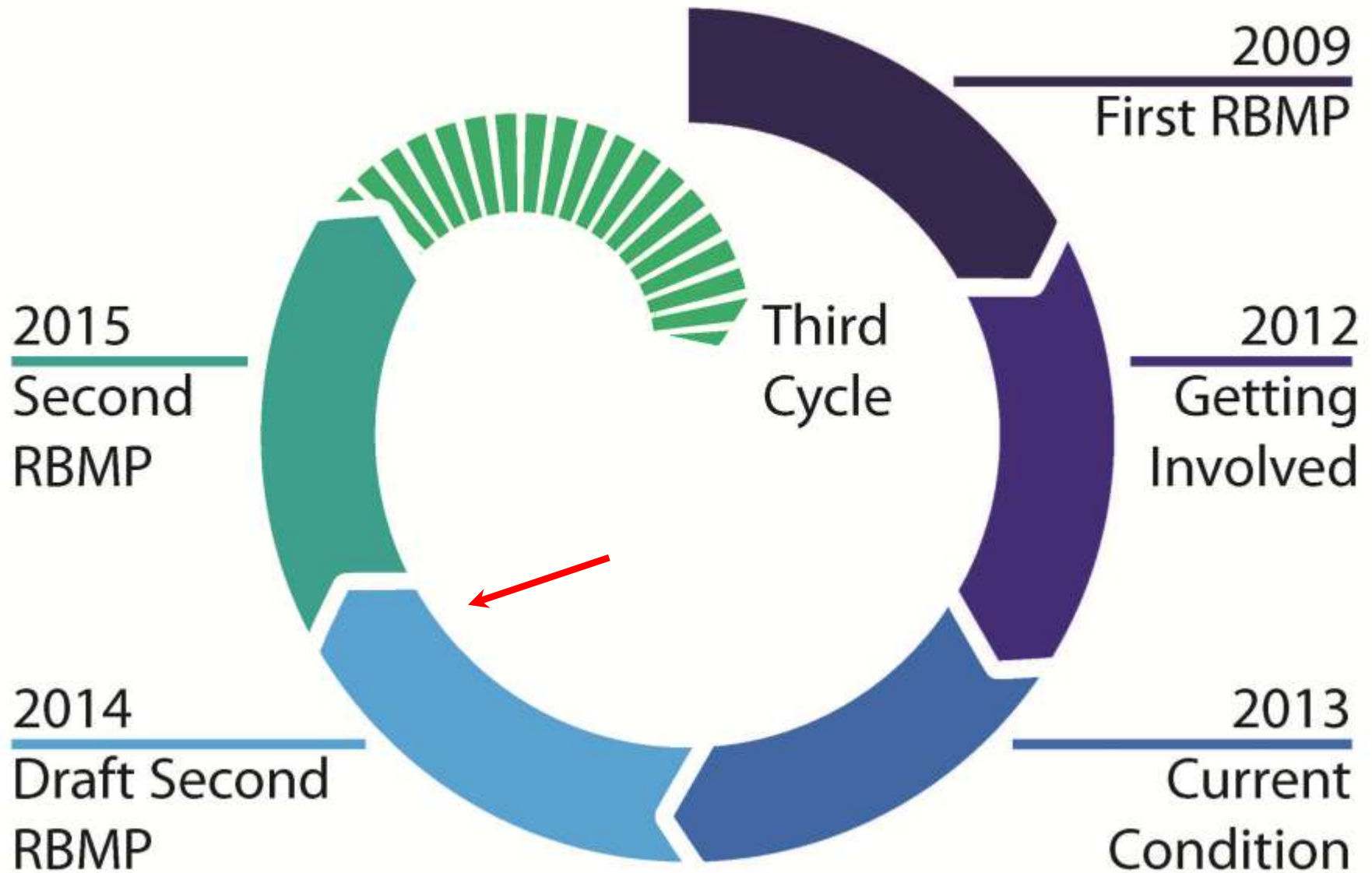


The consultations on the Second River Basin Plans

Lisa Webb



Where are we in the process?



