

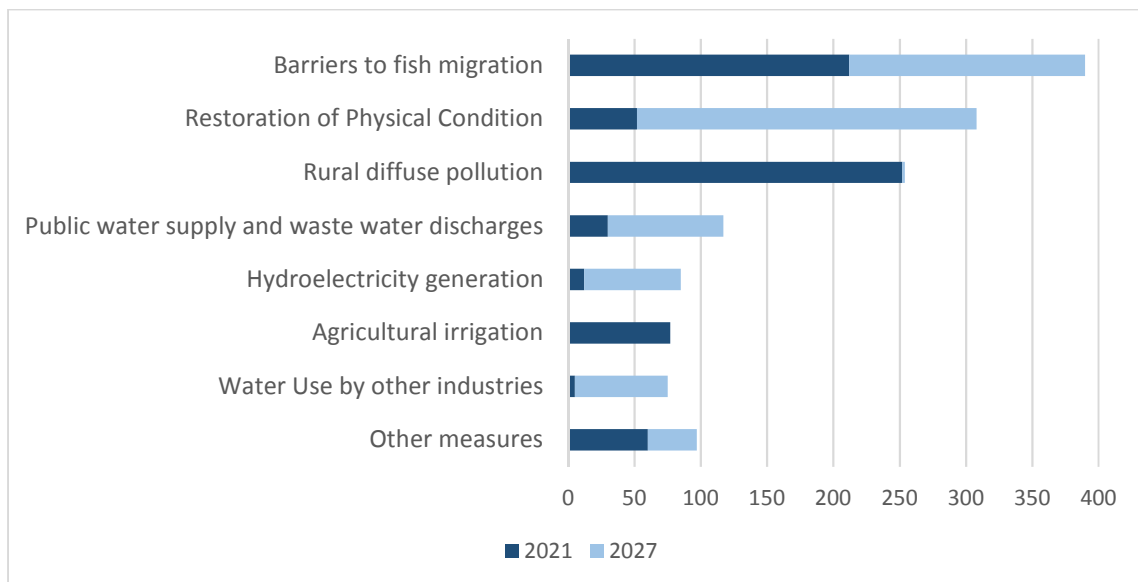


Advisory Group Network Update

SPRING 2019

RBMP Delivery Update

The [second RBMPs](#) set out a programme of 1403 improvement measures up to 2027. These are broken down as follows:



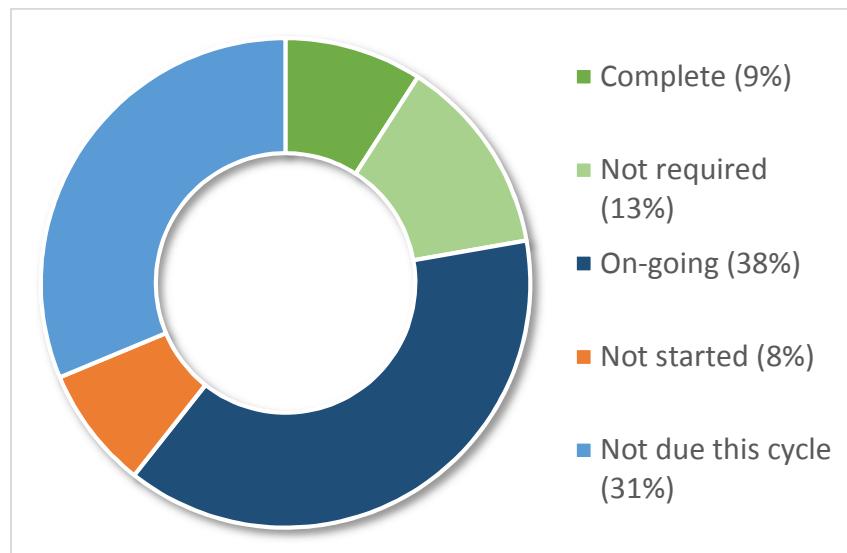
We are now at the midway point of the second RBMP cycle (2015 to 2021). SEPA has carried out an assessment of progress against this programme of measures. Overall, progress to date has been good, with 9% of measures complete and a further 38% underway (47% in total). We have also continued to build our understanding of pressures on the water environment, and this work has identified that a further 13% of planned measures are not in fact required.

