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Argyll and Lochaber area management plan catchment summaries

Kintyre coastal catchment

Introduction

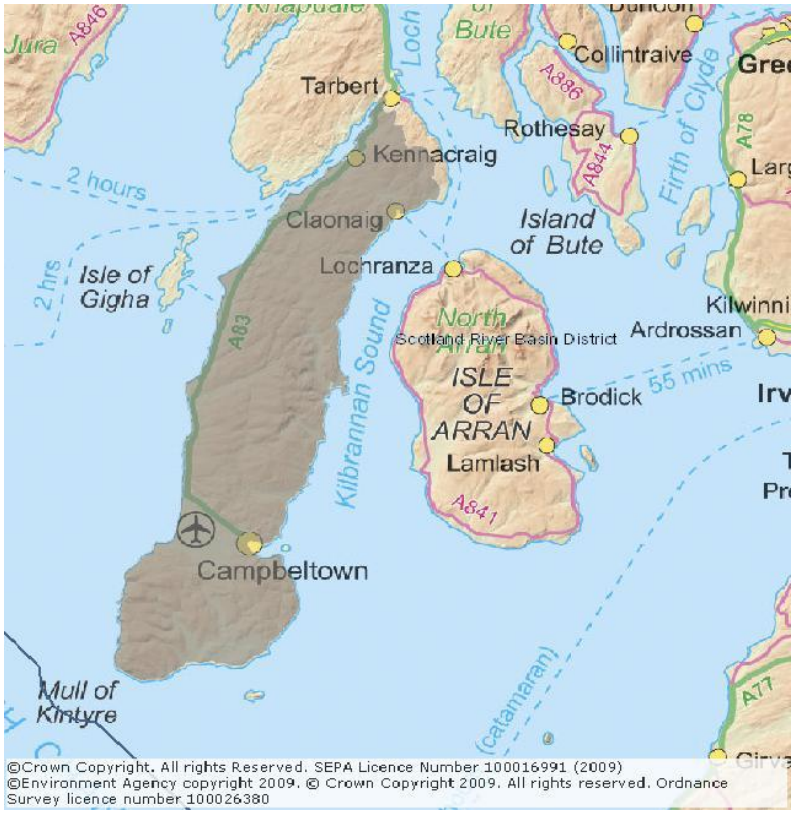
Kintyre coastal catchment covers 763 km^2 and includes all the freshwater on the Kintyre Peninsula to Tarbert in the north as shown by the grey shading in Map 1.

The catchment:

- contains 27 water bodies, four of which are heavily modified water bodies (HWMB);
- is adjacent to eight coastal water bodies;
- contains/is adjacent to 10 water dependent protected areas.

The main land-uses and water uses associated with catchment include agriculture, in particular dairy farming, and forestry.

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



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

Classification summary

Ecological status (ES) or potential (EP)	No. WBs	WB ID	Name	WB category
High ES	1	10237	Torrisdale Water	River
Good ES	19	100301	Loch Ciaran	Loch
		100303	Loch Garasdale	Loch
		10228	Strone Water	River
		10233	Chiscan Water	River
		10235	Glenlussa Water (u/s Lussa Loch)	River
		10240	Clachaig Water	River
		10243	Crossaig Water	River
		10244	Ballochroy Burn (d/s Loch Garasdale)	River
		10245	Ballochroy Burn (u/s Loch Garasdale)	River
		10246	Clachan Burn	River
		10247	Allt Mor (d/s Loch Ciaran)	River
		10250	Skipness River	River
		200305	Sound of Gigha	Coastal
		200307	West Loch Tarbert (Kintyre)	Coastal
		200311	Mull of Kintyre - South West	Coastal
		200312	Machrihanish	Coastal
		200313	Mull of Kintyre – West	Coastal
		150385	Kintyre bedrock and localised sand and gravel aquifers	Groundwater
		150386	Machrihanish sand and gravel	Groundwater
Good EP	2	10238	Barr Water	River (HMWB)
		10239	Abhainn a Chnoeain	River (HMWB)
Moderate ES	9	10229	Breackerie Water	River
		10236	Saddell Water/Ifferdale Burn	River
		10241	Carradale Water/Narachan Burn	River
		10248	Allt Mor (u/s Loch Ciaran)	River
		10249	Claonaig Water	River
		10896	Machrihanish Water / Backs Water	River
		200016	Campbeltown Loch	Coastal
		200025	Kilbrannan Sound	Coastal
		200296	Mull of Kintyre – South East	Coastal
Moderate EP	1	100306	Lussa Loch	Loch (HMWB)
Poor ES	2	10230	Conieglen Water	River
		10897	Kerran Water	River
Bad EP	1	10234	Glenlussa Water (d/s Lussa Loch)	River (HMWB)