Developing the second plans – principles

- We need to learn from the first plans and review the balance between the second and third cycles
- Need to ensure there is firm basis for setting objective – ecology
- We need to base our priorities and actions on an improved understanding of benefits and costs (*robust justifications*)



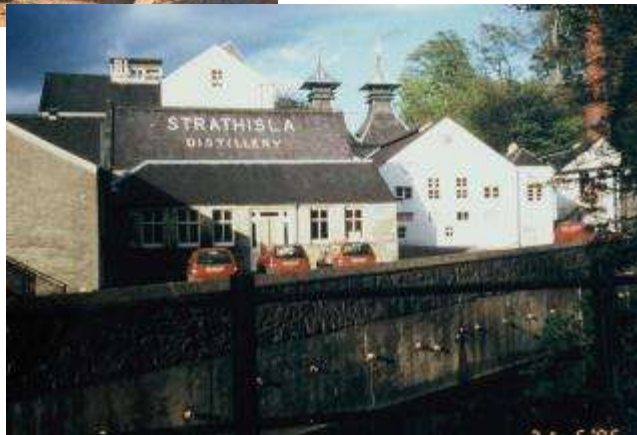
Consultations rather than draft river basin plans

- Not draft plans – focussed consultations
- Significant water management challenges
- Step change in approach or effort





natural
scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT



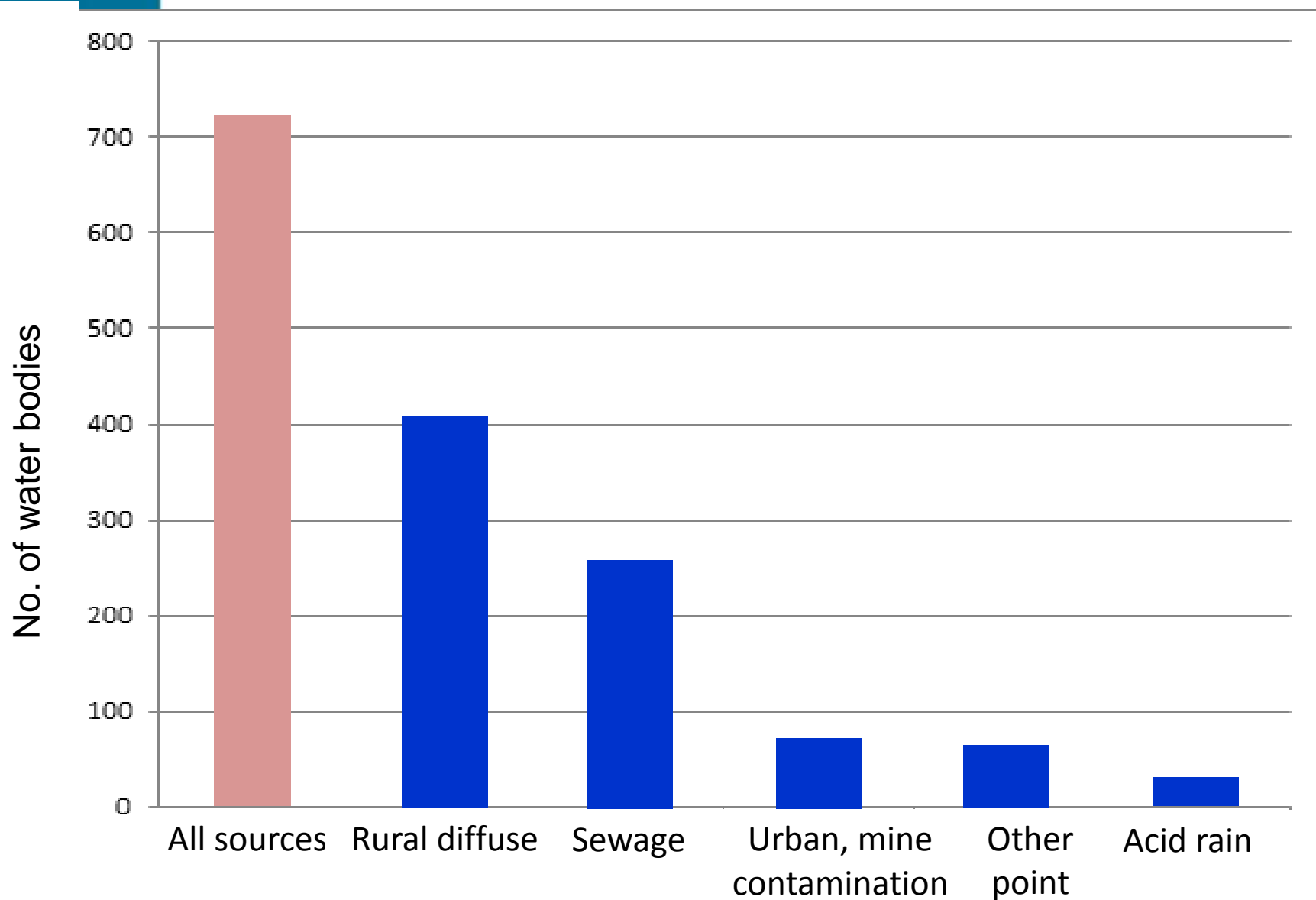
Key areas for consultation – towards 2027 objectives

