

Argyll and Lochaber area management plan catchment summaries

Knapdale coastal catchment summary

Introduction

Knapdale coastal catchment covers 673 km² and includes all the freshwater on the west side of Knapdale Peninsula from Tarbert in the south to Oban and the mouth of Loch Etive in the north as shown by the grey shading in Map 1.

The catchment contains:

- 24 water bodies, four of which are heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs) and one is artificial;
- is adjacent to 15 coastal water bodies;
- contains/is adjacent to 16 protected areas.

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



Map 1: Area covered by Knapdale coastal catchment shown in grey

Further information on Knapdale 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
High ES	2	10257	Allt Cinn-locha/Easan Tom Luirg	River
		10293	Abhainn na Cille	River
Good ES	18	10269	Barbreck River	River
		10299	Feochan Bheag	River
		10302	Feochan Mhor/River Nell (d/s Loch Nell)	River
		10303	Feochan Mhor/River Nell (u/s Loch Nell)	River
		200035	Loch na Cille	Coastal
		200052	Loch Craignish	Coastal
		200056	Loch Melfort	Coastal
		200058	Sound of Shuna	Coastal
		200062	Loch Feochan	Coastal
		200306	Loch Caolisport	Coastal
		200307	West Loch Tarbert (Kintyre)	Coastal
		200318	Sound of Jura	Coastal
		200321	Loch Crinan	Coastal
		200336	Loch Sween	Coastal
		200337	Craiglin Lagoon, Loch Sween	Coastal
		200346	Firth of Lorn South	Coastal
		200313	Mull of Kintyre - West	Coastal
		150075	Loch Awe and Glen Orchy	Groundwater
Good EP	4	100256	Loch Tralaig	Loch (HMWB)
		10294	River Oude (d/s Loch Tralaig)	River (HMWB)
		10297	River Euchar/Allt Braglenmore (u/s Loch Scammadale)	River (HMWB)
		10741	Crinan canal (Loch Crinan to Cairnbaan)	Canal (artificial water body)
Moderate ES	8	100255	Loch Scammadale	Loch
		10252	Eas a Chais	River
		10255	Abhainn na Cuile/Allt Mor	River
		10259	The Lussa	River
		10295	River Oude (u/s Loch Tralaig)	River
		10296	River Euchar (d/s Loch Scammadale)	River
		200066	Firth of Lorn (North)	Coastal
Moderate EP	1	200067	Sound of Kerrera and Oban Bay	Coastal
		10304	Black Lynn Burn	River (HMWB)

Bad ES	6	100246	Loch Nell	Loch
		10251	Abhainn Learg an Uinnsinn/Allt Caoi-rain	River
		10253	Ormsary Water/Abhainn Mhor	River
		10254	Allt Doire Duibhe	River
		10256	Baranlongart Burn/Eas Dubh	River
		10298	Allt a Choromaig/Allt an Loin Mhoir	River

Protected areas

Protected area (PA) designation	Condition	PA ID	Name
Drinking water protected areas	Meeting required standards	100246	Loch Nell
		100514	Loch Fada
		100542	Loch Chaorainn
		10293	Abhainn na Cille
		10304	Black Lynn Burn
		150075	Loch Awe and Glen Orchy
Bathing water	Sufficient	UKS7616024	Ganavan Bay
Shellfish protected areas	Achieving guideline standards	UKS79923116	Loch Crinan
		UKS7992365	Loch Craginish
		UKS7992381	Loch Melfort
		UKS7992396	Sound of Kerrera
	Not achieving guideline standards	UKS7992331	Seil Sound
Special area of conservation (SAC) for (amongst other non-water dependent features) loch habitat	Unfavourable ¹	UK0012682	Taynish and Knapdale Woods
SAC for Inshore sublittoral rock (Reefs)	Favourable	UK0030041	Firth of Lorn
SAC for (amongst other non-water dependent features) Atlantic	Favourable recovered ¹	UK0019839	Moine Mhor

¹ 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. Included within sites in "favourable condition" are sites that are "unfavourable recovering". This is because some features will take a long time to recover even when all appropriate measures are in place. When a feature is reported as "unfavourable recovering", everything has been done to allow a feature to recover, but more time is needed before it could be reported as being in favourable condition. The target for Natura 2000 sites is therefore to reach "favourable" or "unfavourable recovering".

salt meadow			
SAC for mixed woodland, butterflies and otter	Favourable	UK0030287	Tayvallich Juniper and Coast

Pressures, measures and objectives summary

No pressures – no deterioration objectives

West Loch Tarbet (Kintyre) (200307) only reaches a maximum status of good for the invasive non-native species (INNS) part of the classification, due to the presence of *Sargassum muticum*, an invasive non-native species of seaweed.