Protected areas

Protected area (PA) designation	Condition	PA ID	Name
Drinking water protected areas	Meeting current standards	10773	Ballywilline Burn
		10869	Smerby Burn
		10909	Peninver Burn
		150385	Kintyre bedrock and localised sand and gravel aquifers
		150386	Machrihanish Sand and Gravel
Bathing water	Excellent	UKS7616034	Machrihanish
Shellfish growing water	Meeting guideline standards	UKS79923104	Inner West Loch Tarbert
		UKS79923105	Loup (West Loch Tarbert)
Special Protection Area (SPA) for Greenland white fronted geese (non-breeding)	Favourable	UK9003017	Kintyre goose roosts
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) sensitive area	Meeting current standards	UKS9127149	Machrihanish water

Pressures, measures and objectives summary

No pressures – no deterioration objectives

West Loch Tarbet (Kintyre) (200307) and Machrihanish (200312) only reach 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.

No pressures exist on the other 18 water bodies which are at high or good ecological status. The objective for all of these is no deterioration in status by 2015.

Point source pollution and invasive non-native species (INNS)

Campbeltown Loch (200016) is moderate ecological status due to point source pressures from sewage. Scottish Water is scheduled to increase treatment at Kinloch pumping station by 2014 and it should reach good ecological status by 2021. The loch only reaches a maximum status of good for the INNS part of the classification, due to the presence of *Sargassum muticum.*

Morphology

Breackerie Water (10229) is moderate ecological status because of morphological impacts of culverts associated with roads which are causing fish passage issues. This is due to be discussed with Argyll and Bute Council and, although it may be possible to do earlier, to be fixed by 2026 at the latest allowing the water body to reach good ecological status by 2027.

Conieglen Water (10230) is at poor ecological status due to morphological impacts from road bridges which are causing fish passage issues. Discussions are required with Argyll and Bute Council to establish potential measures which will allow the river to reach good ecological status by 2015.

Saddell Water/Ifferdale Burn (10236), Carradale Water/Narachan Burn (10241), Allt Mor (u/s Loch Ciaran) (10248) and Claonaig Water (10249) are all moderate ecological status due to morphology pressures from forestry planting too close to the water course. All apart from Claonaig Water (10249) are due to be restructured by the Forestry Commission Scotland by 2020 and will reach good ecological status by 2021. The Claonaig water will be restructured by 2026 and will therefore reach good ecological status by 2027. There is also a catchment management plan in development for the Carradale Water/Narachan Burn (10241) and further details will be included in updates of this catchment summary.

Kerran Water (10897) is at poor ecological status due to morphological pressures from forestry planting and from box culverts which are impeding fish passage. The Forestry Commission is due to restructure the forestry by 2026. The barriers maybe removed or mitigated for, following discussions with landowners, by 2020. The water body should therefore reach good ecological status by 2027.

Morphology and water resources pressures

Machrihanish Water/Backs Water (10896) is at moderate ecological status due to abstraction pressures from Campbeltown Water Treatment Works (WTW) and morphological impacts (impoundments and channel straightening) from mixed farming activities. Scottish Water is scheduled to mitigate the abstraction pressures from by 2014. The potential solutions to the morphological pressures are to be discussed, but the water body is to be assessed for heavily modified status first to assess what measures may be appropriate and required. It is currently scheduled to reach good ecological status by 2027.

Coastal water bodies
Kilbrannan Sound (200025) and Mull of Kintyre – South East (200296) are at moderate ecological status and are currently set to remain at this status until 2027. However, these are part of a larger group of water bodies in the Firth of Clyde that are downgraded to moderate status due to benthic (sea bed) invertebrate results. Most monitoring points on which this classification is based are further out in the Firth of Clyde eg round Ailsa Craig, but there is one point which is closer to the Argyll side. Trawling pressures may be responsible for benthic impacts in this area, but more monitoring and investigation is required to determine the reasons for the impacts. As this means no pressures have been identified, no environmental improvement targets could be set in this case. Therefore the water bodies will default to moderate status until 2027 until a pressure and solution has been identified. These two water bodies also only reach a maximum status of good for the INNS part of the classification, due to the presence of *Sargassum muticum*.

Heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs)
The two water bodies at good ecological potential have an objective of no deterioration by 2015.

Lussa Loch (100306) is heavily modified due to a morphological (dam), an abstraction and flow regulation pressures from Lussa hydropower station. Mitigation measures are not required because their implementation would have a significant impact on generation capacity. However, *overall* the loch is at moderate ecological potential because of elevated phosphorus levels due to diffuse pollution from forestry. It is scheduled to be improved by 2026 so will reach good ecological potential by 2027.

Glenlussa Water (d/s Lussa Loch) (10234) is at bad ecological potential due to abstractions and flow regulation pressures from Lussa hydropower station. Scottish and Southern Energy are scheduled to implement appropriate mitigation measures by 2026. A longer timescale has been set because to do sooner would be disproportionately expensive and further work is required to establish what measures may be required.

Protected areas
All protected areas in this catchment are meeting their required standards and the objective for these is no deterioration by 2015.