Where measures have not yet started (8%) the majority (5%) are on track to be delivered by 2021. The remaining 31% of measures are not due to be carried out until the third cycle (2021 to 2027).

Work is complete to remove or ease 18 **fish barriers**, opening up several hundred kilometres of rivers to migratory fish. Scoping and design work is underway on a further 209 fish barriers.

Four **river restoration projects** have been delivered on the Eddleston Water in the Scottish Borders, Pow Burn in Angus, Stane Gardens in North Lanarkshire and the River Nairn in the Highland Council area. A further 19 projects are currently under development across Scotland. Projects are prioritised and developed into projects either through the Water Environment Fund, [WEF](#).

Examples of case studies for restoration of physical condition and access for migratory fish can be found here; https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/413209/wef_case_studies.pdf



Action to reduce **rural diffuse pollution**, by working with land managers to improve compliance with General Binding Rules is underway in 39 priority catchments. Action in a further 14 catchments is yet to start but is on track for completion by 2021. The [rural diffuse pollution plan](#) for Scotland aims to ensure that the key stakeholders in Scotland work in a co-ordinated way to reduce diffuse pollution from rural sources. The existing plan is being updated following the publication of the second River Basin Management Plans in 2015. The updated [Rural Diffuse Pollution Delivery Plan](#) was published in 2017

Regulatory measures to tackle impacts through hydro-electricity generation, waste water discharges, urban diffuse pollution and impacts from other industries are progressing. Agreement of controls for agricultural irrigation have been introduced on 9 water bodies and this process is on track for completion in the remaining 68 water bodies by 2021.

Shetland

The 2017 classification highlights 4 water bodies as moderate;

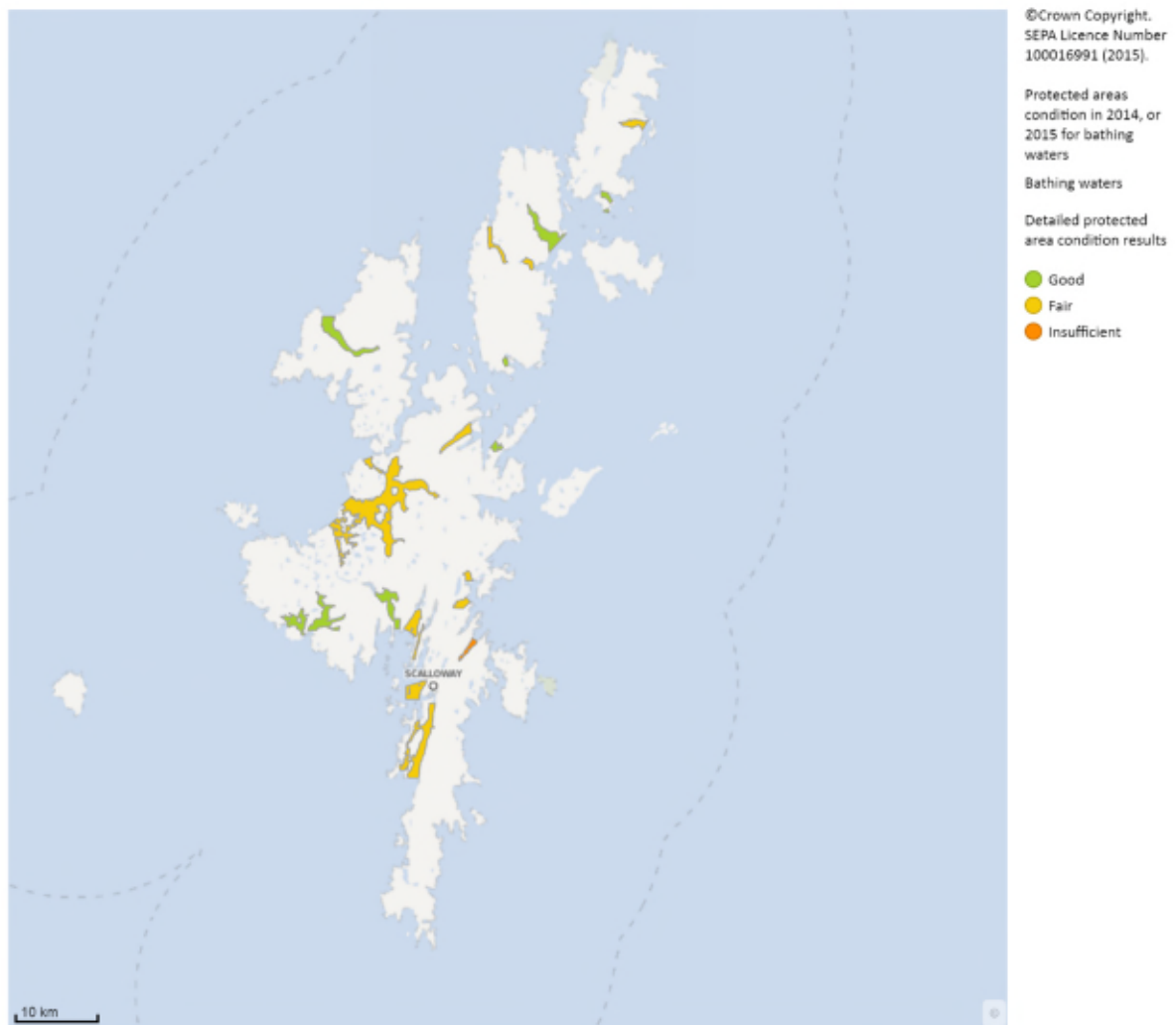
WBID	Name	Pressures
20669	Burn of Roerwater	Associated with water abstraction and storage.
20670	Burn of Laxobigging	Barrier to fish migration. FBID 3183. This barrier no longer requires to be addressed due to the presence of a natural waterfall shortly upstream.
20674	Burn of Dale	Water quality issue thought to be associated with rural diffuse pollution.
100000	Loch of Cliff	Recently downgraded to moderate

