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# **Shellfish water quality – progress update**

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Significant progress since last year

- Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act – commenced September 2013
- working group established to take forward implementation of shellfish provisions – Scottish Government, ASSG, SEPA, FSA and Scottish Water

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## Aims of the legislation

- ensure continued protection to shellfish growing waters to help the industry grow sustainably
- identify shellfish waters as protected areas within the RBMPs
- seek to align standards with Food Hygiene Regulations

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## Working group – consultation

- Delivering Scotland's River Basin Management Plans: next steps in implementing an integrated approach to the protection of shellfish growing waters
- 8 July 2013 –  
27 September 2013
- 9 responses





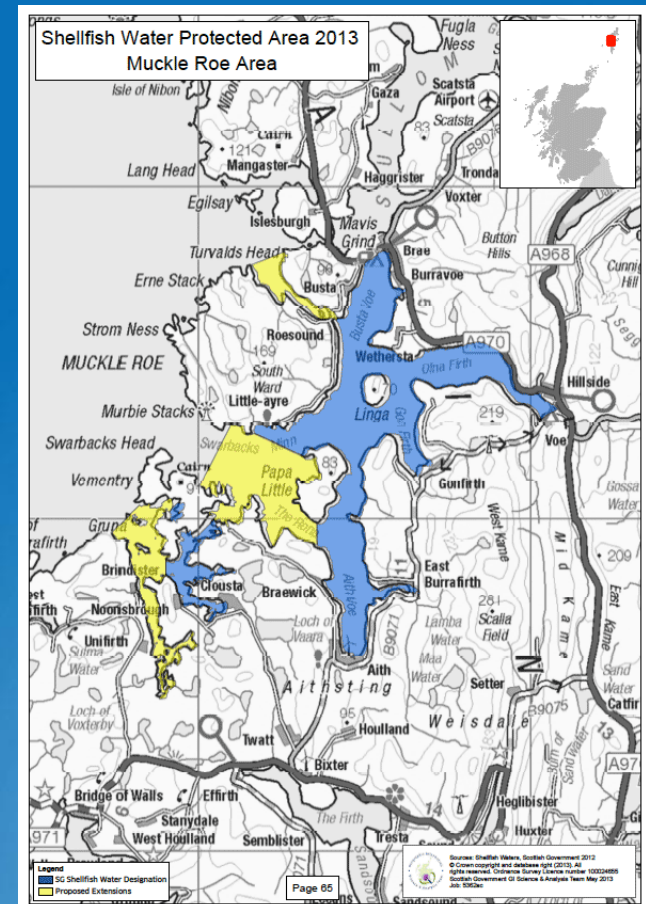
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## Step 1 – designation review

- extensions and rationalisation at 37 shellfish waters resulting in 33 larger areas
- 10 new shellfish waters
- 2 sites de-designated

So

- 84 sites in Scotland
- 27% increase in protected area



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## Step 2 – set environmental objectives

- New regulations – 2 core objectives
  - prevent deterioration in quality of SWPA
  - seek to improve quality of all SWPAs by 2015;
- but
  - deadline may be extended if disproportionate cost or technically infeasible
  - lower objective may be set if disproportionate cost or technically infeasible