- **Scenarios for a step change in action**
 - **Rural diffuse pollution**
 - Restoring physical condition of beds, banks and shores
 - Restoring fish passage at man-made barriers
- **Developing strategic approaches** – water pollution from land contamination and toxic substances
- **Earlier protection & improvement** from impacts from irrigation and hydropower

Five impact types

- Water quality
- Flows and levels
- Physical condition
- Fish barriers
- Invasive non native species

Water quality



Diffuse pollution - approach

- First cycle 14 catchments - livestock and arable
- Achieving 'behavioural' change and improving practice

Approach not suitable everywhere:

- 'Action Areas' introduced for future cycles
- Three scenarios for consultation



Physical condition and fish barriers



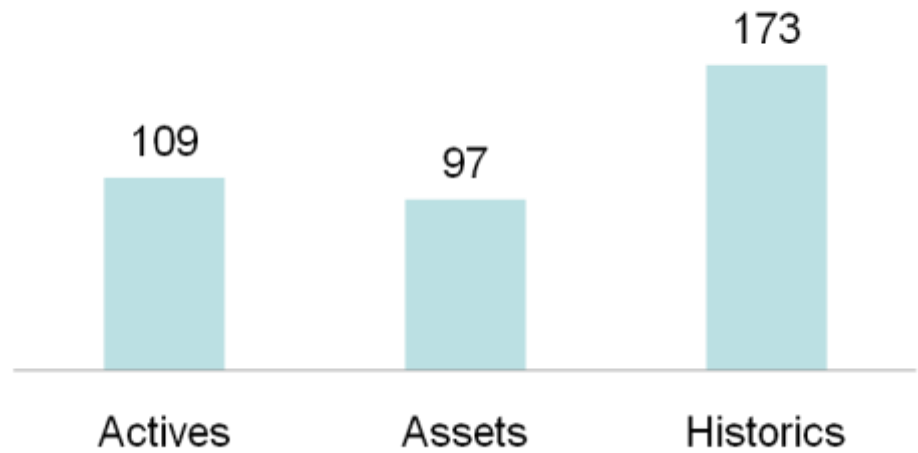
Physical condition – the 1st plans

- Water Environment Fund
 - mainly relied on external lead
 - too local
- Strategic demonstration projects (pilot catchments) established
- Supplementary plan published in 2013





Barrier types and numbers



Current total 379



Scoping studies for all catchments impacted and historic fish barriers in cycle 2



- Improve understanding of what is required & potential multiple benefits
- Phased over the cycle
- Engagement now focused on understanding potential to form partnerships to help steer from start
- Objectives proposed are based on prioritisation however must be seen as a **route map** which will be informed by scoping studies

Flows and levels

- Reviewed priorities, taking account of ecological evidence of damage
- There was little or no change for most sectors in cycle 2 or 3
- Exceptions are hydropower & irrigation



