uses associated with catchment are forestry and hydropower generation.

Map 1: Area covered by Loch Fyne coastal catchment shown in grey

Further information on Loch Fyne coastal catchment can be found on the river basin planning interactive map – www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning.aspx

Classification summary

Ecological status (ES) or potential (EP)	No. WBs	WB ID	Name	WB category
Good ES	10	10197	Strathlachan River	River
		10221	River Shira (u/s Lochan Shira	River
		10224	River Aray	River
		200042	Loch Fyne – Outer Basin	Coastal
		200046	Loch Fyne – Middle Basin	Coastal
		200334	Loch Fyne – Upper Basin	Coastal
		200335	Dubh Loch, Loch Fyne	Coastal
		150075	Loch Awe and Glen Orchy	Groundwater
		150385	Kintyre bedrock and localised sand and gravel aquifers	Groundwater
		150084	Loch Fyne and Loch Long	Groundwater
Good EP	4	100252	Lochan Shira	Loch (HMWB)
		10218	River Fyne	River (HMWB)
		10324	Glashan Burn	River (HMWB)
		10756	Crinan Canal (Cairnbann to Ardrishaig)	Artificial water body
Moderate ES	5	10192	River Auchalick/Acharossan Burn	River
		10193	Kilfinan Burn/Allt Lean Achaidh	River
		10225	Erallich Water	River
		10258	Inverneil Burn	River
		10325	Un-named tributary of Loch Glashan	River
Moderate EP	3	100275	Loch Glashan	Loch (HMWB)
		10220	River Shira (d/s Lochan Shira)	River (HMWB)
		10222	Kilblann Burn	River (HMWB)
Poor EP	1	10219	Allt na Lairige	River (HMWB)
Bad ES	5	10191	Allt Osda/Craignafeoch Burn	River
		10226	Douglas Water	River
		10227	Leacann Water	River
		10262	Dippin/Cuilarstich Burn	River
		10263	Lower Badden Burn to confluence with and including the Auchoish Burn	River
Bad EP	2	10217	Kinglas Water	River (HMWB)
		10223	Brannie Burn	River (HMWB)

Protected areas

Protected area (PA) designation	Condition	PA ID	Name
Shellfish protected area	Not achieving guideline standards	UKS700239	Loch Fyne coastal strip
Drinking water protected areas	Achieving required standards	10191	Allt Osda/Craignafeoch Burn
		150084	Loch Fyne and Loch Long
		150075	Loch Awe and Glen Orchy
		150385	Kintyre bedrock and localised sand and gravel aquifers
		10767	Allt Riabhachan
		10865	Kilduskland Burn
		10904	Kilduskland Burn
		10911	Allt Riabhachan
		10926	Kilduskland Burn
Freshwater fish	Achieving required standards	UKS7865997	River Shira

Pressures, measures and objectives

No pressures – no deterioration objectives

No pressures exist on the water bodies at high or good ecological status. The objective for these is no deterioration in status by 2015.

Morphology

The Erallich Water (10225), the River Auchalick/Acharossan Burn (10192), Kilfinan Burn/Allt Lean Achaidh (10193), Inverneil Burn (10258) and the Un-named tributary of Loch Glashan (10325) are at moderate ecological status due to morphology pressures from intensive forestry planting close to the banks. Forestry Commission Scotland has scheduled forest restructuring for the Errallich Water by 2020 allowing it to reach good ecological status by 2021. For the other water bodies, the restructuring is scheduled for 2026 making them good ecological status by 2027.

The Leacann Water (10227), the Dippin/Cuilarstich Burn (10262) and the Lower Badden Burn (10263) are at bad ecological status due to morphology pressures from intensive forestry planting close to the banks. Forestry Commission Scotland has scheduled forest restructuring for the first two by 2020 allowing them to reach good ecological status by 2021. The Lower Badden Burn restructuring is scheduled by 2026 making it good ecological status by 2027.

Water resources
Allt Osda/Craignafeoch Burn (10191) is at bad ecological status due to flow regulation pressures from Tighnabruaich Water Treatment Works (WTW). This is due to be mitigated for by Scottish Water by 2020 and will therefore reach good ecological status by 2021. Practical constraints prevent this being done sooner.

Water resources and morphology
The Douglas Water (10226) is at bad ecological status due to abstraction and flow regulation pressures from the Douglas Water hydroscheme. However, a less stringent objective of remaining at bad ecological status until 2027 has been set because the sustainable development benefits of the hydroscheme outweigh the benefits of improving the river. There are also morphology pressures on the water body from intensive forestry planting close to the banks. The forestry is due to be restructured by 2026.

Heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs)
Lochan Shira (100252) has abstraction, flow regulation and impoundment pressures from the Shira Hydroscheme. Measures, which do not have a significant impact upon the use of the hydroscheme have been put in place for these pressures.

The River Fyne (10218) has abstraction and flow regulation pressures from the Sloy and Allt na Lairige hydroschemes and the Glashan Burn (10324) from the Loch Gair power station. These water bodies are at good ecological potential because implementing mitigation measures would cause a significant impact on use.

As an artificial water body, the Crinan Canal (Cairbaan to Ardrishaig) (10756) is at good ecological potential because no measures are required to improve the habitat.

The objective for all these heavily modified water bodies is no deterioration in ecological potential by 2015.

Loch Glashan (100275) has abstraction, flow regulation and morphology pressures related to the Loch Gair hydropower station, but as mitigation measures would have a significant impact on use it is at good ecological potential for these pressures. However, *overall* the ecological potential is moderate because of the forestry morphology (channel realignment) and diffuse pollution impacts. These are due to be fixed by 2026 meaning the loch will reach good ecological potential by 2027.

The River Shira (10220) has abstraction and flow regulation pressure from Shira hydropower station, but appropriate mitigation measures are in place so it is at good ecological potential for these pressures. However, *overall* the ecological potential is moderate because of morphology pressures from intensive forestry planting. This is due to be restructured by 2020 meaning it will reach good ecological potential by 2021.

The Kilblann Burn (10222) is at moderate ecological potential due to abstraction and flow regulation pressures from the Shira hydropower station and morphology pressures from intensive forestry planting. The former pressures will be mitigated for by 2026 and the latter by 2020. The burn will therefore be at good ecological potential by 2027.

The Brannie Burn (10223) is at bad ecological potential due to the same pressures as the Kilblann Burn. These pressures are scheduled to be mitigated for by 2026 allowing it to reach good ecological potential by 2027.

The Kinglas Water (10217) is at bad ecological potential due to abstraction pressures from the Kinglas and Sloy hydroschemes. There is a morphology fish barrier for which measures have been screened out as it is above natural migratory limit for fish. There are also morphology and diffuse pollution pressures from intensive forestry planting. The forestry pressures are due to be fixed by 2020 and the hydropower pressures mitigated for by 2026. It will reach good ecological potential by 2027.

Allt na Lairige (10219) is at poor ecological potential due to abstraction and flow regulation pressures from the Allt na Lairige hydropower scheme. No mitigation measures are currently in place as would have significant impacts on use, but further mitigation will be discussed and implemented as appropriate by 2026 allowing it to reach good ecological potential by 2027.

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 planned source tracking and measures for shellfish waters including the use of Food Standards Agency Sanitary Survey Reports.

Loch Fyne Coastal Strip (UKS799239) is not predicted to meet the guideline value for faecal coliforms until 2027, and source tracking studies are required at the earliest opportunity to identify the main sources of diffuse pollution at this site.