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West Highland Area Management Plan Catchment Summaries

There is a catchment summary for each catchment in the West Highland advisory group area. These give information on the current situation (classification and measures) and actions for improvement (measures and objectives). A guide to these catchment summaries and a glossary of terms is available. Further information on the water bodies within each catchment can be found on the river basin management planning interactive map – www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning.aspx

The West Highland catchment summaries have been split into 5 documents:

- Western Isles
- West Highland mainland
- Coastal water bodies
- Ground waters

This document includes catchment summaries for the **West Highland** mainland water bodies.

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Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>Minch Coastal</p>	<p>The Minch Coastal catchment contains 69 water bodies, of which 65 are natural and 4 heavily modified.</p> <p>Natural water bodies The Minch coastal catchment contains 65 natural water bodies.</p> <p>Nineteen water bodies are high ecological status; Loch Lurgainn, Loch Achall, Fion Loch, Allt Lochan Gainmheich, Allt a Chladhain, River Garvie, Abhainn Osgagig, Loch Bad na h Achlaise, Allt an Loin Duibh, Allt Gleann an t-Srathain, Oldany River, Abhainn Gleann Leireag, Abhainn an Loch Bhig, Maldie Burn - d/s Loch an Leathaid Bhuid, Maldie Burn – upstream of Loch an Leathaid Bhuid, Allt nan Ramh – upstream of Duartmore fish farm, Achriesgill Water – downstream of Loch na Claise Carnaich, Lon Mor – downstream of Sandwood Loch, Allt Loch an Tuirc,</p> <p>Thirty three water bodies are good ecological status; Sandwood Loch, Loch na Gainimh, Loch Sionascaig, Loch Osgaig, Loch Vatachan, Loch an Doire Dhuidh, Loch nam Brac, Loch an Leathiad Bhuid, Loch Crocach, Little Gruinard River, Abhainn Mhic Ille Bhuidhe, Inverianvie River, Ardessie Burn, Dundonnell River, Rhidorroch River, Allt Loch Ob an Lochain, Allt Lochan Sgeirich, Allt Ceann Loch Lurgainn, Abhainn Bad na h-Achlaise, Allt a Ghlinne Dhorcha, Allt Loch an Tuirc – Loch Crocach to source, Abhainn Clais an Eas, Unapool Burn, Abhainn a Ghlinne Dhuibh, Allt Mor Gisgill, Rhiconich River, Achriesgill Water – upper catchment, Allt na Claise Carnaich – u/s Loch na Claise Carnaich, Allt an Loin Bhain, Lon Mor – u/s Sandwood Loch, Strath Chailleach, River Runie, River Canaird (sopurce to confluence with Allt an Torra) .</p>	<p>Minch Coastal is a cycle 3 priority catchment because shellfish waters (Loch Inchar, Loch Glendhu, Loch Laxford North West) and Abhainn Clais An Eas and Allt a Mhuilinn Special Area of Conservation are not meeting the required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive; focused actions to address diffuse pollution, any morphological alterations, and subsequent improvements, are scheduled to take place in this catchment between 2022 – 2027.</p> <p>Awareness raising of the general binding rules for diffuse pollution will also assist by ensuring land managers are aware of good practice and what is required to comply with these regulations.</p> <p>Research is required to establish the source of the diffuse pollution downgrading the water environment and, in particular, in waters protected for shellfish growing. This will allow us to prepare for the targeted approach on priority catchments in future cycles.</p> <p>Discussions are required with the land owner to explore options to make improvements to Loch Bad a Ghaill. Due to the time required to fix this pressure without incurring disproportionate cost, a longer term objective has been set for the Loch Bad a Ghaill to reach good ecological status by 2026.</p> <p>Improvements to the Ullapool River are scheduled by 2027 but further investigation is required to confirm both the fish classification, the cause of any downgrade in ecological status and required measures.</p>