Engagement to refine the second River Basin Management Plans



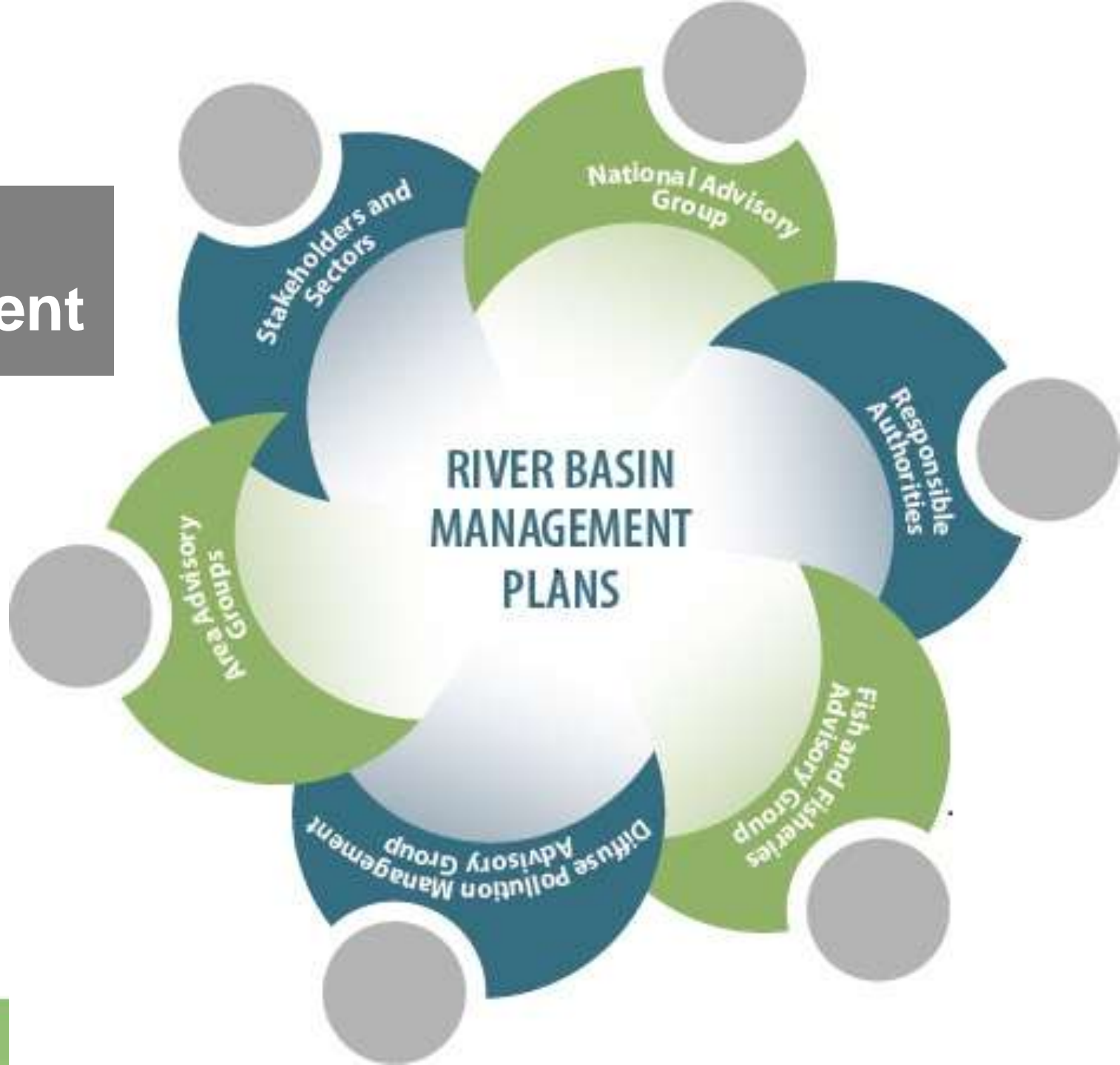
Engagement is designed to:

Raise awareness of the proposed objectives;

Develop understanding of where there is potential for new partnerships, for instance to assist with river restoration; and

Seek opportunities to achieve multiple benefits and efficiencies by aligning plans and policies

Wider engagement



Active engagement 2014/15

Responsible Authorities

Local Authorities
SNH
Marine Scotland
Forestry Commission
Scotland
Scottish Water
Scottish Government
Environment Agency

Regulated Industry

Hydropower
Aquaculture
Shellfish
Whisky
Irrigation
Agriculture
and others...

Existing SEPA Sector leads

Others...

Interest groups e.g.
catchment, lochs,
LBAPS etc

NAG, AAGs, FFAG,
DPMAG...

