

## Summary

This bulletin includes;

- Consultation and engagement for the Scotland and Solway Tweed river basin districts
- Development of the second river basin management plans
- The publication of the 2013 water body classification results
- The Scottish Government consultation on restoration regulations
- The publication of flood risk management consultations.

If you have any queries please get in touch via: [NAG@sepa.org.uk](mailto:NAG@sepa.org.uk)

## Consultations on the second river basin management plans

The consultation for the Scotland river basin district closed for responses 09 April 2015. The consultation document and supporting data are still available to read at the links below. **The Solway Tweed consultation will remain open for responses until 09 June 2015.**

The easiest way to submit your views for the Solway Tweed is through the online consultation where detailed supporting information is accessible via an online data tool. If you need any support please make a request at [RBMP@sepa.org.uk](mailto:RBMP@sepa.org.uk). To view the documents please follow the links below:

- the [Scotland river basin district](https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/rbmp/scotlandplanconsultation)  
[https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/rbmp/scotlandplanconsultation];
- the [Solway Tweed river basin district](https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/rbmp/solwaytweedplanconsultation)  
[https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/rbmp/solwaytweedplanconsultation].

We would like to thank those of you who have taken the time to respond. Fifty responses have been received to the Scotland consultation from a variety of stakeholders.

In general responses received were supportive of the proposals set out for the second and third cycles. Common themes included achieving delivery through partnerships, integrating planning processes and ensuring that ecology shapes our implementation. The comments received are being used to inform the objectives setting and shape the development of the second plans. A digest of responses will be published in due course and we will be getting in touch with respondents who have made specific queries that will not be addressed through the digest.

## Engagement

During the consultation period we have met with stakeholders through the advisory group network in focused meetings and workshops.

This has helped us to;

- Refine objectives based on a local review of pressures and actions;
- Develop understanding of where there is potential for new partnerships to assist with river restoration; and
- Seek opportunities to achieve multiple benefits.

This engagement has been targeted and effective. We intend to share the results with the full advisory group network later in the year.

We have focused on improving knowledge of barriers to fish migration and pressures on the physical condition of the water environment. Meeting with various responsible authorities has informed the objective setting process, developed our partnerships at a local level and provided an opportunity to integrate RBMP objectives into planned works. An example includes achieving multiple benefits by addressing morphological pressures through natural flood management schemes with local authorities.

## Second river basin management plan development

The second plans are progressing well. The plans will be based on the first plan and sections updated as appropriate. Each will consist of:

- Non-technical summary document
- The main plan, comprising a document and webtools
- Annexes to the plan

They will be supported by further statutory documents:

- Habitats regulations appraisal (to be updated for second cycle)
- Strategic environment assessment (as per first cycle)
- Equality impact assessment (as per consultations for RBMP2)

The main plans will have a statutory review, update and report on the progress of the first plans. They will provide detail on condition, pressures, measures and objectives for achieving targets over the next two river basin cycles and information about alternative objectives. The webtools will generate all charts, figures and mapping for the documents and web pages. It is hoped the webtools will form a useful tool for stakeholders to support local planning and delivery. In addition bulk data downloads will be available as well as water body level information. Further information will be available in due course.



## 2013 classification results are now published

There have been changes to environmental standards used to produce the water body classification. A report detailing the impact of these changes is available here:

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/classification/classification-results/>

The 2013 classification can be found here;

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/classification/classification-results/>

This data will also be presented on SEweb; <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/discover-data/>

Please note that the interactive map produced for the first RBMP uses the 2009 data as a basis for the first cycle objectives and measures.

## Improving the physical condition of Scotland's water environment.

The consultation on the second River Basin Management Plans identifies that, in Scotland, the physical conditions of over 300 water bodies are adversely affected. This is largely caused by the legacy of historic engineering activities such as the construction of dams, weirs and culverts, and land use activities such as poaching by livestock and cultivation close to the watercourse.

This is one of the most challenging aspects of our work to improve Scotland's water environment. Progress to date has been relatively limited, and this challenges us to develop a more strategic approach underpinned by legislation and financial incentives.

The Scottish Government has now launched [a consultation](#) to strengthen the delivery framework. This sets out proposals in 3 broad areas:

- promote a more structured approach and greater collaboration in the development and delivery of river restoration projects,
- accelerate SEPA's existing programme of CAR licence reviews for dams, and
- introduce legislative provisions to help SEPA ensure that structures owned by public authorities do not cause adverse impacts or prevent fish passage.

**The consultation will run until 22 May 2015.** It is expected that the finalised Regulations will be laid before the Scottish Parliament in the autumn of 2015.

## **Flood risk management consultation**

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and 14 lead local authorities are jointly consulting on the future direction and delivery of flood risk management in Scotland. Together, we are focusing on where the flooding impacts are greatest and where the benefits of investment can be maximised.

The consultation runs in two phases;

- Phase 1 went live on 22 December 2014 and ran until 1 March 2015
- Phase 2 went live on 2 March 2015 and runs until 2 June 2015.

For further information and to submit a response look online at; <https://frm-scotland.org.uk/>