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>Minch Coastal continued</p>	<p>There are four water bodies at moderate ecological status due to a range of issues; Loch Bad a Ghail has a fish barrier. The Ullapool River is moderate for fish ecology. This has initially been attributed to diffuse pollution but further investigation is required to confirm both the fish classification and cause of any downgrade in ecological status.</p> <p>Both the River Polly and Allt nan Ramh – down stream of Duartmore Fish Farm have pressures from point source pollution from aquaculture.</p> <p>Four water bodies are at poor ecological status because they have a barrier to fish passage; Loch Fada, Allt Bad an Luig, Allt an Loch Fhada and Uidh na Tolla Bhaid.</p> <p>The River Lael is at bad ecological status because of water abstraction and flow regulation for the Ullapool water treatment works and the Inverlael hydro-power scheme which is operated by RWE npower. Deterioration from good to poor ecological status has been permitted on the River Lael to enable abstraction and impoundment of water for hydropower to benefit sustainable development. Appropriate mitigation is in place with the protection of low flows to prevent loss of habitat and provision of higher flows to facilitate fish movements. There was no significantly better environmental option.</p> <p>Heavily modified water bodies There are four heavily modified water bodies in the Minch Coastal catchment.</p> <p>Three of these are at good ecological potential; Loch na Claise Càrnaich is used to supply Kinlochbervie water treatment works, operated by Scottish Water. The loch is at good ecological potential because the pattern and timing of flow is controlled and an appropriate baseline flow regime downstream of impoundment is provided.</p>	<p>The River Polly is predicted to be at good ecological status by 2015. However, further investigation into appropriate measures is required</p> <p>Allt nan Ramh - d/s Duartmore Fish Farm is predicted to be good ecological status by 2015 when increased treatment of discharges will reduce pollution</p> <p>Loch Fada is predicted to be at good ecological status by 2026, Allt Bad an Luig by 2013 and Allt an Loch Fhada by 2026 with the removal of fish barriers. However, options need to be discussed with The Highland Council and funding needs to be found.</p> <p>Uidh na Tolla Bhaid is predicted to be at good ecological status by 2026 with the removal or mitigation of a fish barrier. However, further investigation and possible options need to be discussed with the operator.</p> <p>Scottish Water have recently put measures in place to control the pattern and timing of flow and provide appropriate a baseline flow regime. Deterioration to poor ecological status has been permitted on the River Lael to enable abstraction and impoundment of water for hydropower to benefit sustainable development. All appropriate mitigation in place and there is not a significantly better environmental option.</p> <p>Heavily modified water bodies Loch Poll - Loch Poll hydro-power station is predicted to be at good ecological potential in 2026. Further investigation of the problem is required before measures can be put in place.</p>

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>Minch Coastal continued</p>	<p>Loch Ob an Lochain and the River Canaird (lower section) and Allt a' Mhuilinn supply the Loch Dubh hydro-power scheme, operated by Scottish and Southern Electricity. Both these water bodies are at good ecological potential because an appropriate baseline flow regime downstream of impoundment is provided and mitigation to ensure fish passage is not required as this water body is above the migratory limit. The Loch Dubh hydro scheme is dependant on using Loch Ob an Lochain as a large reservoir of water; therefore mitigation is not required for issues with loch levels, temperature, dissolved oxygen and sediment management as these would have a significant impact on the use of the reservoir. Compensation flows are provided.</p> <p>Loch Poll - Loch Poll hydro-power station, operated by Assynt Hydro Ltd is at poor ecological potential. Some mitigation is already in place; the pattern and timing of abstraction is controlled and an appropriate baseline flow regime downstream of impoundment is provided. However, there is new evidence that salmon are migrating up river and smolts are becoming trapped and entrained in the Assynt Hydro Scheme turbines.</p> <p>Protected areas</p> <p>The Minch Coastal catchment includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rhidorroch Woods (for wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) ○ Achnahaird (for Petalwort) ○ Little Gruinard River (for Atlantic salmon) ○ Oldshoremore and Sandwood (for dune grassland, Machair, shifting dunes with marram) ○ Loch Laxford (for reefs, shallow inlets and bays) ○ Beinn Dearg (for blanket bog, clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels) ○ Cape Wrath (for vegetated seacliffs) 	<p>Protected Areas</p> <p><i>Special Areas of Conservation</i></p> <p>The Ardvar and Loch a`Mhuilinn Woodlands SAC is predicted to reach favourable/unfavourable recovering condition by 2021 when research to identify the pressure(s) and design measures has been carried out and appropriate actions put in place. A less stringent objective of 2021 has been agreed because the cause of the impact on freshwater pearl mussels is currently unknown so it is not yet feasible to identify action.</p> <p>Inverpolly SAC is predicted to be favourable/ unfavourable recovering by 2027 when measures have been put in place to restore the morphological characteristics and reduce point source inputs. Research will be carried out to identify the cause of an unknown pressure and design measures. A less stringent objective has been agreed because the cause of the impact on freshwater pearl mussels is currently unknown so it is not yet feasible to identify action.</p>