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This map displays bodies of surface waters coloured by overall status for the latest available year



Shellfish Water Protected Areas



SEPA are working with Food Standard Scotland, FSS and Scottish Government to address issues surrounding the Shellfish Water Protected Areas. CREW was commissioned by FSS, SEPA and SG to undertake an independent review of legal provisions and best practice relating to the requirements of EU Food Hygiene Regulations and the Water Framework Directive for classifying shellfish growing waters in Scotland, and to develop recommendations for feasible improvements.

The outcomes of the CREW report (<https://www.crew.ac.uk/project/shellfish-water-monitoring>) confirmed our concerns and highlighted many key findings to improve the way in which FSS and SEPA can work better together going forward. With regard to investigative monitoring it was noted that due to some sites with no production areas or partial overlaps with SWPAs and SPA, current monitoring was not representative of the variation within a SWPA.

Following the publication of the findings in the CREW report SEPA has initiated work, with FSS, taking on board the findings of the report for the investigations on impacted SWPAs. Industry representatives are helping us prioritised phased programme of investigative monitoring that will help target improvement measures.

SEPA's Delivery Mechanisms

SEPA has undertaken some changes to our regulatory model that will help us deliver our RBMP objectives. [One Planet Prosperity](#) – SEPA's new regulatory strategy outlines how we can protect and improve our environment while creating social and economic success for Scotland. The principles are intrinsically linked with those of the RBMP process.

This involves moving from a single site approach to sector based solutions. Sector plans are at the heart of delivering our one planet living aspirations, and aim to shape our interactions with every industry sector we regulate and the businesses within them.