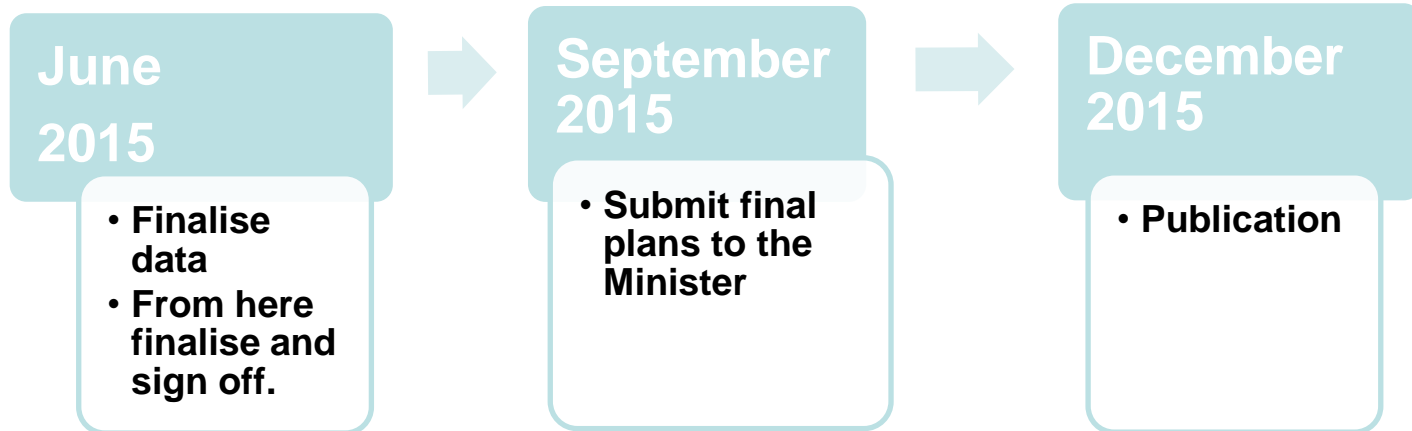
RAFTS and Fishery
Trusts

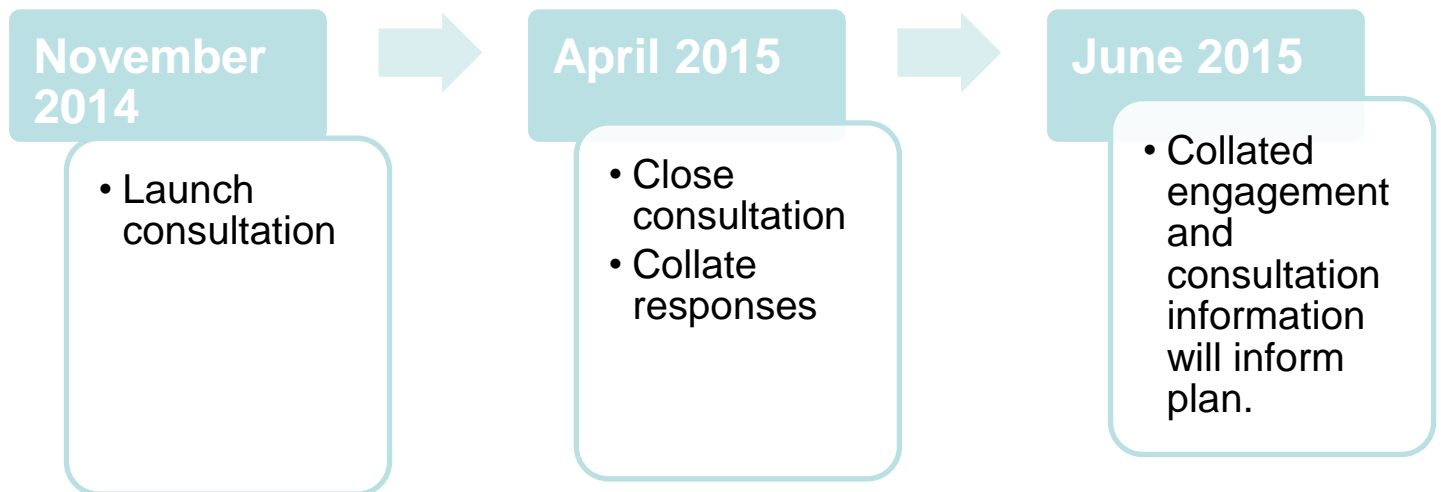
Environmental NGOs

Statutory INNS group

Landowner groups etc

Throughout formal consultation into 2015





Consultation process

- Published late November 2014
- Online consultations and PDFs
<https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/>
- Answering the questions – helps with our analysis and aids us to use responses
- Your views