

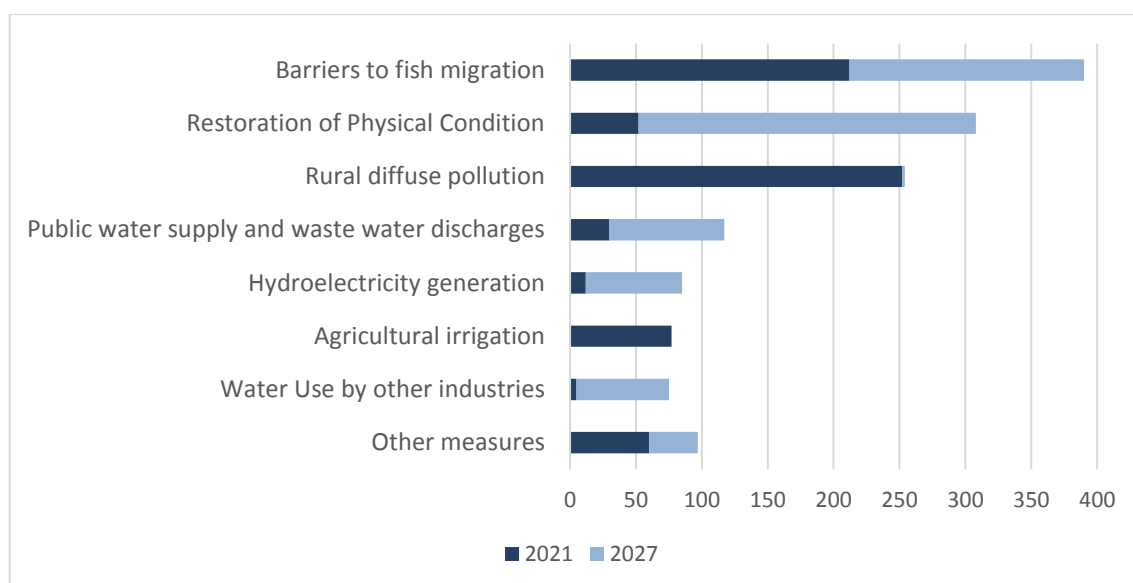
RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS 2015-2021 – MIDWAY PROGRESS REPORT

This note provides an update on progress against the programme of measures set out in Scotland's River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

Background

The second river basin management plans (RBMPs) for Scotland were published in December 2015. They set out an ambitious programme of measures to protect and improve the water environment in Scotland over a 12 year period (up to 2027). The programme of measures cover a range of regulatory controls over abstractions, impoundments, discharges and engineering works; work with land managers in priority catchments to secure compliance with general binding rules for diffuse pollution; measures to remove/ease barriers to fish migration and measures to restore the physical condition of rivers.

The second river basin management plans set out a programme of 1403 improvement measures up to 2027. These are broken down as follows:



Overview of progress

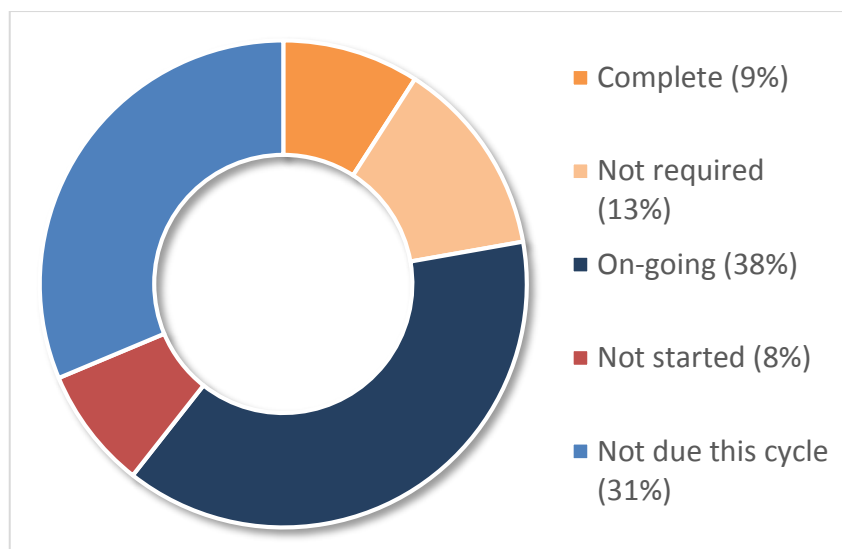
We are now at the midway point of the second RBMP cycle (2015 to 2021). SEPA has carried out an assessment of progress against this programme of measures. Overall, progress to date has been good, with 9% of measures complete and a further 38% underway (47% in total). We have also continued to build our 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).

Detailed update

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.



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.

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.

Publication

The data underpinning this progress report is available on SEPA's website through the Water Environment Hub. This provides a summary of the second river basin management plans together with progress of measures at a range of scales, from the whole of Scotland to individual water bodies.

A full detailed assessment of progress towards achieving the objectives of the second RBMPs will be published at the end of 2019, in preparation for the development of the third RBMPs.