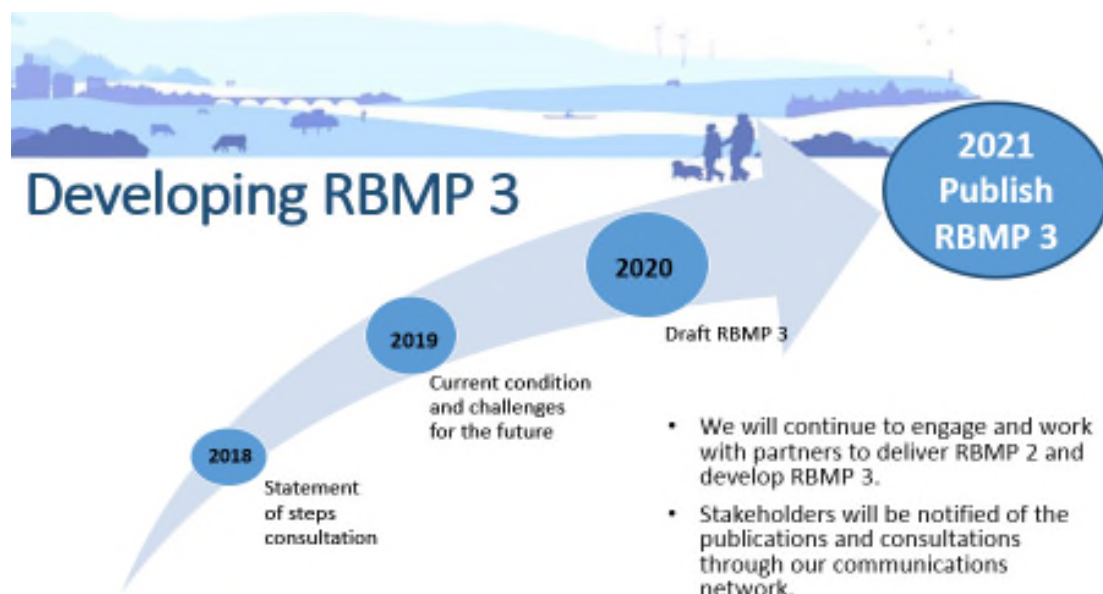
For every sector we regulate, we will have two simple aims. These are to ensure that:

- every regulated business fully meets their compliance obligations, and
- as many regulated businesses as possible will go beyond the compliance standards.

[Sector plans](#) will identify the compliance issues that need to be tackled by the sector, including the RBMP objectives and where the biggest opportunities are for us to help the sector to go beyond compliance. This will help regulated businesses operate successfully within the means of one planet.

We are preparing sector plans for every sector that we regulate, which will be published over the next two years. Current plans open for consultation can be found on our [Consultation Hub](#).

Developing the Third RBMPs



Alongside progressing the delivery of our RBMP objectives we ran a consultation about how you can be involved in the development of the next set of river basin plans for the Scotland and Solway Tweed districts (due in 2021). The consultations set out the milestones to the next iteration of river basin plans, our interaction methods with stakeholders and links to other plans and policies.

Responses were received from a variety of well-informed stakeholders who agreed with the proposed consultation steps and timescales set out in the consultation. The respondents were very

supportive of the proposed partnership approach and integration with plans and policies. They felt this was the most efficient way to use resource and delivery multiple benefits. Some respondents sought clarification about the format of engagement and more detail about how RBMP would be integrated into other plans and policies.

Given the supportive nature of the responses SEPA will progress with the proposals outlined.

SEPA will publish a communication and engagement strategy geared to the publication of the third plans to provide further detail to stakeholders.

Please go to the SEPA website at <https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/publications/>

We are now working to develop the Current Condition and Challenges for the Future documents for Scotland and the Solway Tweed district that will be published for consultation later this year. This will include:

- a description of the current condition of the water environment
- an assessment of the progress towards achieving the improvement targets set for 2021; and
- identification of significant water management challenges.

This will provide the foundation for the development of the draft third plans in 2020.

Overlaps with the Flood Risk Management Plan timescales can be seen in Appendix 1.

RBMP Data and Information

All of the information for river basin planning can be found in the [Water environment hub](#). It provides information on each waterbody, pressures, measures and the objectives (targets) that we have set.

The latest classification data can be found at the [Water classification hub](#). Please note that if a waterbody has changed classification it may not necessarily change an objective set in the RBMPs.

RBMP Contact

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions or queries.