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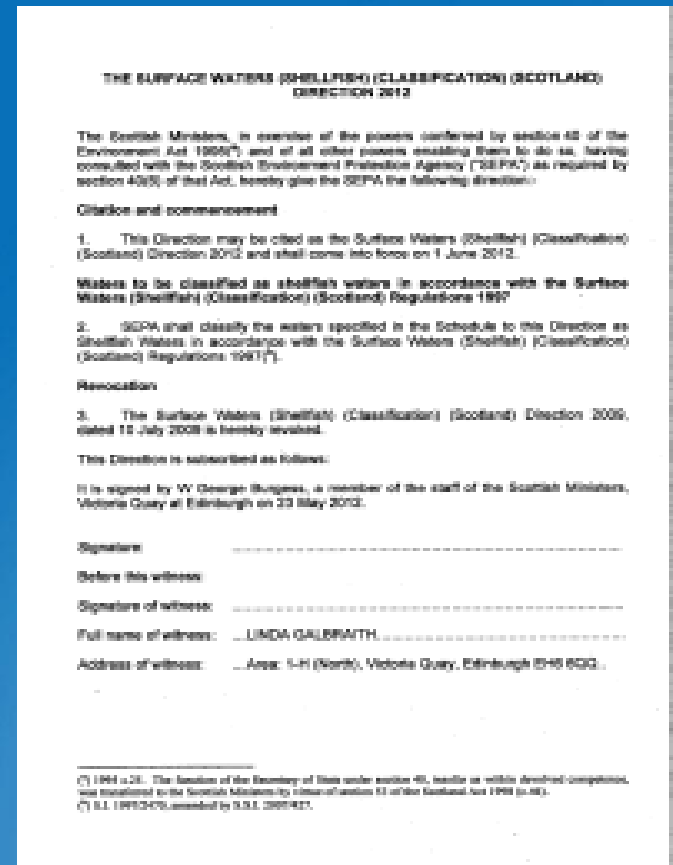
## Step 3 – apply environmental standards

- Consulted on 3 options:

1. faecal bacteria scheme

2. faecal bacteria plus pollutants

3. faecal bacteria plus full WFD water quality standards

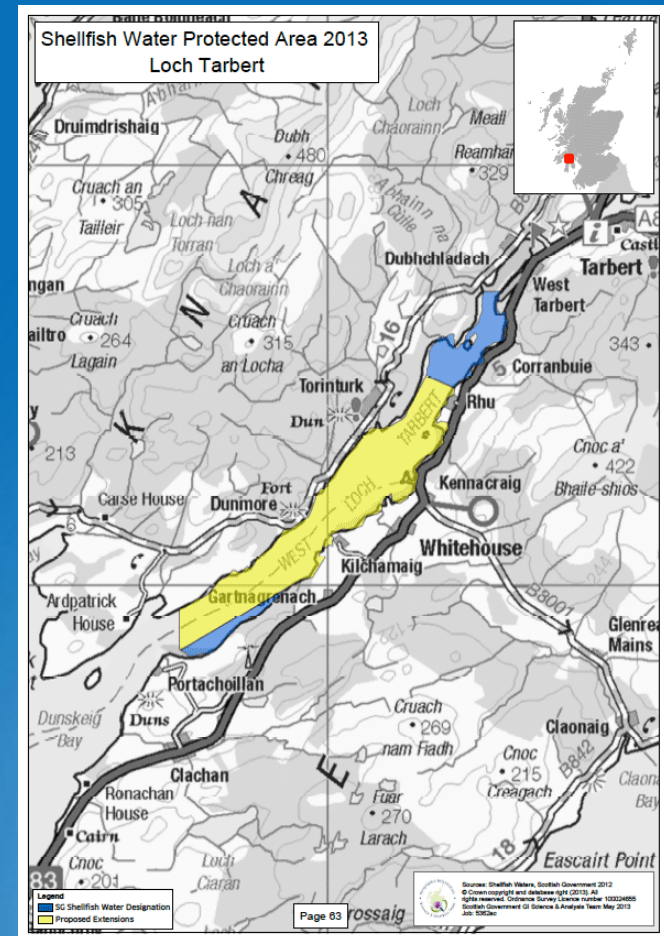




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## Step 4 – management of protected areas

- Consulted on 4 options:
  1. utilise existing monitoring points
  2. improved collaboration on monitoring
  3. map exclusion zones
  4. guaranteed achievement of standards





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What are the next steps?

- finalise maps and prepare designation Order
- finalise regulations
- introduce environmental standards by means of directions to SEPA

To be completed by December 2013