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>Minch Coastal continued</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Protection Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assynt Lochs (for breeding black throated diver) ○ Handa Island (for breeding seabird assemblage, Fulmar, Great Skua, Guillemot, Kittiwake, Razorbill) ○ Wester Ross Lochs (for black throated diver) ○ Cape Wrath (for breeding seabird assemblage, Fulmar, Guillemot. Kittiwake, Puffin, Razorbill) ○ Inverpolly, Loch Urigill and Nearby Lochs (for black throated divers) • River Ullapool and Little Gruinard River.Freshwater Fish Designated Areas • Drinking Water Protection Zones; Ardessie Burn, River Lael, Unapool Burn, Abhainn Shiaboist, Allt Ach a Braighe, Allt Ach a'Braighe, Allt Loch a' Choire, Loch Mhichie, Lochan Daraich, Lochan Dubh, Loch Poll an Droighinn, Loch na Bà, Loch Brishimi, Loch Bad na Goibhre, Assynt bedrock and localised sand and gravel aquifers. <p>The following protected areas are not meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ardvar and Loch a`Mhuilinn Woodlands (designated for freshwater pearl mussels) is in unfavourable condition – cause unknown. • Inverpolly Special Area of Conservation (designated for freshwater pearl mussels) is unfavourable due to a combination of morphological alterations, point source pollution and unknown pressures. • The Abhainn Clais An Eas and Allt a`Mhuilinn (designated for freshwater pearl mussels) is unfavourable. Discharges from septic tanks have been identified by SNH as a contributing factor. The status of the host salmonid population unknown. 	<p>The Abhainn Clais An Eas and Allt a`Mhuilinn Special Area of Conservation is predicted to be favourable/ unfavourable recovering by 2021. A less stringent objectives of 2021 has been agreed because (a) the cause of the impact on freshwater pearl mussels is currently unknown so not yet feasible to identify action and (b) the timescale of improvement following action is limited by the natural rate of recovery of the species and therefore cannot be reliably predicted.</p>

