State of Scotland's Water Environment 2018

Summary Report

Environmental Quality; Co-ordination Unit
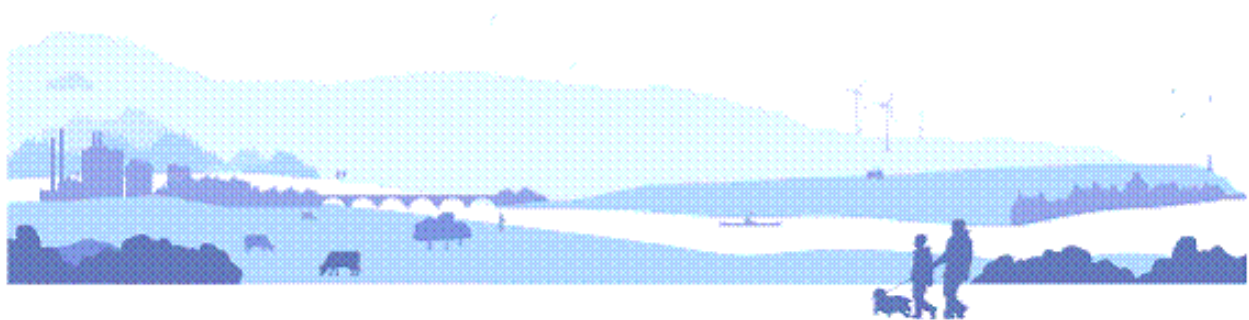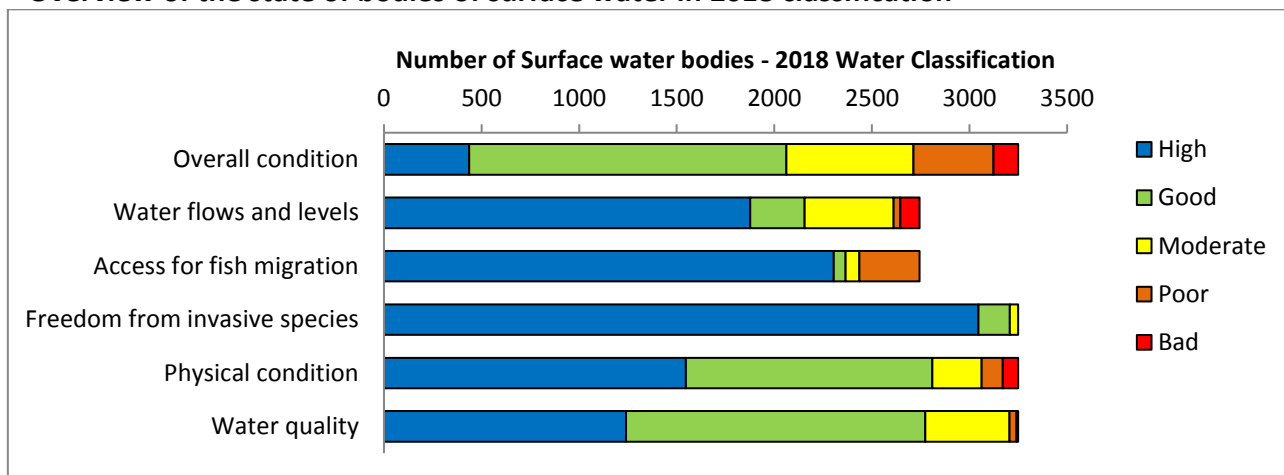
## What was the state of the water environment in 2018 classification

The information in this report is based on the 2018 State of the Water Environment classification.