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

Water resources

Loch Scammadale (100255) is at moderate ecological status due to flow regulation and abstraction pressures from the Awe hydroscheme. The River Euchar (d/s of Loch Scammadale) (10296) is at moderate ecological status due to abstraction pressures from the Awe hydro scheme and the Kilmelford hydroscheme. Measures for both water bodies are expected to mitigate the pressures by 2026 allowing them to reach good ecological status by 2027. To implement measures earlier would impose disproportionate burdens on the operator so longer timecales have been set.

Loch Nell (100246) is at bad ecological status due to abstraction pressures from the Tullich Water Treatment Works (WTW). Measures are due to be implemented by Scottish Water by 2024 allowing it to reach good ecological status by 2027.

Morphology

Eais a Chais (10252), Abhainn na Cuile/Altt Mor (10255), the Lussa (10259) and the River Oude (u/s of Loch Tralaig (10295) are at moderate ecological status due to morphology pressures from intensive forestry planting close to the banks. Forestry Commission Scotland has scheduled forest restructuring by 2020 which will allow these water bodies to reach good ecological status by 2021. The River Oude (u/s of Loch Tralaig) is also affected by morphological pressures from a hydroscheme impoundment on a downstream water body which is causing fish passage issues. However, as there are natural barriers downstream of the impoundment and a lack of usable habitat upstream, measures are not required to mitigate this pressure and once the forestry is restructured it will reach good ecological status by 2021.

Water resources and morphology

Abhainn Learg (10251) is at bad ecological status due to abstraction pressure from the Ormsary hydropower station and also from morphology pressures from impoundments and intensive forestry planting close to the banks. Measures to mitigate for the impoundment are due to be discussed with landowners by 2016 and measures to control the abstraction and to restructure the forestry are anticipated by 2026 allowing it to reach good ecological status by 2027.

Ormsary Water/Abhainn Mhor (10253), Allt Doire Duibhe (10254) and Baranlongart Burn/Eas Dubh (10256) are at bad ecological status due to abstraction and flow regulation pressures from the Ormsary power station as well as from morphological pressures from impoundments. Appropriate measures are anticipated by 2026 allowing them to reach good ecological status by 2027.

Allt a Chromaig (10298) is at bad ecological status due to abstraction pressures from the Awe hydroscheme as well as from morphological pressures from impoundments. Measures to mitigate for the impoundment are due to be discussed with landowners by 2020 and other appropriate measures are anticipated by 2026 allowing it to reach good ecological status by 2027.

Coastal water bodies

The Firth of Lorn (North) (200066) and the Sound of Kerrera (200067) are part of a group of 10 coastal water bodies that were all classified as moderate ecological status for benthic invertebrates in 2008. This moderate classification was based on the combined results of monitoring at five sites in Loch Linnhe, five sites in Loch Creran and five sites in Loch Sunart. Samples obtained from deep water in Loch Linnhe returned the poorest results, but it is thought that this was due to the sea water column being highly stratified, such that levels of dissolved oxygen at the sea bed were very low. The low levels of dissolved oxygen were not considered to be attributable to any human activity, and the results from these sites were not therefore thought to be representative of conditions across a large proportion of the 10 water bodies in question. For this reason a new set of more representative monitoring sites was selected for the purposes of producing future classifications, and results will be reviewed when the 2009 classification is produced.

The Firth of Lorn (North) (200066) only reaches a maximum status of good for the INNS part of the classification, due to the presence of Common cord grass, an invasive non-native species.

Heavily modified water bodies (HWMB)

Loch Tralaig (100256) and the River Euchar/Allt Braglenmore (u/s Loch Scammadale) (10297) are affected by abstraction and flow regulation pressures from hydropower generation and are at good ecological potential because the appropriate measures (compensation flows) are in place. Loch Tralaig also has an impoundment pressure on it, but mitigate measures have been screened out as there is little usable fish habitat upstream and natural barriers down stream preventing fish passage.

The River Oude (d/s of Loch Tralaig) (10294) is affected by abstraction, flow regulation and impoundment pressures from hydropower generation and is at good ecological potential because no mitigation measures are required because less than 1.5 km of habitat is impacted. As an artificial water body, the Crinan canal (Loch Crinan to Cairnbaan) (10741) is at good ecological potential because no measures are required to improve the habitat.

The objective for these water bodies at good ecological potential is no deterioration by 2015.

The Black Lynn Burn (10304) is at moderate ecological potential because of the abstraction and flow regulation pressures from the Tullich Water Treatment Works (WTW). More could be done to control the abstraction and Scottish Water is expected to implement this by 2024 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 growing 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.

Seil Sound (UKS7992331) is not predicted to meet the guideline value for faecal coliforms until 2027 under the priority catchment programme, and source tracking

studies will be required at the earliest opportunity to identify the main sources of diffuse pollution at these sites.

Special areas of conservation (SACs)

The loch habitats in Taynish and Knapdale Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) are in unfavourable condition due to the presence of the invasive non-native species Canadian pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*). The planned measure is control of this species, but the timescale for improvement is limited by the natural rate of habitat recovery and a recovery date cannot be predicted. However, the feature should reach favourable condition by 2027.