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Laxford</p>	<p>The River Laxford catchment include eight water bodies, all of which are at good ecological status; Loch Stack, Loch More, River Laxford – downstream of Loch Stack, River Laxford - Loch More to Loch Stack, River Laxford - u/s Loch More, River Laxford - Abhainn an Loin, River Laxford - Allt a Chuilinn, River Laxford - Allt Achadh Fairidh .</p> <p>Protected areas The River Laxford catchment includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loch Laxford Special Area of Conservation (for Reefs, Shallow inlets and bays)) • Laxford Valley Sand and Gravel Drinking Water Protection Zone • River Laxford Freshwater Fish Designated Area 	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Inver</p>	<p>The River Inver catchment include five water bodies, all of which are at good ecological status; Loch Assynt, River Inver - sea to Loch Assynt, River Traligill, Allt an Tiaghaich and River Loanan.</p> <p>Protected Areas The River Inver catchment includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assynt Lochs Special Protection Area (for breeding black-throated diver) • River Inver Freshwater Fish designated area • Inchnadamph Special Area Of Conservation (for base-rich fens, hard-water springs depositing lime) 	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Kirkaig</p>	<p>The River Kirkaig catchment includes 12 water bodies.</p> <p>Four of these water bodies are high status; Loch Veyatie, Abhainn a Chnocain, Na Luirgean and Uidh Fhearna.</p> <p>Eight of these water bodies are good ecological status; Fionn Loch, Cam Loch, Loch Urigill, River Kirkaig, Abhainn Mhor, Ledmore River, Crom Allt and Ledbeg River.</p> <p>Protected areas</p> <p>The River Kirkaig catchment includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inverpolly Special Area of Conservation (for acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, blanket bog, clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, Freshwater pearl mussel and otter) • Inverpolly, Loch Urigill and Nearby Lochs Special Protection Area for breeding black throated divers • River Kirkaig Freshwater Fish designated area 	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>Gruinard River</p>	<p>The Gruinard River catchment contains six natural water bodies.</p> <p>Two water bodies, Loch na Sealga and Abhainn Srath na Sealga are high ecological status.</p> <p>Four water bodies are good ecological status; Gruinard River, Abhainn Srath na Sealga / Abhainn Gleann na Muice, Allt Creag Odhar and Allt Loch Ghiubhsachain.</p> <p>Protected areas</p> <p>The Gruinard River catchment includes the Gruinard River, Freshwater Fish designated area which is meeting its required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive.</p>	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Broom</p>	<p>The River Broom catchment contains five water bodies, three of which are natural and two heavily modified.</p> <p>Natural water bodies Two of natural water bodies, Loch a Bhraoin and Abhainn Loch a Bhraoin are good ecological status.</p> <p>The River Broom is at poor ecological status due to multiple morphology pressures.</p> <p>Heavily modified water bodies Abhainn Droma and Abhainn Cuileig are both heavily modified as they are used for the production of hydro power and are both at good ecological potential. Abhainn Droma is used as part of the Conon hydro scheme, operated by Scottish and Southern, supplying the Mossford power station via Loch Glascarnoch. It is at good ecological potential because the pattern and timing of abstraction is controlled and there is provision of baseline flow regime downstream of impoundment. Abhainn Cuileig is part of the Cuileg hydro scheme operated by Scottish and Southern Electricity, supplying the Cuileig power station in Ullapool, and is at good ecological potential because the pattern and timing of abstraction, provision of baseline flows downstream of empowerment.</p>	<p>Options to restore the River Broom need to be explored, balancing the needs of land managers and the water environment. A longer term objective of 2026 has been set for them to reach good ecological status</p>