Overview of the state of bodies of surface water in 2018 classification

Note: "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 2018 classification
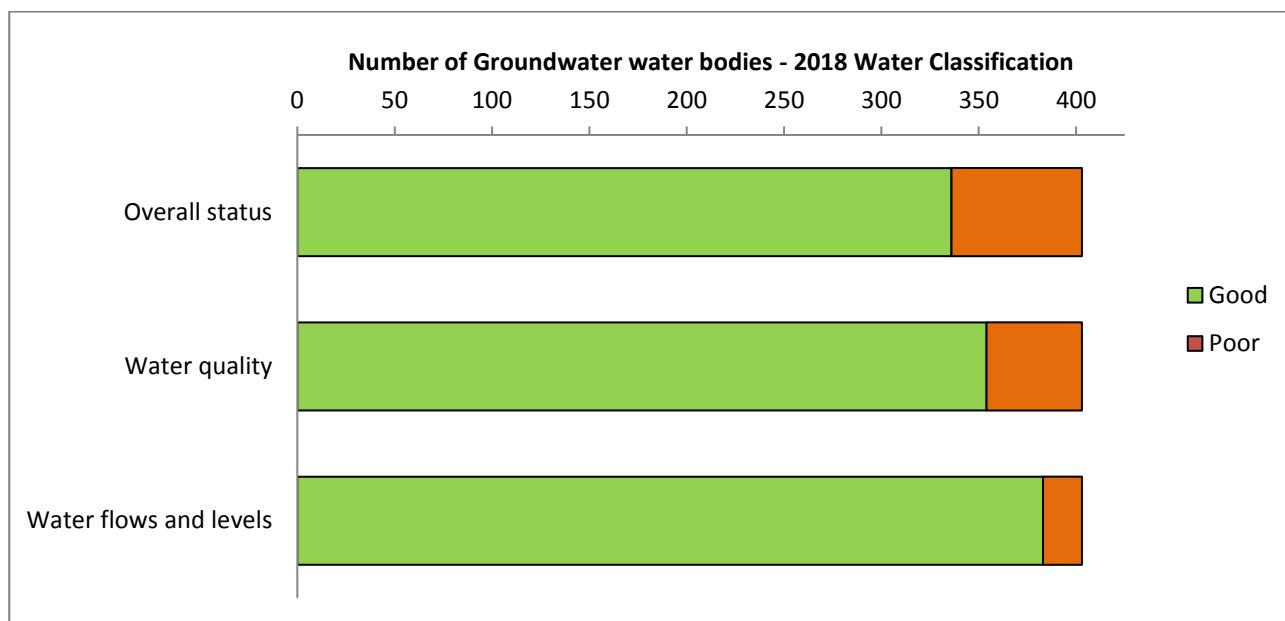
Note: Groundwaters are only classified as Good or Poor status.

Overall, 65.7% of our surface and groundwater water bodies are at good or better status. This is a slight increase from 2017 (64.9%).

2014 Classification was used for the baseline of RBMP Cycle 2, where 63.5% of water bodies were at good or better.

2018 Overall Classification		Rivers	Lochs	Estuaries	Coastal	GW	Total
High/Good	**Number**	1336	231	42	455	336	**2400**
	Percent	55	69	88	99	83	**65.7**
< Good	**Number**	1074	103	6	2	67	**1252**
	Percent	45	31	12	1	17	**34.3**
Total	**Number**	**2410**	**334**	**48**	**457**	**403**	**3652**

What's changed since 2017?

