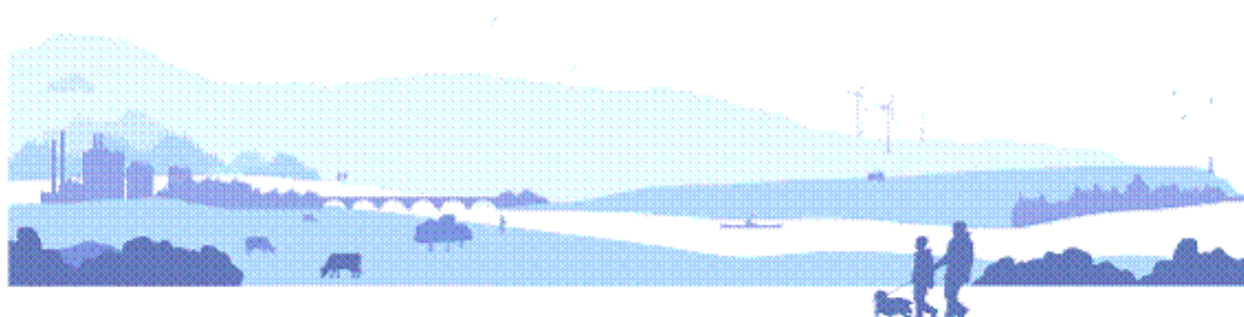


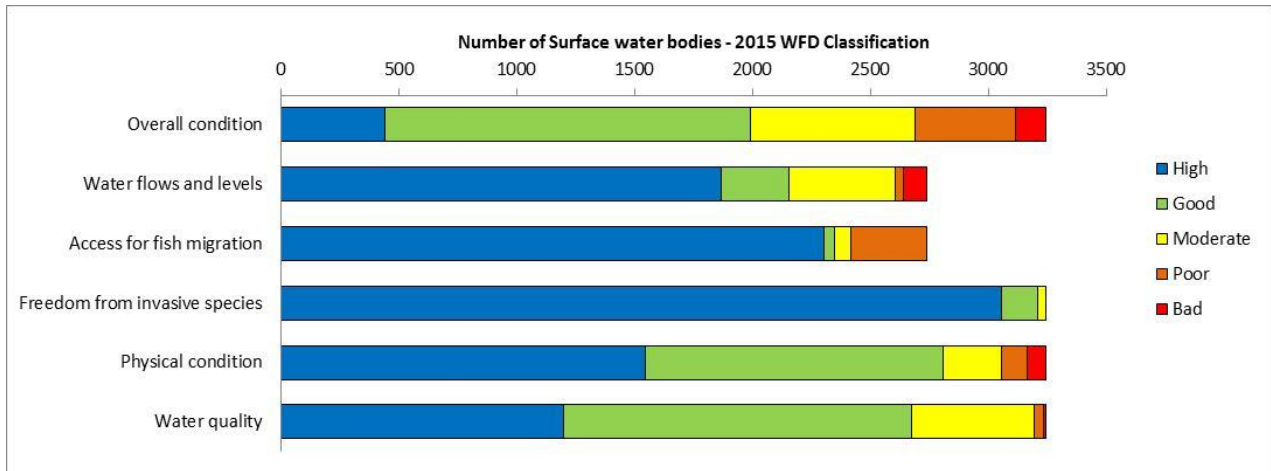
State of Scotland's Water Environment 2015 Summary Report

Scottish Environment Protection
Agency



What was the state of the water environment in 2015?

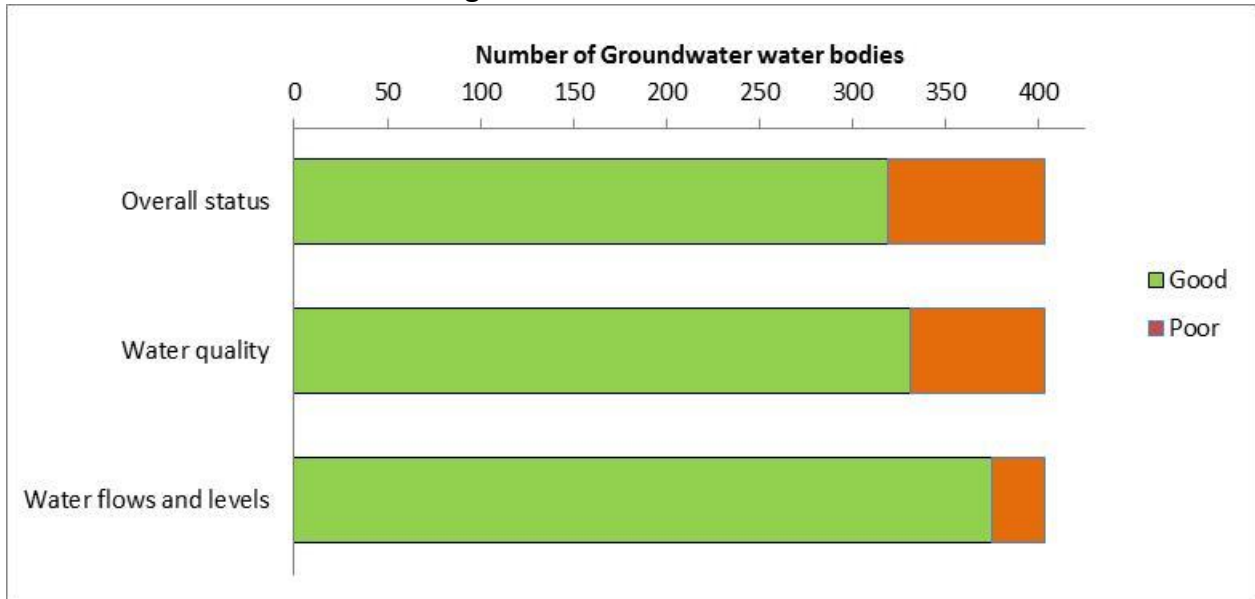
Overview of the state of bodies of surface water in 2015