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Broom continued</p>	<p>Protected areas The River Broom catchment includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Broom, Freshwater Fish designated area • Special Areas of Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beinn Dearg (for blanket bog, Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage) <p>Fannich Hills (for blanket bog, Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)</p> <p>Torrison Coastal catchment includes 31 water bodies of which 26 are natural and 5 heavily modified.</p> <p>Natural water bodies Of the 26 natural water bodies eight are high ecological status; Loch na h-Oidhche, Loch a Bhealach, Loch Diabaigas Airde, Loch Lundie, Allt Tarsuinn, River Balgy - sea to Loch Damph, Allt a Ghiubhais, Abhainn a Gharbh Choire - Loch na h-Oidhche to source</p> <p>Sixteen natural water bodies are good ecological status; Loch Damh, Uidhe Mhic ille Riabhaich, Abhainn Dearg, River Torrison, Abhainn Coire Mhic Nobuil, Craig River, River Erradale, Badachro River, Allt Loch na Cabhaig, Allt a Ghiubhais, Abhainn a Gharbh Choire - Loch bad an Sgalaig to Loch na h-Oidhche, Abhainn Ghlas, River Sand, Abhainn na Leuma, Allt Loch nan Uain and Allt Beithe</p> <p>Abhainn nan Lub and Allt a Cham Loin Mhoir are at poor ecological status due to fish barriers from road structures/bridges.</p>	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Broom continued</p>	<p>Heavily modified water bodies All five of the heavily modified water bodies are at good ecological potential. Loch a Bhaid-luachraich is used for public water supply for Aultbea water treatment works. It is at good ecological potential because there is appropriate baseline flow and the pattern and timing of abstraction is controlled by Scottish water.</p> <p>The River Kerry - Kerry Power Station to Loch Bad an Sgalaig and Loch Bad an Sgalaig supply the Kerry Falls hydro station, operated by Scottish and Southern Electricity. They are both at good ecological potential because further reduction of abstraction is not required as this would have a significant adverse impact on the operator which would be disproportionate to the positive impacts of production of renewable energy and hence unacceptable. The Kerry Falls hydro station is dependant on using a large reservoir of water and therefore mitigation is not required for issues with loch levels, temperature, dissolved oxygen, sediment management as these would have a significant impact on the use of the loch.</p> <p>The River Kerry - sea to Kerry Power Station is at good ecological potential because there is an appropriate baseline flow regime downstream of Loch Bad an Sgalaig.</p> <p>The Abhainn Dubh supplies the Inverbain hydro power station operated by RWE npower. It is at good ecological potential because the pattern and timing of abstraction is controlled and an appropriate baseline flow regime downstream of impoundment is provided.</p>	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Broom continued</p>	<p>Protected Areas Torridon coastal includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ River Kerry SAC (for fresh water pearl mussels) ○ Rassal SAC (for base-rich fens, hard-water springs depositing lime) ○ Loch Maree Complex SAC (for alder woodland on floodplains, blanket bog, bog woodland, clear -water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels) ○ Beinn Bhan SAC (for wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) • Special Protection Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wester Ross Lochs SPA (for black-throated diver) • Drinking Waters; Badachro River, Abhainn Alligin, Allt Donn, Abhainn Alligin, Allt nam Prap, Loch a Bhaid-Iuachraich, Loch Diabaigas Airde and Loch Sgeireach • River Ewe Freshwater Fish designated area 	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Ewe</p>	<p>The River Ewe catchment includes 19 natural water bodies.</p> <p>Seven of these water bodies are at high status; Loch Kernsary, Lochan Fada, Loch Garbhaig, Loch Clair, Abhainn na Fuirneis - Loch Maree to Loch Garbhaig, Abhainn na Fuirneis - Loch Garbhaig to source and Abhainn an Fhasaigh.</p> <p>Ten of these water bodies are at good status; Loch Maree, Loch Tollaidh, River Ewe - sea to Loch Maree, Inveran River, Allt na Creige, River Talladale, River Grudie, Allt Gleann Tulacha, A Ghairbhe - Kinlochewe to Loch Clair, River Coulin - Loch Clair to source</p> <p>Two water bodies are bad ecological status; Kinlochewe River / Abhainn Bruachaig is bad ecological status due to abstraction of water for the Grudie Bridge power station which is part of the Conon hydro scheme operated by Scottish and Southern. Abhainn Bruachaig - headwaters is also bad ecological status due to flow regulation and abstraction of water for the Grudie Bridge power station.</p> <p>Protected areas The River Ewe catchment includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Little Gruinard River (for Atlantic salmon) ○ Loch Maree Complex (for alder woodland on floodplains, blanket bog, bog woodland, clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels) • Special Protection Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loch Maree (for breeding black-throated diver) ○ Wester Ross Lochs (for breeding black-throated diver) • Drinking Water Protection Zones; River Talladale, Allt a Chuirn • River Ewe Freshwater Fish designated area 	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Carron (Wester Ross)</p>	<p>The River Carron (Wester Ross) catchment includes nine natural water bodies.</p> <p>Loch Dughaill is at high status.</p> <p>Seven water bodies are at good ecological status; Loch Sgamhain, River Carron - Loch Dughaill to Loch Sgamhain, River Carron - Loch Sgamhain to source, River Taodail, Fionn Abhainn, River Lair, River Carron - Loch Carron to Loch Dughaill.</p> <p>Deterioration from good to poor ecological status has been permitted on the Allt a Chonais to enable abstraction and impoundment of water for hydropower to benefit sustainable development. Appropriate mitigation is in place with the protection of low flows to prevent loss of habitat and provision of higher flows to facilitate fish movements. No better environmental option was identified.</p> <p>Protected areas</p> <p>The River Carron (Wester Ross) catchment includes the following protected areas, both of which are meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allt a' Ghiubhais, Drinking Water Protection Zone • Beinn Dearg Special Area of Conservation (for clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels) • River Carron Freshwater Fish Designated Area 	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>Sounds Coastal</p>	<p>The Sounds coastal catchment includes 27 natural water bodies.</p> <p>Four water bodies are high ecological status; River Croe, River Attadale, River Kishorn - Couldoran to source and Russel Burn - sea to Russel.</p> <p>Twenty water bodies are at good ecological status; Loch an Dubh-lochain, Allt Cam Carach, Finiskaig, River Carnach, Inverie River, Abhainn nan Eildean, Abhainn Inbhir Ghuiserein, River Barrisdale, River Arnisdale, Abhainn a Ghlinne Bhig, Glenmore River, River Shiel, An Leth-allt, River Elchaig, Allt Cadh an Eas, Abhainn Cumhang a Ghlinne, Russel Burn – Russel to source, River Toscaig, River Applecross, Abhainn Chuaig.</p> <p>The River Kishorn - sea to Couldoran is at moderate ecological status due to point source pollution from aquaculture.</p> <p>Two water bodies are at bad ecological status.</p> <p>The Lochourn River is at bad ecological status due to abstraction of water for Quoich power station, part of the Great Glen Hydro – scheme operated by Scottish and Southern Electricity. However, this water body needs to be assessed to determine if it should be designated a heavily modified water body and, if so, whether it is at good ecological potential or in need of further mitigation.</p> <p>Allt Dhuirinish is currently classified as bad ecological status. However, the classification of this water body needs to be checked as the existing mitigation of controlled pattern and timing of abstraction and provision of an appropriate baseline flow regime downstream of impoundment are in place and it has been concluded that this water body would not deteriorate less than good ecological status.</p>	<p>The River Kishorn - sea to Couldoran is predicted to reach good ecological status by 2024 when point source pollution from aquaculture will be reduced. However, further investigation into appropriate measures is required.</p> <p>Sounds Coastal is a cycle 3 priority catchment because Loch Kishorn shellfish water is not consistently meeting its required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Scottish Water will deliver first time sewage in Loch Kishorn by 2015. Focused actions to address other potential sources of diffuse pollution, any morphological alterations, and subsequent improvements, are scheduled to take place in this catchment between 2022 – 2027.</p> <p>Awareness raising of the general binding rules for diffuse pollution will also assist by ensuring land managers are aware of good practice and what is required to comply with these regulations.</p>

