

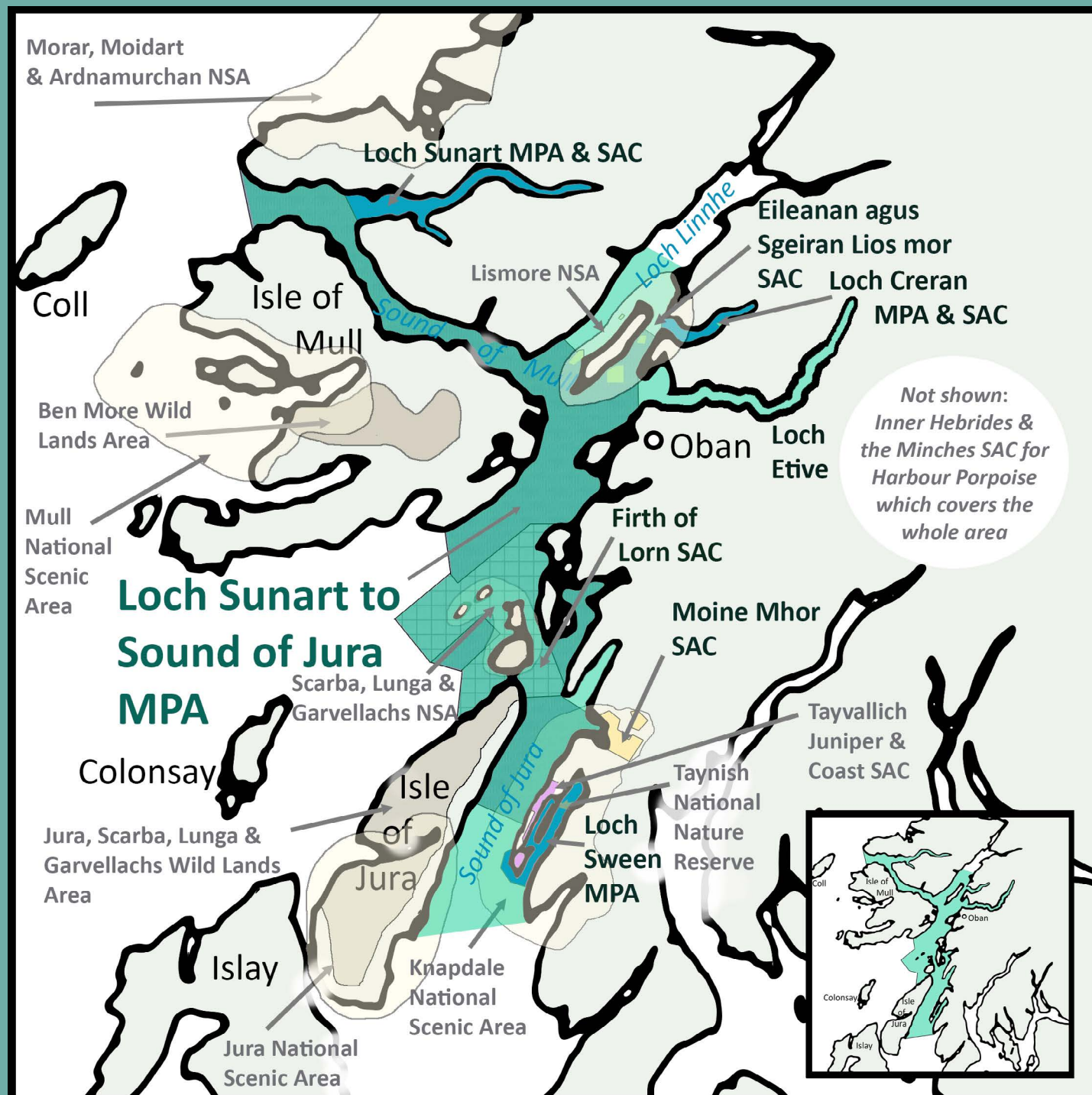
Argyll Coast and Islands HOPE SPOT



The Argyll Coast and Islands Hope Spot is a community-led celebration of this part of Scotland's world-class natural riches. It is the first Hope Spot in mainland UK.

Hope Spots are special places, vital for the ocean's health, linked by the international organisation *Mission Blue*. This growing global network also includes the Galapagos Islands and Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Collectively, Hope Spots are creating a global wave of community support for ocean conservation that policymakers cannot ignore.



The Argyll Coast & Islands Hope Spot stretches from Ardnamurchan to Loch Sween. It includes four Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Special Areas of Conservation, National Scenic Areas and National Nature Reserves.

What's in the water?



Serpulid worm reef

Argyll's marine wildlife is more diverse than almost anywhere else in Scotland. It includes the huge, globally-endangered flapper skate, dolphins, porpoises, minke whales, basking sharks, otters and seabirds. Sheltered beds of sea grass and pink maerl are important fish nurseries and carbon stores.

Colourful serpulid worms build towers on the seabed and soft corals cloak rocky reefs. There are kelp forests, exotic sea fans, flame shells and feather stars. The coast has fishing grounds, salmon breeding rivers, wild anchorages, snorkel trails, shipwrecks, ancient oak forests and castles.



Flame shell

Why does it matter?

For generations Argyll's sea has sustained its coastal communities but these resources are under great pressure. The Hope Spot shows what is possible when people who live by the sea look after it sustainably, for everyone's benefit in future.

How can the Hope Spot help?

- We invite you to discover what lives in the Hope Spot, through events, citizen-science and school projects, and to share the hope offered by this natural diversity.
- The Hope Spot's Marine Protected Areas bring sustainable social and economic benefits to local communities.
- Native oysters and seagrass beds are now being restored. The Hope Spot's special marine life can be best protected by favouring low-impact, sustainable methods of fishing and aquaculture.
- We are working to improve Scottish Government policies and calling for the laws protecting MPAs to be enforced.

These are the waters nearest to our homes, where we live and work, and which we know and love. It is up to us all to decide the future of our local seas.

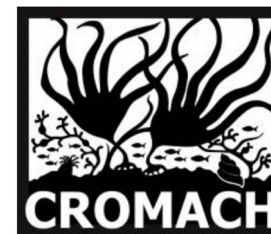
What are your own hopes for the **Argyll Coast and Islands Hope Spot?**



Kelp forest

Our champions

The Argyll Hope Spot is supported by four local champion organisations and is led by volunteers



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