Notes: "Good" means conditions consistent with good status or, in the case of heavily modified and artificial water bodies, good ecological potential. Bodies of surface water include rivers, lochs, estuaries and coastal waters. Fish migration and water flows are not relevant to the marine environment, and so are excluded from the graph above.

Our monitoring and modelling networks are designed to assess the greatest risks to the environment. Where we do not have evidence to the contrary, we report status as high.

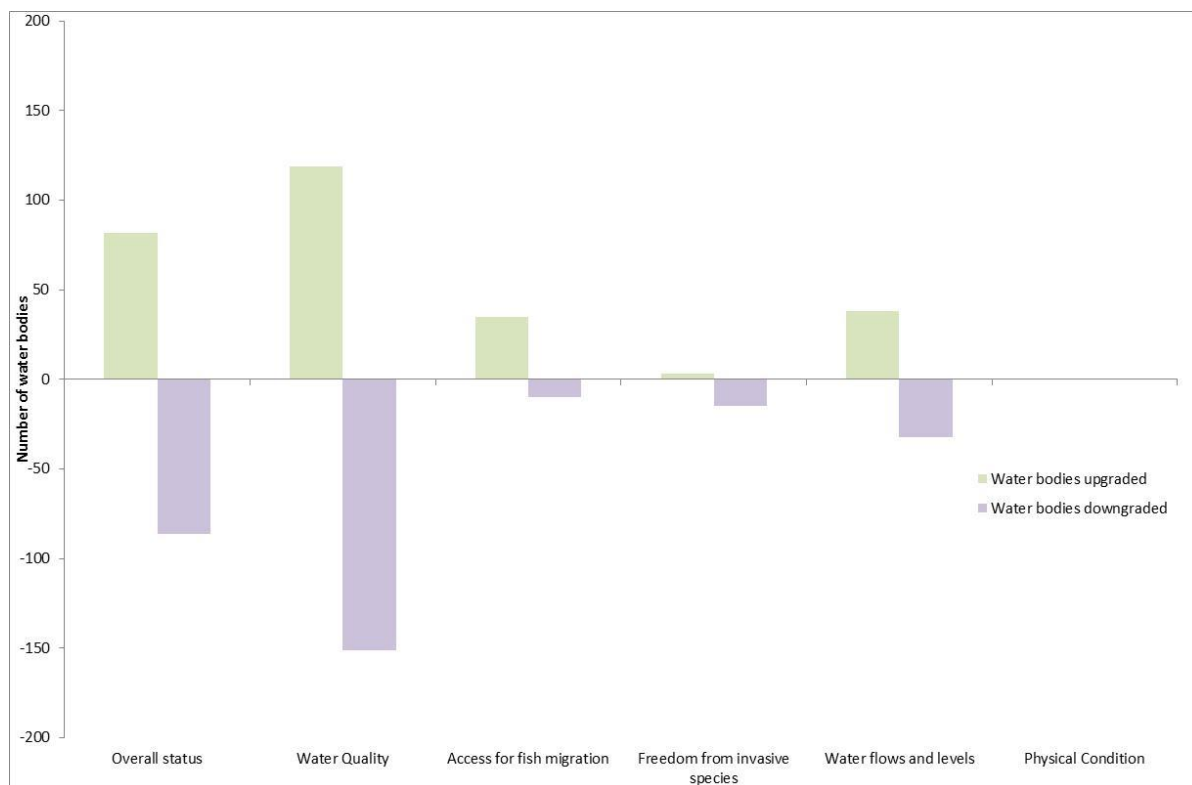
Overview of the state of bodies of groundwater in 2015



Overall, 63% of our groundwater and surface water bodies are at high or good status, unchanged from 2014.

The number of water bodies in each class for surface waters and groundwater is broadly comparable to the 2014 results.

What's changed since 2014?



Notes: The figure shows the number of water bodies which have moved across the good/moderate boundary between 2014 and 2015, for both groundwater and surface water bodies.

The majority of changes are due to improvements in our understanding of the environment, resulting from additional data. There have also been “real” changes, where we are confident that the underlying quality of the environment has altered.

- Real improvements have been made to 20 water bodies, which have been restored to good status.

The improvements have been delivered by requiring licensed operators to reduce impacts arising from discharges of pollutants (eight water bodies) or water abstractions (five water bodies), and by working with partners to remove barriers to fish migration (seven water bodies).

- SEPA has authorised developments which have downgraded 14 water bodies for flows and levels.

Authorisation was only given because the developments’ benefits outweigh their adverse impacts on the water environment.

- There was also an isolated pollution incident on one river which led to a change in status. The river is expected to fully recover, and the change does not threaten the 2021 objective.