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>Sounds Coastal continued</p>	<p>Protected Areas The Sounds Coastal catchment includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking Water Protection Zones; Allt Dhuirinish, Russel Burn - Russel to source, Big Burn, Allt Ratagain, Allt Nan Corpe, Allt Nan Sugh, Allt An Inbhir, Allt A Chruinn, Allt An Fhuarain, Allt Creag nan Carrachan, Allt Dearg, Allt Ratagain, Allt A Chruinn, Allt Nan Sugh, Allt a' Mhuilinn, Tributary of Allt Gleann Udalain, Loch a'Choire Leith, Loch a' Mhuilinn, Lochan Dubha, Morar and Torridon. • Special Areas of Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coille Mhor (for Western acidic oak woodland) ○ Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs (for marine reefs) ○ Rassal (base-rich fens, hard-water springs depositing lime) ○ Beinn Bhan (wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) ○ Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills (for blanket bog, otter and wet heathland with cross leaved heath) • River Elchaig and River Shiel (Loch Duich) Freshwater Fish designated areas 	<p>Research is required to establish the source of the diffuse pollution downgrading the water environment and, in particular, in waters protected for shellfish growing. This will allow us to prepare for the targeted approach on priority catchments in future cycles.</p> <p>The Lochourn River is predicted to be good ecological status by 2026. but appropriate measures still need to be discussed. This water body needs to be assessed to determine if it should be designated a heavily modified water body and, if so, whether it is at good ecological potential or in need of further mitigation.</p>

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Ling</p>	<p>The River Ling catchment includes three natural water bodies.</p> <p>The River Ling - Aonach Beag to source and Allt Loch Innis nan Seangan are at good ecological status.</p> <p>The River Ling - sea to Aonach Beag is currently classified at moderate ecological status for fish ecology. However, the classification of this water body needs to be reviewed. Moderate status has initially been attributed to diffuse pollution but further investigation is required to confirm both the fish classification and cause of any downgrade in ecological status</p> <p>Protected areas</p> <p>The River Ling catchment includes the River Ling Freshwater Fish Designated Area which is meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive.</p>	<p>Improvements to the River Ling - sea to Aonach Beag - are scheduled by 2027 but further investigation is required to confirm both the fish classification, the cause of any downgrade in ecological status and required measures.</p>

