



A Review of Scotland's Shellfish Water Protected Area Designations

July 2025

Overview

General Comments

Scottish Water welcomes the opportunity to participate in the review of Scotland's Shellfish Water Protected Area (SWPA) designations. Scottish Water understands the need for such review, and the criteria that will be applied when considering any new or amended SWPA designations, and any de-designation of existing SWPAs.

1.	<p>Do you agree with the proposed designations of new Shellfish Water Protected Areas (SWPAs) and the proposed boundaries (see links)? If not why, and what specific changes to the proposed sites would you suggest?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree• Mostly Agree• Do not agree <p>Please provide any comments with reference to specific SWPA's to support your answer</p>
	<p>N/A - It is not within Scottish Water's role as a public water and wastewater provider to agree or disagree with any proposed designation. Rather, it is our role to inform the process by helping others understand the potential implications for public wastewater infrastructure arising from new designations.</p>
2.	<p>Are you aware of additional sites, not included above, that would meet the proposed criteria for designation? Please provide details of the sites and any relevant evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes – Please provide details of potential new SWPA sites and any relevant evidence:• No
	<p>N/A</p>
3.	<p>Do you foresee any benefits from the proposed changes to SWPA?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes – Please provide evidence of any benefits in support of your answer.• No
	<p>N/A</p>

4.	<p>Do you foresee any negative impacts from the proposed changes to SWPA? Can you provide evidence to support this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – Please provide evidence in support of your answer. • No
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Yet to be determined.

We note that there are existing public discharge outfalls, from Wastewater treatment Works (WwTW), Wastewater pumping Stations (WWPS), and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO), both within, and adjacent to, the boundary of some of the proposed new designations. This information has been shared previously with both SEPA and the Scottish Government as part of the screening process for potential new designations and is noted in the consultation document.

Any “negative” impacts would come in the form of investment required e.g. to provide enhanced levels of screening and treatment, and/or monitoring equipment and enhanced discharge licence requirements for the reporting of flow and overflow statistics.

The degree to which any investment need is required is, at this stage, unclear. Investment needs will be derived from the application of SEPA policy and in some cases by studies/modelling, and this will be driven by the outcome of this review. Scottish Water fully expects to engage with SEPA on this matter once the consultation process has concluded and Ministers have made a decision on new designations.

5.	<p>Do you agree with the proposed de-designations of the 29 existing SWPAs based on the outlined criteria? If not, please identify which, give a reason, and if possible, provide evidence e.g. of future plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree • Partially Agree - Please describe which SWPA de-designations you do not agree with and why. • Disagree - Please describe which SWPA de-designations you do not agree with and why.
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N/A – see response to question 1 above

6.	<p>Are you aware of any additional sites that should be considered for de-designation based on the relevant criteria? Please provide any relevant evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – please provide evidence in support of your answer. • No
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N/A

7.	<p>Can you provide evidence of any potential benefits from the proposed de-designation of the existing SWPAs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – Please provide evidence in support of your answer. • No
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Yes.

Our comment on the potential benefits of de-designation is limited to the operation of public wastewater infrastructure. Any “benefits” would, as noted in the consultation, be derived from changes in treatment requirements at a number of WwTWs. De-designation would present an opportunity for Scottish Water to review WwTW discharge licences with SEPA, to ensure that discharge quality standards are appropriate for both water environment need and NetZero commitments.

8.	<p>Can you provide evidence of any potential negative impacts from the proposed de-designation of the existing SWPAs, including spat collection for example?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes – Please provide evidence in support of your answer.• No
No.	

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