Any changes in classification between years are investigated, and a "change reason" assigned.
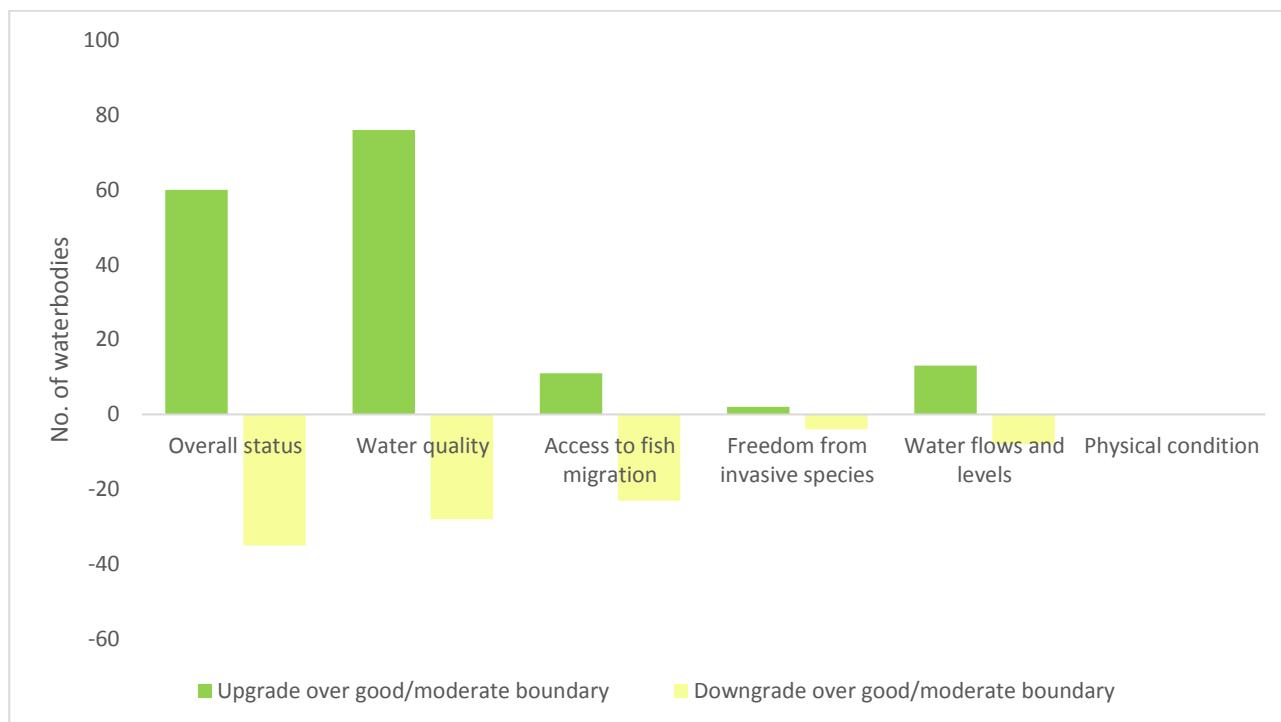
Notes: The figure shows the number of water bodies which have moved across the good/moderate boundary between 2017 and 2018, for both groundwater and surface water bodies. Physical condition classification has rolled over since 2014 Classification due to ongoing work to update the Mimas tool.

The majority of changes to overall status since 2017 are due to improvements in our understanding of the environment, resulting from additional data being collected, or new assessments having been undertaken.

There have also been "real" changes, where we are confident that the underlying quality of the environment has altered.

Table 1: *Change reasons where the overall water body status has changed*

Change reason		Upgrades	Downgrades	Total
Real change	1 - Real upgrade due to measure	3	-	3
	2 - Real downgrade from authorised development	-	2	2
	3 - Real downgrade from pollution incident	-	1	1
	4 - Real environmental change/trend	-	1	1
Virtual change	5 - Change in understanding due to additional data (i.e. extending the data set)	59	30	89
	6 - Change in understanding due to a new assessment (i.e. no data previously)	7	12	19
	7 - Change in classification method/standard	-	-	-
	8 - Change in understanding and method/standard	-	-	-
	Total	**69**	**46**	**115**

Water body changes

Four water bodies have improved due to real changes in the environment. These are because of improvement measures to reduce rural diffuse pollution and action to tackle barriers to fish migration.

There are four downgrades due to real changes in the environment; one is due to a complex diffuse pollution event, one because of a new confirmed record of invasive North American signal crayfish, and two are due to newly authorised hydropower developments.

The CCCF (Current Condition and Challenges for the Future) Report is due to be published in December, followed by the draft 3rd River Basin Plan in 2020. These reports will provide a more detailed analysis of improvements and predicted success of measures.