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>River Morar</p>	<p>The River Morar includes seven water bodies, six of which are natural and one heavily modified.</p> <p>Natural water bodies Of the six natural water bodies, the Loch Morar and Loch Beoraid are high ecological status. Abhainn Ceann Loch-morair, River Meoble and Allt a Choire are good ecological status. Allt an Loin is at bad ecological status due to pressures on flow regulation and abstraction of water for Mallaig water treatment works. Measures are to improve regulated flows and control abstraction by 2024 by Scottish Water.</p> <p>Heavily modified water bodies River Morar - sea to Loch Morar is heavily modified because it is used by the Morar power station as part of the Morar scheme. It is at good ecological potential because there is provision of appropriate baseline flows and controlled pattern and timing of abstraction.</p> <p>Protected areas The River Morar catchment includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allt an Loin Drinking Water Protection Zone • River Morar Freshwater Fish Designated Area <p>Glen Beasdale SAC (unfavourable for fresh water pearl mussels due to a combination of morphological alterations and low density of salmonid fish (cause uncertain). It is predicted to be favourable/ unfavourable recovering by 2015 due research to identify cause of low salmonid fish numbers and design measures; restoration of morphological characteristics.</p>	<p>Allt an Loin is predicted to be good ecological status by 2024 with improved regulated flows and controlled abstraction by Scottish Water.</p> <p>Protected Areas Glen Beasdale SAC (unfavourable for fresh water pearl mussels) is predicted to be favourable/ unfavourable recovering by 2015 following research to identify the cause of low salmonid fish numbers and design of appropriate measures which may include restoration of morphological characteristics.</p>

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>Isle of Skye Coastal</p>	<p>The Isle of Skye Coastal catchment contains 45 water bodies, 43 of which are natural and two heavily modified.</p> <p>Natural water bodies There are 43 natural water bodies in the Isle of Skye Coastal catchment.</p> <p>Seventeen water bodies are high ecological status; River Leasgeary, Abhainn Ceann Loch Ainort, Abhainn Lusa, Abhainn a Ghlinne Mheadhonaich, Ord River, Abhainn Ceann Loch Eishort, Abhainn an t-Sratha Mhoir, Abhainn Cille Mhaire, Abhainn Camas Fhionnairigh, Scavaig River, Coruisk River, River Talisker, Vikisgill Burn, Red Burn, Abhainn Choisleader, Lon an Eireannaich, River Haultin.</p> <p>Twenty six water bodies are good ecological status; Loch Coruisk, Kilmaluag River, River Brogaig, Stenscholl River, Lealt River, Lon Coire na h-Airigh, Varragill River, River Sligachan, Broadford River, Allt nan Criopag, River Brittle, Eynort River, River Drynoch, River Ose, Caroy River, Bay River, Treaslane River, Allt Garbh, River Snizort, Abhainn an Acha-leathain, Glenmore River, River Romesdal, River Hinnisdal, River Conon, River Rha.</p> <p>Deterioration from good to moderate has been permitted on the Hamara River to enable abstraction and impoundment for public drinking water supply for the benefits to human health. Having had regard to the benefits of the proposal to sustainable development as well as the benefits of preventing deterioration of status, SEPA considered that all practicable steps had been taken to mitigate the adverse impacts, that the benefits to human health outweighed the adverse impacts, that the beneficial objectives of the scheme could not be achieved by other means and that the application of an exemption from WFD objectives would be consistent with the implementation of other EU environmental legislation</p>	<p>Isle of Skye Coastal is a cycle 3 priority catchment because shellfish waters, and in particular Loch Snizort, Loch Caroy and Loch Harport, are not consistently meeting required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive; focused actions to address diffuse pollution, any morphological alterations, and subsequent improvements, are scheduled to take place in this catchment between 2022 – 2027. Awareness raising of the general binding rules for diffuse pollution will also assist by ensuring land managers are aware of good practice and what is required to comply with these regulations.</p>

