

CITATION

**WEST INVERNESS-SHIRE LOCHS
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Highland (Lochaber)**

Site code: 9189

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCES: NH163224, NH127098, NH225020, NH124013,
NH295034, NN055944, NH161048, NH158038

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 25, 33 & 34
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 399, 400, 414 & 415

AREA: 2967.52 ha

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES:

Biological : **Birds** : **Black-throated diver** *Gavia arctica*
: **Birds** : **Common scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

DESCRIPTION:

West Inverness-shire Lochs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) comprises eight freshwater, upland lochs lying within the altitudinal range 90-340 metres above sea level to the west of the Great Glen. The constituent lochs are: Loch Affric, Loch Cluanie, Lochan Bad an Losguinn, Loch Loyne, Loch Lundie, Loch Garry, Loch Poulary and Loch Blair. The lochs are characterised by deep, acidic waters with patchy emergent vegetation. The adjacent grass and heathland habitats provide nesting and brood-rearing areas for both black-throated divers *Gavia arctica* and common scoters *Melanitta nigra*.

The group of lochs that comprise this site support nationally important numbers of breeding black-throated divers and common scoters. The site is particularly important for black-throated divers due to its long history of use and the above average level of chick productivity that several of the component lochs demonstrate consistently. The lochs hold one of the main concentrations of breeding common scoter in Britain.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY:

First notified under the 2004 Act: 14 November 2007
Confirmed 7 May 2009 with boundary amendment and 7.09 ha reduction in area

REMARKS:

West Inverness-shire Lochs SSSI is also proposed for classification as West Inverness-shire Lochs Special Protection Area (SPA) for the birds listed below:

Black-throated diver *Gavia arctica*
Common scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Part of West Inverness-shire Lochs SSSI around Loch Affric overlaps part of Strathglass Complex Special Area of Conservation, Affric - Cannich Hills SSSI and Glen Affric SSSI. For further information on these overlapping designations see the relevant SSSI citation.