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
<p>Isle of Skye Coastal continued</p>	<p>Heavily modified water bodies There are two heavily modified water bodies in this catchment. Loch Leathan supplies the Storr Lochs power station operated by Scottish and Southern electricity. Loch Leathan is at good ecological potential because the pattern and timing of abstraction is controlled. The Storr Lochs scheme is dependant on using the large reservoir of water provided by Loch Leathan and therefore mitigation is not required for issues with loch levels, temperature, dissolved oxygen, compensation flows and sediment management as these would have a significant impact on the use of the loch for the production of hydroelectricity.</p> <p>The Bearreraig River is also used as part of the Storr Lochs hydro-scheme. It is at good ecological potential because improvements have been made to regulated flows and abstraction is controlled.</p> <p>Protected Areas The Isle of Skye coastal catchment includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking Water Protection Zones; Hamara River, Allt Loch a Choire, Lusta Burn, Voaker Burn, Ollach River, Eas Mor, Allt na Teangaidh, Allt Slapin, Allt Mor, Lon nam Breac, Osdale River, Allt a Mhuilinn, Lusta Burn, Osdale River, Allt Nan Corpe, Ollach River, Eas Mor, Allt na Teangaidh, Allt Glen Suardal, Allt Slapin, Allt Mor, Allt Beinn na Cloiche, Reservoir on Allt A'Ghoirtein, Isle of Skye • Special Areas of Conservation; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trotternish Ridge (?water dependant features) • Sligachan Peatlands (for peat-stained lakes, blanket bog, clear water lochs, very wet 'quaking' mires, wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) • Mointeach nan Lochan Dubha (for peat-stained lakes, blanket bog, clear water lochs and very wet 'quaking' mires) • Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs (for reefs) • Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills (blanket bog, otter and wet heathland with cross leaved heath) • Ascrib, Isay and Dunvegan (for common seal) • Strath (for base-rich fens, Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools, hard-water springs depositing lime and wet heathland with cross-leaved heath) • Rigg – Bile (for vegetated sea cliffs) • Cuillins Special Protection Area (for golden eagle) 	<p>Research is required to establish the source of the diffuse pollution downgrading the water environment and, in particular, in waters protected for shellfish growing. This will allow us to prepare for the targeted approach on priority catchments in future cycles.</p>

Comment [r1]: SNH to check please. Which are the water dependant features?

Comment [r2]: SNH – is this water dependant?

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
Rum Coastal	<p>Rum coastal catchment includes one water body, the Abhainn Rangail which is at good ecological status.</p> <p>Protected Areas The Rum coastal catchment includes the following protected areas, which are all meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rum Special Area of Conservation (for acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, base-rich fens blanket bog, clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels) • Rum Special Protection Area (for breeding seabird assemblage, guillemots, kittiwakes, Manx shearwater, red-throated diver) • Rum Drinking Water Protection Zone 	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
Eigg coastal	<p>Eigg coastal catchment does not have any classified water bodies. It includes the Eigg Drinking Water Protection Zone which is meeting its required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive.</p>	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
Scalpay coastal	<p>Scalpay coastal catchment does not have any classified water bodies. It has the following protected area which is meeting its required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scalpay coastal catchment includes the Scalpay Drinking Water Protection Zone 	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
Isle of Raasay coastal	<p>Isle of Raasay coastal catchment does not have any classified water bodies.</p> <p>Isle of Raasay coastal catchment includes Loch na Meilich and Island of Raasay Drinking Water Protection Zone which is meeting its required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive.</p>	

Catchment	Current situation	Actions for improvement
Canna coastal	<p>Canna coastal catchment does not have any classified water bodies. It has the following protected areas which are meeting their required standards with respect to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rum Special Protection Area (for breeding seabird assemblage, guillemots, kittiwakes, Manx shearwater, red-throated diver) • Canna and Sanday Special Protection Area (for breeding seabird assemblage, guillemot, herring gull, kittiwake, puffin and shag) 	